



Draft Minutes - Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group Meeting - 02nd February 2011
CCW Plas Penrhos, Bangor/by phone

Jan Sherry	JS	CCW
Alys Edwards (by phone)	AE	WBP
Stuart Smith	SS	CCW
Helen Buckingham	HB	National Trust

Dave Lamacraft	RSPB
Trevor Dines	Plantlife
Carrie Rimes	CCW
Ivy Denham	WAG
Richard Wistow	RCT
Sion Brackenbury	GCI
Nick and Kyra Somerfield	FUW

Agenda Item 1 - Biodiversity Grants

The group discussed the 3 projects which were submitted in the last round of applications;

- Cwn Colhuw Grazing Project
- Cefn Drum and Graig Fawr, Building Our Biodiversity project
- And the National Trust project

Three potential projects will also be submitted for the second round of applications, the closing date for which is Wednesday 09th February, these projects are;

- RSPB South Stack Grazing project
- Friends of Moel Findeg LNR sustainable grazing project
- National Trust hay meadow project - Vould

<p>ACTION 1. AE to circulate details of potential projects to the wider group for comment and sign off before the 9th February.</p>

ACTION 2. HB to sign off final applications once completed.

It was noted that the rush to submit project had been unhelpful and the group agreed that partners should be encouraged to start thinking about potential projects for the 2012/13 financial year as soon as possible. The October 2011 meeting of the GHEG will focus specifically on discussion and agreement of potential projects.

It was also agreed that it would be useful to have a synopsis of all projects which had been successful in their grant applications, including organisation and project type. AE agreed to discuss this with Diana Reynolds.

JS noted that there was a need to engage more with the LBAPs in Wales and encourage them to submit potential projects for the next round of funding. AE informed the group that it had been agreed that each ecosystem group would identify 3 key LBAPs with which to meet over the coming year and it was agreed that the GHEG would focus on Gwynedd and Snowdonia; Gwent and Ceredigion and Carmarthen.

Gwent - early June

Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire - wb, 18th July or September

Gwynedd - wait for potential dates

ACTION 3. AE to discuss possibility of setting up separate meetings of LBAP partnerships in these areas

ACTION 4. AE to discuss possibility of producing synopsis of projects with Diana

Agenda Item 2 - Priority Mapping

AE informed the group that she had been in touch with Len Wyatt (WAG) regarding the availability of Trunk Road Agency data on priority Grasslands and Heathlands to assist with the priority mapping exercise.

Len has suggested that the group needs to define what format the information is required in, considering the following;

- 1) GIS file format type - MapInfo/ArcView etc
- 2) Type of data required - areas, spots, polygons
- 3) Level of survey information - walk through/JNCC Phase 1/NVC etc.

It was agreed that all data available would be useful, and if not available as MapInfo, files could be converted from ArcView. Phase 2 data would be preferable but any and all data would be useful.

ACTION 5. AE to contact Len Wyatt and John Byrne and request access to this data

The group then discussed the progress of the priority mapping exercise. Once finalised the maps will be circulated to the wider group, CCW, SEG and LBAPs for further comment.

Grasslands

Ceredigion marshy grasslands - complete, ready for consultation.

South Wales Coalfields - needs to be refined.

ACTION 6. SS to review and refine and send through final maps and project brief to AE for circulation
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Bridgend - SS noted that although this area is less significant than the south Wales coalfields for M24 and marsh fritillary it was still a good area for the above and a good example of habitat in an partly urbanised landscape - the group agreed to retain this project.

Floodplain Meadows

Radnor - floodplain with remnant areas of MG4 in Wales. SS noted that the area has hardly any habitat at present therefore work would focus on restoration or creation. The Floodplain Meadows Partnership (England) would be a good source of info.

ACTION 7. SS to check over maps and brief and forward to AE for circulation
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Wrexham floodplain meadows - complete, ready for consultation.

Calcareous Grasslands and Heathlands (north Wales) - complete, ready for consultation.

Neutral Grasslands

At present written brief covers several neutral grassland areas, which will need to be separated out.

Elan Valley - scattered meadows over looking reservoir - restoration work ongoing

Meirionnydd - good area for *Vicia orobus* and several other s42 species

Gwent - key area for shrill carder bee

North east Monmouthshire (Monmouthshire meadows project)

It was suggested that one large project area should be identified covering Gwent and Monmouthshire and aiding connectivity between these two sites

Castlemartin Ranges - most important area for shrill carder bee in UK

Llantrisant - good habitat although not many s42 species

ACTION 8. SS to review brief and separate projects

Heathlands

Llyn peninsula - key sites currently included, although some work is needed on connectivity.

Written brief is completed - ready for consultation

Anglesey - Focus on improving existing sites (north coast)

Ceredigion coast and shingle - list of s42 species is not yet complete - need input from Trevor. More work is need on written brief.

ACTION 9. JS to progress written brief and check species with Trevor

Pembrokeshire Coast - map and brief need to be checked by Andrew Tuddman.

ACTION 10.	JS to send map and brief to Helen, to forward on to Tudd for comment
ACTION 11.	JS to draft preamble about the priority mapping project and consultation

Preseli - mapped but no brief written.

ACTION 12.	JS to produce first draft and share with Geraint for comment
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Gower coast - includes most of the good quality limestone coast - brief written, ready for consultation.

Gower commons - flat commons and marshy grasslands/wet heath - brief written, ready for consultation.

Deadline for completion of both maps and briefs is **Friday 11th February**. Any comments should be fed back to JS/HB/SS. Maps will be circulated to LBAPs for comment at the end of March

ACTION 13.	AE to circulate to the group, allowing one week for comment
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ACTION 14.	JS to circulate for internal consultation within CCW Following comment from the GHEG
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It was suggested that priority projects identified by the ESGs should be grouped by LBAP area to enable LBAPs to easily identify priorities within their areas. This raises the issues of all ESGs having completed their priority mapping exercise early in 2011. JS and AE agreed to raise the issues of greater coordination with LBAPs at the next WBP ST meeting

ACTION 15.	JS and AE to raise at WBP ST meeting
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Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held late May, to include field trip to one of the priority projects identified by mapping exercise

ACTION 16.	HB to email group
ACTION 17.	AE to scope for dates/meeting location in late May