

Minutes - Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group Meeting - November 2011
Rhossili

Attending:

Jan Sherry	JS	CCW
Alys Edwards	AE	WBP
Stuart Smith	SS	CCW
Helen Buckingham	HB	National Trust
Charles Morgan	CM	PONT
Kathleen Carroll	KC	WAG

Apologies:

Dave Lamacraft	DL	RSPB
Julian Jones	JJ	WTW
Rebecca Price	RP	GWT
Geraint Jones	GJ	PCNPA
Caroline Wilson	CW	SNPA
Jane Hodges	JH	PCNPA

No	Action	Who	Progress
Update on Funding			
1	<p>HB updated attendees on the Ecosystem Resilience Grant Scheme. An announcement is expected from the Minister shortly regarding successful projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that a permanent (annual) budget should be advocated via WEL. HB to discuss request for permanent grant stream for biodiversity with WEL rep.</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>HB</p>	<p>Announcement from the Minister regarding successful projects, on 03.11.11. Full text is available here http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2011/111104projects/?lang=en&ts=1</p> <p>Complete – HB discussed with Ruth Williams/Chris Lambert.</p>

No	Action	Who	Progress
LBAP Visits			
2	N. Wales LBAP meeting focus on project development for future funding. 16 April 2012. Representatives will be requested to attend on behalf of the LGHEG. HB/AE to discuss with Anne Butler	HB/AE	Meeting will be held in Welsh Government buildings, Llandudno Junction LL31 9RZ.
	AE to circulate further information once available	AE	
Priority Mapping Update			
3	JS informed the group that the LGHEG has completed the priority mapping process, these maps will need to be reviewed annually. Projects will now be developed using the priority areas as focus, looking at groupings which are yet to receive funding, such as: Pembrokeshire (small project proposals for west Wales); Gower – HLF project (coastal grazing); Gwydir-FCW (tree removal) Discuss constraints on Gwydir with regional staff.	JS	Complete
	Files need to be re-distributed to local authorities. JS to resend jpegs	JS	
	AE to add annual review of LGHEG Maps to Work Plan doc.	AE	
	AE to request priority mapping page on WBP website	AE	
4	It was agreed that it would be beneficial to develop costed project briefs for use for the future funding streams, such as EW Biodiversity Grants, WREN (one off grants of up to £75k)	CM	CM to complete template with guidance by 311211

No	Action	Who	Progress
	<p>CM to develop project templates, incorporating ecosystem resilience criteria, utilising the agricultural costings guide to estimate rough costs for project development.</p> <p>AE to circulate to active partnerships for input once available</p> <p>WBP Funding post being explored by Tracey could look into this.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>AE</p> <p>AE to ask TL to explore</p>	
Membership of Group			
5	<p>Tracey Lovering has requested confirmation of WBP Wales-level group membership. AE to review membership of group and address gaps.</p> <p>AE to invite new member of staff with Bumblebee Conservation Trust to join the group.</p>	<p>AE</p> <p>AE</p>	<p>Complete – feedback provided to TL</p> <p>Complete new BBCT Officer appointed and added to circulation list</p>
Feedback From Other Meetings			
6	<p>HB updated the group on the recent UK Grassland Trust Meeting, held in Dinefwr. Papers will be available shortly (before Christmas). HB to circulate once available</p> <p>It was noted that communication between countries regarding heathland issues is currently lacking and there is a need to establish UK heathland forum with wider focus than just biodiversity (NEF).</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>JS</p>	
7	<p>JS provided an update on Heather and Grass Burning Regs Meeting. JS to ask Jim L to discuss issue with fires on FCW land with Woodland Group, CM to do the same for upland.</p>	<p>JS</p>	

No	Action	Who	Progress
LGHEG Work Pan			
8	<p>AE to update the work plan with future LGHEG meetings and sub-group meetings.</p> <p>AE to add in update on policy issues (annually) and additional updates discussed and circulate for comment.</p> <p>SS /JS to look at old UK plans and extract any actions for Calaminarian grassland. AE to add Calaminarian into to work plan.</p>	<p>AE</p> <p>AE</p> <p>SS/JS/AE</p>	
Species/Habitat Integration Work			
9	<p>JS introduced the group to the species/habitat integration work which has been progressed by the Species Expert Group (SEG).</p> <p>Work will focus on identification of habitat type, associated species and habitat management guidance, based on the work completed by Natural England http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Priority%20species%20in%20priority%20habitats_England2_tcm6-16020.xls , in order to determine widespread and non-widespread and species groupings according to niche. JS and CM to have initial meeting to review NE approach.</p> <p>At present this work only includes s42 species. However, once the niche is identified it can then be used to identify other species which use that niche. It is important to determine what the species are in terms of distribution – work with TD and DL and discuss with group.</p>	<p>JS/CM</p>	

No	Action	Who	Progress
Agricultural Colleges			
12	<p>It was agreed that a skills gap exists in terms of conservation skills training run through agricultural colleges and agreed that this should be addressed.</p> <p>LGHEG to attempt to inform course content with a focus on grazing and burning issues. WBP groups to coordinate and develop course module for inclusion in curriculum.</p> <p>AE to determine number of ACs and course contact.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>AE</p>	
Misc			
13	HB to ask Mike and John Rodwell to help develop LGHEG vision for grassland and heathland via running a workshop / course for members of the group	HB	
Summary of Future Meetings			
14	NEF Green Paper discussion meeting. AE to arrange sub-group meeting for January to discuss	AE	
15	North East Wales Biodiversity Network Meeting – 16th April 2011. To discuss priority mapping/taking forward projects etc	ALL group members	
16	<p>LGHEG Summer meeting – Radnorshire floodplain meadows Floodplain meadows partnership (MG4) floodplain hay meadow (very little in Wales). AE to discuss with JJ</p> <p>Hosted by WG in regional office, Llandrindod. KC to explore meeting room availability once date is confirmed.</p>	<p>AE</p> <p>KC</p>	

No	Action	Who	Progress
17	<p>South Wales marshy grassland workshop.</p> <p>AE to discuss with LBAPs and arrange workshop</p>	AE	RCT to host
18	<p>It was agreed that a Best Practice day should be held once a year. Invite partners to attend and present. AE and CM to organise BP day for June 2012.</p> <p>If successful an additional event could be held in south Wales in 2013 with a focus on Gwent grasslands initiative.</p>	AE/CM	

PLEASE NOTE: Date of Next Meeting: TBC