

Wales Wetlands Ecosystem Group – draft notes of second meeting, 21 December 2009

Present: Peter Jones (Chair, CCW), Kathryn Birch (CCW), Emma Broad (Wrexham CBC / LBAPs), Chris Dyson (CCW), Bryan Jones (Environment Agency), Sarah Mellor (National Trust) & Charles Morgan (Pont)

Apologies: Stephen Bladwell (RSPB Cymru), Julie Bowes (WAG, Dept of Rural Affairs), Helen Buckingham (National Trust, Chair of Grasslands & Heathlands Ecosystem Group), Justin Hanson (Anglesey & Lleyn Fens LIFE project manager), Rob Jones-Parry (Wildlife Trusts), Chris Uttley (CCW, Member of WBP Policy Group),

Actions points from meeting of 21 December 2009.

<i>Action / discussion point</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Immediate action</i>	<i>Progress by 3rd meeting</i>
Protocols for working within the BAP network – WBP secretariat paper			
		Noted	
West Wales Grazing Animals Scheme (WWGAS) Overview of progress to-date and role of group members in its further development.			
Charles gave an over-view of the project.	Lack of grazing a key cause of poor condition for many habitats of the cultural lowlands. Idea first mooted at meeting 1 of WEG. Development of a project agreed as a priority by wetland and grassland & heathland ecosystem groups.	E-mail paper around WWEG – CM , Get EA rep for Feb 2010 meeting – BJ/CM	
Key policy actions for next meeting of WBP			
Paper discussed.		Feedback to PSJ asap.	
Action plans – new format. Consideration of example provided for fens and nomination of group members to write the remainder.			
PSJ showed an example of spreadsheet for Welsh habitat targets. Targets must be SMART.	Need to set targets for wetland habitats. Deadline: 1 st Feb 2010.	Fens & Bogs - PSJ Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh - BJ (EA) Wet reedbed – RSPB – obvious	

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Spreadsheet of targets and instructions (by Jan Sherry). Targets are disaggregated to county level. UKBAP website contains old plans and targets.		lead SB? 1 st draft by 15 th Jan, e-mail around rest of WWEG for comment. Telephone conference 27 th Jan, 2pm. PSJ to set up meet me number.	
<i>Update on Glastir progress.</i>			
Rationale and draft maps for higher tier prescriptions for wetland habitats have been written.		WWEG to ask for view of final version of target maps and prescriptions. PSJ to raise point through Policy Group.	
<i>Implementation projects</i>			
Wetlands Ecosystem Group Outline Implementation Programme v.1 – BJ gave an outline.	Uses project planning approach, with project officer and clear accountability etc. Approach discussed. Lack of funding a key issue, also availability of time by steering group members to take forward actions between meetings. Other approaches discussed, including option of picking off projects we can actually deliver – namely WWGAS.		
Taking projects like WWGAS forward. Key issue is lack of information on sites – need for action at local level. Need an inventory approach.	Aim: cover 1/3 Wales each year so whole of Wales would be covered in 3 years. 4 th year second someone to be a project officer e.g. EA secondment	Group agreed to pursue development of a wetland inventory that pulls in non-stat sites. Trial idea at LBAP workshops.	

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	<p>for 6 months – what to do with funding to get work done. Aim – for pilot to start in north Wales as a number of sites could probably be matched with WREN fund. Use CM model – Anglesey Grazing project – West Wales Grazing Project.</p>		
<i>Species/habitat integration work</i>			
<p>Update on work: 1. Species Expert Group has initiated (via Invasive Non-Native Species Group of WBP) a review of progress to date and action on taking forward implementation of schedule 9 part II of the W&C Act with regard to INNS.</p> <p>2. Input into Glastir for wetland dependant species and prescriptions linked to habitat prescriptions for inclusion in the higher level scheme. Targeting maps will be produced in January 2010.</p> <p>3. Draft targets and actions for species have been published on the WBP website.</p> <p>4. SEG is developing guidelines for integration of species actions into habitat</p>		<p>WWEG members to look at draft targets and action plans on WBP website (point 3).</p>	

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actions to assist in their development and consistency across all ecosystem groups.			
Gaps in Lead partners for 8 S42 wetland plant species: marsh orchid, marsh fragrant orchid, bog orchid, fen orchid, marsh stitchwort, tubular water-dropwort, river-jelly lichen & Welsh thread moss.	Lead partners are required to write actions and targets for S42 species. Trevor Dines (Plantlife) is co-ordinating plant list. Deadline for setting targets is mid-January then drafts will go on WBP website for further comment.	New lead partners: Bog orchid – PSJ/SM; River-jelly lichen – CD BJ to ask Dave Thorpe/Huw to be lead partners for marsh stitchwort & tubular water-dropwort. Further volunteers, contact Trevor Dines.	

Peter Jones & Kathryn Birch
January 2010