

Notes from the Urban & Brownfield habitat group meeting 29/01/09

Present: Pete Frost, Liz Howe, Nigel Ajax Lewis, Isobel Macho, Steve Chambers, Sorrel Jones, David Thorpe, Margaret Peters

Item	Title	Activity	Action for:	By when:
1	Introductions and Welcome			
2	Apologies & submissions for AOB	Jan Sherry had sent apologies by email		
3	Purpose and objectives of the group	<p>Terms of reference comments:</p> <p>Scope – delete the words ‘for Triturus cristatus and Galeopsis angustifolia’. It was noted that CCW are working towards compiling a full list of species relating to brownfield sites.</p> <p>Approach – no change needed.</p> <p>Membership – we should keep archaeologists and geologists informed especially of the work that the group will be doing relating to coal spoil tips, add relevant interested group to the membership. Replace capital ‘G’ with lower case ‘g’ for the word ‘Group’ in the first sentence.</p> <p>Chair – no change needed</p> <p>Secretariat – no change needed</p> <p>Resources – no change needed</p> <p>Activities –</p> <p>1 & 2 No UK targets have been set yet, but they will be soon.</p> <p>SMART targets - A key question for the group is “Are we pulling this tightly down to open mosaic habitats or are we also looking at calaminarian habitats?” It was decided not to include calaminarian grasslands or other habitats which were clearly identified in the remits of other BAP groups’ remits. It was agreed that this group should focus on all habitats on previously developed land that don’t fit into any of the other groups responsibilities</p>	MP	By next meeting
		<p>3. Compiling a species list associated with Urban and Brownfield sites: Invertebrates - Contact Mike Howe and Adrian Fowles, CCW Lower plants (David to chase up data produced by SNPA) Birds? Mammals? Email all LBAP officers to ask for species lists (contact Julia Korn, CCW and Sean McHugh)</p>	LH? SC & DT MP & PF	
		All to come up with an emergency list of threatened sites by next meeting	ALL	By next meeting
		<p>4. Identifying policies which are threatening to brown sites</p> <p>Agenda items for next meeting</p> <p>Arrange for someone to give a presentation on the Ecosystem approach A briefing is needed on the Welsh guidelines for SINCS (Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation) Get information from Dave at Cofnod and update the group Information is required regarding the number and extent of SSSI’s on brownfield sites It was agreed that a review of membership will be a standing item on the agenda</p>	ALL MP NAL & SJ DT LH MP	By next meeting
		SC to find out if WAG have a policy on developing on brown sites?	SC	By next meeting
		It was agreed to present a paper to the policy group letting them know what policy issues this group wishes to see resolved for brownfield habitats.		

		Pete Frost to write to the head of FC to alert him to the existence of this new priority habitat	PF	By next meeting
		5. Nigel will lead on reporting using BARS to report against actions and targets and to deliver an annual update if the Chair of this group is not required to do this in person.	NAL	Ongoing
		6. It was agreed to ask Vicky Morgan from JNCC to act as the Welsh rep on the over-arching UK habitat group. Pete Frost will remain as the Wales rep on the Inter –agency Urban Habitat Working Group. It was agreed that coal spoil and mineral spoil sites will be a focus for this group ToR confirmed for now, will change them later if the need arises.	PF	

4	Update on the DEFRA contract	<p>Pete reported that David Knight from Natural England identified the need for the UK BAP to include a priority habitat covering urban habitats of high ecological value on previously developed land. The scope of the habitat had to be narrowed more and more until it got down to the current open mosaic habitat.</p> <p>Plant communities on these habitats are not replicable, the interplay of physical features of the site with flora and fauna which is difficult to define without classification.</p> <p>DEFRA have let a contract to come up with a more robust definition of open mosaic habitats. These habitats are new habitats that can't be classified by the National Vegetation Classification (NVC). ADAS won the contract and have partnered with CEH to deliver it.</p> <p>An interim report is due on 14th of February, 2009 but this is likely to slip. A stakeholder workshop will be held in Feb or March. This phase of the work should be completed by the end of July. There are 9 weeks scheduled for peer review of the contract outputs.</p> <p>It was agreed this project should include a test site in Wales. Vicky Morgan, JNCC sits on the steering group for this project and Pete will contact Vicky to request this.</p> <p>Sources of data that ADAS will be using include: The Countryside Survey 2007, NBN Gateway, LRC's. There are a number of datasets and sources of data in Wales that we may want to include. The following actions were agreed</p> <p>Send details on to minerals officers in LAs to request relevant datasets and forward on to Vicky Morgan</p> <p>Request WDA data on reclamation sites from Alison Smith, DETT</p> <p>Forward the survey of sand and gravel quarries produced by Paul Day, CCW and the digitalised metal mine report by Alan Hale, CCW to Pete Frost for onward transmission to ADAS</p> <p>Locate the metal mine inventory and list of landfill sites</p> <p>Contact Nicola, MoD for relevant datasets</p> <p>The definition will include ground surrounding old buildings, but habitats in buildings would probably be covered by other habitat or species groups.</p> <p>The contract should be available on the DEFRA site, if not Pete will edit out commercially sensitive information and email it to group members who wished to see a copy.</p>	<p>PF</p> <p>IM</p> <p>PF</p> <p>LH</p> <p>DT</p> <p>IM</p> <p>PF</p>	<p>By next meeting</p>
5	Work programme	Work programme produced-see attached		
6	AOB	<p>Identifying any gaps in membership, Jan Sherry (CCW) suggested by email prior to the meeting that Richard Wistow at RCT be invited to sit on the group as he has been leading on coal spoil work – all agreed</p> <p>Also all agreed to invite Russell Hobson, BCT to be part of the group</p> <p>Isobel to forward emails on to her colleagues that will have an interest in brownfield sites, they will be corresponding members.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>IM</p>	<p>By next meeting</p>

7	Time, date and place of next meeting	Week commencing 27 th of April, Wildlife Trust office in Shrewsbury Site visit to a brownfield site (Talacre) to be arranged for the July meeting	MP DT	
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