

## Minutes Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group Meeting WBPSG13 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011, National Museum Wales, Cardiff

### Attendees

Name		Organisation
Alys	Edwards	WBP Support Team
Robin	Woodyatt	WLGA
Graham	Oliver	National Museum Wales
Clive	Walmsley	CCW/Climate Change Commission Wales
Diana	Reynolds	WAG/WBP Support Team
Richard	May	Wales LBAP rep
Hazel	Drewett	CCW
Andy	Schofield	EAW
Deb	Hill	WLGA/City & County of Swansea
Steve	Bolchover	Volunteer Beetle Recorder
Laura	Palmer	Cardiff Council
Nigel	Ajax-Lewis	Wildlife Trusts Wales
Dusi	Thomas	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
Emma	Westling	Bradford University (Observer)
Adam	Rowe	LRC's Wales/SEWBREC
Helen	Buckingham	National Trust
Sean	Christian	RSPB/Wales Environment Link
Sean	McHugh	WBP Support Team
Liz	Dean	Rhondda Cynon Taff Council
Mark	Robinson	British Waterways
Tracey	Lovering	CCW/WBP Support Team
Mike	Bruford	Cardiff University
Chris	Tucker	FCW

Rob	McCall	CCW
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## Apologies

Name		Organisation
David	Bullock	National Trust
David	Parker	CCW
Trevor	Dines	Plantlife
Kate	Williamson	National Park Authorities/Snowdonia National Park
Chris	Mills	EAW
Tom	Jones	Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd
Stephen	Bromley	Groundwork
Shaun	Russell	WERH
Nick	Birula	EAW
Ian	Guildford	CCW/ South Wales Police
Glenda	Thomas	FWAG

Diana Reynolds chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Diana then provided an update on WBP funding, announcing a continuation of the flat rate of WBP Project funding at £100,000 per annum for the next three years. She thanked CCW and others involved in securing the funding for all their hard work over the past few months.

Diana updated the group on the status of funding for the WBP Ecosystem Groups. She announced that a total of £70,000 had been secured by WAG for next years grants, which will continue to be administered by Environment Wales, although the current criteria will be reviewed for the next round of funding, beginning at the start of the 2012/13 financial year. CCW are currently investigating match funding of £70,000 which they hope to release later on in the year. CCW will also be looking at the provision of additional grant aid for groups/projects that fall between the cracks of Glastir/WBP Ecosystem Groups and other existing funds, an announcement on this is expected shortly.

Diana also noted that Kate Williamson (Snowdonia National Park) would shortly be leaving her post and would therefore be stepping down as the National Parks

representative on the WBP Steering Group. Diana thanked Kate on behalf of WBP for the high quality contribution that she made during her time on the group and wished her well for the future. An additional representative from the National Parks is being sought.

**ACTION 1.** Sean McHugh to follow up on WBP replacement representative from the National Parks in Wales

## **Paper 02: Biodiversity Conservation in a Changing Climate: Clive Walmsley**

The session began with a short presentation. Clive introduced the publication 'Biodiversity and Climate Change – a summary of impacts in the UK' produced by the inter agency climate change forum, which highlights trends we are beginning to see in terms of species range and distribution. The group was then introduced to CCW's work on vulnerability assessment of designated sites in Wales in relation to climate change. Vulnerability risk to site features is categorised as high, medium or low, based on proportion of habitat area assessed as highly vulnerable to climate change over the next 20 years. At present  $\frac{3}{4}$  of SSSI site features and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SAC features are classed as highly vulnerable. Results indicate that coastal and wetland sites have the highest vulnerability.

CCW's Climate Change Position Statement sets out 5 priorities (based on the remit of CCW) Enhancing resilience; Monitoring; Projecting change; Understanding and awareness; Reducing emissions. At this point Clive drew the group's attention to the UK Biodiversity Partnership Guidelines; Hopkins *et al.* 2007 – 'Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate' <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Library/BRIG/CBCCGuidance.pdf> – which focuses on actions, which can be taken now, without legislative changes.

A CCW survey of both SSSIs and pSSSIs showed 100% of SSSIs were of SSSI quality, whereas pSSSIs were damaged – highlighting the importance of designation. York University is currently investigating the way in which species colonize habitats – this work is being done for a whole range of taxa. Early results show that species are likely to spread and preferentially colonize protected areas under favorable management.

The case for ecosystem based adaption/mitigation highlighted the difference in biodiversity and climate change communities, taken from the top level down i.e. EU-UK. In addressing climate change is essential to address biodiversity loss due to the overlap between drivers. CCW are currently involved in work at the EU level with partners across Europe, focusing on adaptation, encouraging those involved in climate change adaptation to consider biodiversity. Landscape heterogeneity was highlighted as an important factor in the stability of species population.

Ongoing work by Oxford University as part of the European project 'Minimisation of and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity' (MACIS) showed that afforestation can be a positive or a negative factor dependent on where it occurs, whereas forest conservation can be considered a 'win-win' situation. This work highlights the

complexities of synergies and trade offs and the importance of location. Other projects mentioned included:

Polyscape GIS model developed by Bangor University – spatial arrangement of landscape features influence the delivery of biodiversity. Trade off layer produced to gain understanding of the trade off between different services.

Cambrian Mountains project – biodiversity opportunity layer in terms of land use change – what is the potential to improve biodiversity looking specifically from a biodiversity perspective. Agricultural productivity layer – opportunity for delivery in uplands – combined all layers, which illustrates number of trade offs – very few ‘wins-wins’ based on this case study but there are areas of opportunity.

**ACTION 2.** Diana Reynolds to ensure the Living Wales evidence work stream is aware of UK Guidelines outlined in ‘Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate’ Report.

**ACTION 3.** Diana Reynolds to ensure the Living Wales GIS work stream are aware of the Polyscape GIS data

Dusi Thomas commented that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are currently looking for opportunities to work on catchment management approaches (water storage; flooding; green space) and the impact on biodiversity and local communities. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water has produced a climate change adaptation report for Defra and are engaged with WAG climate change representatives. They are currently promoting green space initiatives on their website – and using this to illustrate the focus on ecosystem services, Dusi noted that Welsh Water are keen to have initial conversations with interested parties who would be keen to work in partnership with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water on these objectives.

**ACTION 4.** All. Contact Dusi Thomas if you can assist with partnership work on catchment level management approaches with Welsh Water.

Councillor Woodyatt asked who we are attempting to sell the climate change adaptation message to, commenting that the target audience was unclear. The groups agreed that this had been an ongoing problem and Andy Schofield commented that this has been a key question around NEF discussions. Clive noted that the presentation had been specifically prepared for a policy audience, but agreed with Cllr Woodyatt that the issue of messaging was key and needed to be addressed.

Mike Bruford stated that there was scientific uncertainty around these approaches and a need to take into account evolutionary processes (which are as yet uncertain) when considering mitigation etc. Dusi noted that flexibility will key in any approach. Clive pointed out that genetic issues are key in connectivity, not all species move north and complexity of landscapes is an important parameter.

Mike Bruford enquired whether or not assisted translocation had been discussed, and whether guidelines had been developed with regard to species translocation. Clive noted that it was an important issue however no such discussion have yet taken place due to the potential management risks – it had therefore purposely not been included in CCW's work.

Steve Bolchover noted that no species don't move and stated that it was a question of how fast species move and how fast changes take place. Connectivity has to relate to the ability of species to move. Clive agreed and noted that many species are unable to move at the pace climate change is occurring. Deb Hill noted that the presence of built infrastructure is often a barrier to species movement.

Clive noted that he had an upcoming meeting with WAG climate change staff which Diana will attend to discuss proposals for interlinking Climate Change Adaptation and Living Wales. WAG is currently working with other agencies to develop sectoral climate change adaptation plans and it was noted that the natural environment adaptation plan should be a key part of Living Wales.

**ACTION 5.** Diana to ensure Natural Environment Sector Adaption Plan is embedded in Living Wales and influences other sectoral adaptation plans with assistance from Clive.

Deb Hill had recently attended a Foresight conference in Swansea where discussion had focussed around how resilient the economic strategy is to the challenges of peak oil, climate change, food/energy security etc. Land resource is seen as an opportunity for economic change and energy generation. Deb noted that there are potential areas of conflict around the work of individual groups, with each group having their own plan with regards to use of the same piece of land. This needs to be addressed by putting these sectoral groups in contact with each other in a way that reduces the risk of the biodiversity message being lost in land use discussions. Rob McCall seconded these comments and informed the group that a similar discussion had been had at a recent CAT workshop, where the question had been posed to the group that there was 'no room for biodiversity in land use if we are to achieve a zero carbon aspiration' i.e. each individual sector follows its own path in terms of individual benefits and fails to recognise co-benefits. It was noted that biodiversity must not be seen as a luxury but as the glue which holds it all together.

Laura Palmer noted that these issues had been highlighted at the 2010 WBP LUCC conference presentation in Bangor and that these discussions would be useful to feed into LDP development and commented that the visual representation provided by the GIS modelling tools is extremely useful. Clive stated that Polyscape was still in development and based on some assumptions and there was a need to understand the caveats, but something similar could be developed to inform LDPs etc.

Clive confirmed that Rob has collated examples of biodiversity related climate change adaptation case studies which will go onto the CCW website and that further examples would be welcomed. LBAPs had also been contacted to supply examples of adaptation projects.

**ACTION 6.** All to send in cases studies of additional climate change adaptation projects to Rob or Clive for inclusion on CCW website

**ACTION 7.** Rob McCall to send link to WBP Support Team for circulation to WBP

Diana noted two major challenges highlighted in the discussion as:

- 1) The language we use to communicate the message and the practicalities;
- 2) The challenge of getting biodiversity back at the centre of things.

Both of these aspects have been discussed at length under A Living Wales and the B4C group. The difficulty with communicating biodiversity is enabling people to understand the need for action without alienating people and getting the right messages across. Living Wales will be key in addressing these issues. There was also a need to collect evidence as we go, noting what works and what doesn't and ensuring outcomes are fed back to the relevant organisations.

Steve Bolchover agreed with these sentiments but noted that the health or decline of an individual species is hard to tie into a model of relevance to humans. A balance between approaches and accepting constraints of research/knowledge is required – importance of keystone species. It was noted that A Living Wales does not focus purely on economics and ecosystem services but uses evidence relating to these as part of a wider approach to environment, complexities and unknowns need to be recognised.

Tracey Lovering noted that although as a sector we are good at providing examples of overseas biodiversity through glossy media productions there is a need to celebrate biodiversity in the UK and sell this message to the public to invigorate local action. Diana commented that responses to the Living Wales consultation identified the need to reconnect people with nature. Laura Palmer noted the success of Friends groups in Cardiff, which had often developed as a result of a planning application, and the intention to develop more 'Friends' groups over the next few years.

Rob McCall stated that Local Authorities are well placed to take the lead in delivering an ecosystem approach due to their existing networks and estates and that Local Authorities are primary audiences for implementing the ecosystem approach. Laura agreed and informed the group that in Cardiff the Biodiversity team have used the NERC Duty as a door into other sectors, which has proved very successful, although it has been slow process and the hope is that Living Wales will build on this.

Councillor Woodyatt stated that the problem for councils is that they are in a difficult position, with increased pressure from the biodiversity sector and pressure from developers to ease planning restrictions and speed up the planning process. There is a need to find a balance between the two. At present planning applications often favour developers, meaning councils are pressured towards accepting applications for fear of covering costs if challenges are unsuccessful. We need to strengthen environmental arguments.

Laura agreed and commented that wildlife sites guidance and the wildlife sites system, adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the LDP in areas such as Caerphilly had proved useful. In Cardiff the new TAN 5 had been welcomed, although strengthening of it would also be welcomed. Diana drew attendee's attention to the recent enquiries by the National Assembly for Wales Sustainability Committee into both [planning](#) and [biodiversity](#), which highlighted the economic importance of planning and the development of a strategic monitoring framework for planning. Such a framework could benefit from input from LRC's, with the aspiration of easier administration but increased delivery for nature. This was seen as an opportunity to measure the impacts of planning by capturing losses and gains in the system.

**ACTION 8.** WBP Support Team to include links to Sustainability Committees inquiries into Planning and Biodiversity in Actions for All.

**ACTION 9.** Diana to discuss incorporating measures the biodiversity losses and gains as part of the WAG Strategic Management Framework for Planning.

**ACTION 10.** All. An online regulatory questionnaire has been produced by the Living Wales regulatory work stream. Please contact Jennifer Dack ([jennifer.dack@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.dack@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk)) if you would like to be added to the email circulation list for the regulatory work stream questionnaire.

Clive added that in order to address Local Authority issues CCW, EA, WLGA, WAG and UKCIP were working up a project called 'Changing Climate: Changing Places', helping Local Authorities to understand the impacts of climate change and to look at service delivery areas in order to understand the risks and include in a risk assessment framework. Both EAW and CCW have run workshops on the advantages of biodiversity delivery for other service areas and the intention is to further develop additional workshops in 2011 with the WLGA.

Laura noted that the Cardiff Biodiversity team have not been directly involved in this work and had only been informed through external sources. Liz Dean confirmed that they have a similar experience in Rhondda Cynon Taff. Councillor Woodyatt said that councils will often become silo-ed within their own departments in response to the need to follow budgets and guidance and the pressure of involvement on many different issues. Hit was noted that this departmentalism needed to be addressed. Chris Tucker agreed that this happens in many organisations, with individuals adopting a silo approach in their

work. FCW are working to embed the ecosystem approach with organisations and businesses to counteract this trend. Deb Hill informed the group that Swansea are currently going through their candidate sites process and a conflict had emerged between sites put forward by some council departments and those put forward by others – highlighting the need to understand the constraints and resources of other departments. Andy Schofield informed the group that Bridgend CBC is engaging representatives from different departments within the authority for a workshop focusing on green infrastructure and developing narrative. It was agreed that action-focused collaborative working across departments is far more effective than working in silos and that this needs to be a key element of our message.

**ACTION 11.** Clive Walmsley to send details of ‘Changing Climate Changing Places’ workshops to Sean McHugh for inclusion on WBP website.

**ACTION 12.** Andy Schofield to feedback on outcome of Bridgend Green Infrastructure meeting to WBP

### **Paper 01: WBP Ecosystem and Species Expert Groups Report 2010: Tracey Lovering**

Diana informed the group that a recent meeting of the Living Wales programme board had made strong links with the work of the ecosystem groups and that new Terms of Reference had been developed in collaboration between the Ecosystem Chairs, their groups and the Living Wales team (see Paper 03: Annex 02).

Tracey Lovering then introduced herself to the group and presented two slides summarising success over the past year and the challenges ahead. The main area of success for the Ecosystem and Species Expert Groups has been project delivery. CCW, FCW, EAW and WAG are all closely involved and the work of the ecosystem groups is now becoming more integrated and better understood. Priority actions will appear on BARS enabling coordination with LBAPs. The priority mapping which is currently being progressed by the groups will illustrate projects that can be taken on by LBAP areas and enable collaboration across groups. The Chairs’ meetings have proved extremely successful in terms of facilitating communication between groups and developing joint projects e.g. the West Wales Grazing Animals Scheme (WWGAS), developed jointly by the Wetland and Grassland ecosystem groups, which covers three Local Authority Areas and is the subject of LIFE+ funding bid.

A number of challenges were highlighted, in particular involvement in the groups is not seen as part of all members ‘day jobs’ and as such attendance at meetings has reduced in some cases leaving a few core members to progress the work of the group. Both workloads within their own organisations and the travel infrastructure of Wales makes attendance difficult and this is something that will need to be addressed moving forward.



The Urban and Brownfield group has been delayed in progressing its priority mapping exercise due to the lack of a UK definition of open mosaic habitats, which has led to a delay in the agreement of targets, and actions and for consultation.

The need for improved communication between ecosystem groups and LBAPs was also highlighted as a key challenge for 2011.

Diana Reynolds thanked Tracey and the members of the Ecosystem and Species Expert Groups for producing the paper and for a useful summary of the challenges, highlighting four challenges:

- 1) poor or declining engagement
- 2) resources
- 3) representation on groups and involving new stakeholders
- 4) action targets and reporting – how do we take forward under a Living Wales?

**ACTION 13.** Ecosystem groups needing to draw in new membership or collaborators to contract Andy and Diana to assist by linking to Living Wales contacts.

**ACTION 14.** Following the next paper, support team to identify any ecosystem group issues listed that remain unsolved.

### **Paper 03: Living Wales – next steps: Andy Schofield**

Andy Schofield introduced the paper and acknowledged that issues arising from Paper 1 and Paper 2 were evident during the NEF consultation process. 180 responses were received to the consultation, making it the second most popular consultation by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2010. The consultation document was downloaded over 1,200 times. Responses were predominately from the environment sector, public bodies and private companies (including agriculture and forest enterprise) but only a few from the industrial sector, tourism and wider business.

The various Living Wales workshops held during the course of the consultation proved successful and will continue.

The key messages included;

- 1) Issues around timescales and resources
- 2) Need to consider geodiversity in addition to biodiversity
- 3) Biodiversity and ecosystems are our supports life systems
- 4) Need to refresh regulatory framework – legislation needs to be rationalised and simplified
- 5) Responses to the Environmental Delivery Options Review

- 6) Language and communication of messages
- 7) Re-connecting people with nature

More detailed key messages are being developed with particular sectors and this will be rolled out to the farming unions in the next few months.

With regard to messages it was noted that specialist advice of marketing professionals might be beneficial if carefully focused.

Additional areas that need to be focused on:

- How do we engage with other sectors e.g. finance
- Identifying better ways of working in future
- Ensuring complementary messages going out (not overloading with messages)

Dusi Thomas suggested that it would be a good idea to encourage partners to communicate messages to financial institutions with whom they have dealings. For example, if the message is communicated by an organisation to their insurance company in terms of ‘the risk becomes less for us and therefore less for you’.

Performance objectives can be embedded into corporate policy e.g. set objectives within Sustainable Development indicators. Partner organisations should also be encouraged to communicate more within their own organisations through newsletters etc. This idea could further be built on by encouraging organisations to include performance indicators directly linked to biodiversity or ecosystem health and treating these with the same level of recognition as Health and Safety issues.

**ACTION 15.** All to continue to feed in good practice ecosystem-focused case studies. Please send to Fiona Evans ([f.evans@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:f.evans@ccw.gov.uk))

**ACTION 16.** Andy Schofield to discuss contact with financial institutions with Living Wales partnership work streams

Tracey Lovering suggested investigating the seconding individuals from the business sector to work within NGOs/WAG on developing a communication strategy. Laura Palmer added that similar conclusions had been drawn at the south Wales LBAP meeting, and that it would be beneficial to have professional assistance when communicating messages to the public and non-engaged sectors. Clive noted that a similar approach had been taken with marketing in relation to climate change, where WAG had secured the services of environmentally aware marketing professionals which were now available on a call off arrangement.

**ACTION 17.** Andy Schofield to discuss possible use of secondments with WAG Communications colleagues

**ACTION 18.** Clive Walmsley to provide further details regarding climate change marketing and communication

Clive enquired about Living Wales linkages to the CBI/ABI. Andy Schofield informed the group that the CBI has an Environment Working Group and he had made an approach to present at one of their seminars which needs to be chased up.

**ACTION 19.** Andy Schofield to follow up Living Wales engagement with CBI/ABI contacts.

Adam Rowe suggested developing a branding logo, which could be attached to all partner communications, both internally and externally, similar to the IYB logo used throughout 2010. This would enable more work to fall under the umbrella of Living Wales and useful for organisations like Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water who communicate with all households in Wales. Clive noted that the value of marketing is the ability to communicate in the appropriate language, with Adam suggesting that the logo should be complimentary to any additional communication work undertaken.

**ACTION 20.** Andy Schofield to investigate branding potential for Living Wales with WAG Communications team

The issue of resource constraints was then discussed and a suggestion that WBP focus on future well-being benefits derived from the natural environment, in a similar approach to explaining the economic austerity approach from government. Sean Christian suggested that the message should be sold in terms of saving people money and improving well-being. Rob McCall noted that no message will be appropriate for all audiences and that a multi-pronged approach will be required.

Steve Bolchover noted the difficulty in communicating the benefits to the wider public, as the things we are trying to achieve benefit people relatively indirectly.

Liz Dean drew the group's attention to a publication by Futerra entitled Branding Biodiversity. The messages had two targets namely: People and Policy makers and have associated actions. Liz also brought the groups attention to work carried out by charitable organisations looking at messages used in campaign communications where self interest messages reinforce individual values and can undermine long-term goals.

**ACTION 21.** Liz Dean to send Futerra link to WBP Support Team for circulation: Futerra [http://www.futerra.co.uk/downloads/Branding\\_Biodiversity.pdf](http://www.futerra.co.uk/downloads/Branding_Biodiversity.pdf)  
George Monbiot regarding self interest / common interest:  
<http://www.monbiot.com/2010/10/11/the-values-of-everything/> and the heavyweight report by Tom Crompton, which provides the evidence:  
[http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/common\\_cause\\_report.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/common_cause_report.pdf)

Diana then posed the question – what can those around the table do? Use of telephone meetings, although this is not without its challenges, has increased attendance rates for Living Wales. It has previously been agreed that we share 3 key messages from each WBP meeting to be circulated to individual networks, and this should be reinforced.

**ACTION 22.** All - to ensure that 3 key messages are agreed and distributed from all WBP-related meetings

**ACTION 23.** All – to encourage use of teleconferencing facilities.  
<http://www.powwownow.co.uk>

Ecosystem Groups and the Species Expert Group are engaged in a process of making direct contact with relevant Policy officials within WAG with the aim of increasing direct biodiversity outcomes. This should lead to a smaller number of policy issues for the Policy Group to deal with. Therefore it was suggested that the Policy Group and WBP Steering Group could potentially merge and focus specifically on Policy issues at every third WBP SG meeting – freeing up staff time to assist the Living Wales partnership group to help with workshops and activities related to Living Wales.

**ACTION 24.** Tracey Lovering and Diana Reynolds to discuss merging of Policy and Steering Group at the upcoming Policy Group meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Helen Buckingham noted that it sounded like a positive move and informed the group that the Lowland Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group had decided to change its format to two main meetings a year in order to improve attendance at meetings. With one summer meeting looking at case studies and a site visit and a winter meeting looking at key issues and agreeing project proposals for the ecosystem group funding. Task and finish groups will be established alongside this in order to address key issues such as the priority mapping and attending meetings with LBAPs.

Diana welcomed this new approach and stated that the new Terms of Reference support this, encouraging ecosystem group chairs to look imaginatively at how they run the groups and leading to an increased focus on action.

**ACTION 25.** Helen Buckingham to produce a short note on revamp of the Lowland Grassland and Heathland Group for circulation.

Andy Schofield asked, as an individual who is not involved in the ecosystem groups, if the number of groups or meetings needed to be rationalised moving forward. Diana responded that groups are involved in a continuous process of rationalisation of which the suggestions above would form a part.

Hazel Drewett stated that it may be possible for CCW to review job descriptions and include involvement in WBP Ecosystem Groups as part of the core work and asked if it

was possible for the groups to consult on the new ToR in a similar way so that they could be agreed by partners as an integral part of job descriptions.

Diana informed the group that the Living Wales programme board (includes FCW, EAW, CCW) had agreed the ToR, however they still need to be agreed by the NGOs. Nigel Ajax-Lewis asked if this could be agreed in the concordats with CCW and stated that it would also need agreement with line managers. Alys Edwards noted that the Invasive Non Native group had asked that the ToR, refer not only to the ecosystem and species expert group but to all the various technical groups including INNS so that all groups should have a duty to communicate with the technical groups as part of their remit. It was agreed that the ToR would refer to all groups.

Chris Tucker stated that FCW uses its involvement in the various ecosystem groups to input to ongoing FCW plans and strategies – an approach they find useful.

Sean Christian noted that the RSPB contributes to many of the ecosystem groups but that capacity has become an issue, especially as attendance at meetings has tapered off and a fair share in terms of work allocation was not always forthcoming.

Helen stated that the National Trust approach favoured a concordat with CCW. Hazel responded that this may be possible but buy in would still be needed from all NGOs and line managers in order to free up staff time to ensure attendance at/proper engagement with groups – all need to sign up to the ethos.

The Terms of Reference and Protocols were then agreed in principle and it was decided to take their implementation and further consultation forward in the following way:

**ACTION 26.** All to discuss ToR with line managers/CEOs in order to agree inclusion in job descriptions and/or provide any further feedback on the ToR to Diana Reynolds

**ACTION 27.** Hazel Drewett to discuss reference to involvement with the work of the Ecosystems Groups in CCW concordats from Local Authorities and third sector bodies with Martin Parkinson (CCW)

**ACTION 28.** WAG, CCW, EAW and FCW (and other organisations as appropriate) to ensure that involvement with ecosystem groups is incorporated into staff job descriptions.

Diana informed the group that WAG and the three central environmental organisations were currently looking at how they could increase programme management and secretariat support for the ecosystem groups.

**ACTION 29.** Andy Schofield to coordinate paper to note for SG14 re: supporting ecosystem groups with central staff

## Presentation: Beetles: Steve Bolchover

Diana welcomed Steve to the meeting, who thanked the WBP for the invitation and gave a brief introduction to his background and his work. Steve informed the group that beetles (Coleoptera) are the most species rich taxonomic group of all worldwide, despite this however there is relatively little data, especially on rarer species. At present in Wales there are only four or five taxonomists with beetle expertise. Steve outlined some of the many beetle groups including Ground beetles; Water beetles; Rove beetles; Scarab beetles; Leaf beetles; Oil beetles; Weevils. The Rove beetle *Thinobius newberyi* is found on shingle banks in Wales and England at a few locations and nowhere else in the world. In general, focusing on habitat management will greatly assist beetle conservation.

There is positive news in that the ground beetle *Cicindela maritima* (Dune tiger beetle) is now breeding at Crymlyn Burrows but unfortunately *Eurynebria complanata* (Strand-line beetle) is no longer present at this location and of the ten UK species of Oil beetles, five are probably extinct (due mainly to fencing off waterways & coastal paths).

**Issues affecting Beetles** - survey effort and awareness raising; beetles not representative on BAP listings in terms of their rarity; agricultural runoff; pollution (noted that river quality has improved over the years); invasive aliens; fencing of waterways (article in June Edition of British wildlife outlining this issue (*Alexander, K. N. A., Foster, G. & Sanderson, N. A. (2010) Comment: 'Good Ecological Status' of inland waterbodies' is not 'good for biodiversity'. British Wildlife 21: 326-332.*); animal parasite treatment (Ivermectin) affecting scarab beetles; lack of dead wood for boring beetles; sand dune degradation

**ACTION 30.** Diana Reynolds to investigate fencing strategy relating to the all-Wales Coastal path [Outcome: There are no specific guidelines specifically so that locally appropriate solutions can be put in place. So far the coastal path has a range of different fencing alignments in place in different locations.]

## Discussion

A discussion then followed relating in particular to the lack of data or knowledge on beetle distribution in Wales. Mark Robinson enquired if it is known how beetles are faring along canals. Steve responded that he was not sure but it was likely that they are improving. Graham Oliver commented that this raises issues about invertebrates and lower plants as a whole. The lack of knowledge and ecological data to accompany the species list – resources required to improve monitoring and a need to move away from simply recording to scientific research looking at the reasons for distribution.

Citizen science could help in this respect. Coleopterans recording groups could be put in touch with professionals in universities etc. and given access to WAG funding, such as that available from the Ecosystem groups. Steve responded that the problem lay with the

lack of individuals recording beetles and this needs to be addressed. Increased recording would enable many species of beetle to be added to the s42 list in Wales enabling them to be considered when looking at planning applications.

Tracey Lovering suggested that entomologists could be encouraged to produce tool kits for consultants- useful for EIA assessments, which could provide information by region and habitat type to enable focus, guide thinking and put individuals in touch with relevant contacts. It would also enable identification of gaps in current knowledge.

Clive commented that CCW's environmental change network project in Snowdonia had carried out pitfall trapping of ground beetles, and had noticed a crash in populations in upland sites and enquired if this had been noticed elsewhere and why? Steve responded that not enough is known about the size of the population to be sure. Pitfall trapping is only used in a small number of sites and therefore it is difficult to draw conclusions without more recording effort.

Chris Tucker commented that he agreed with Steve's earlier comments regarding the importance of deadwood and informed the group that FCW had a policy to leave deadwood for this very reason. Mark Robinson stated that British Waterways do fence some canals in order to protect riparian habitats which are important for other species – so a balance was needed.

Councilor Woodyatt raised the issue of *Dikerogammarus villosus* which was possible one of the biggest threats at present to riverine habitats and needed more discussion. Andy informed the group that the EAW is trying to move away from the name 'killer' shrimp. Evidence is still unclear about the level of impact the species will have on native fauna. It is therefore important to continue to monitor water bodies and ensure appropriate bio-security measures are taken.

**ACTION 31.** Andy Schofield to arrange for EAW to produce a paper to note on *Dikerogammarus villosus* for SG14

Graham stated that both Cardiff Bay and Cosmeston Lake have populations of the invasive Zebra mussels and that we should perhaps have acted sooner. Andy agreed and noted that these are just the invasives we are aware of - citing the example of Minchinia in the Burry inlet SPA. Graham stated that increased monitoring is needed and that any move to an ecosystem based approach requires a good knowledge of the components of those ecosystems, which raises the issue of resourcing.

Andy informed the group that there was a group looking at strategic monitoring and surveying as part of a Living Wales and included looking at resource in terms of taxonomic expertise.

Graham suggested that in relation to awareness raising, Coleopterans recording groups should approach organisations like the Museum to hold beetle awareness days and it was

suggested that Local authority biodiversity road shows could incorporate a beetle element.

**ACTION 32.** Diana to feed comments from today's discussion into the Living Wales monitoring & surveillance work stream

**ACTION 33.** Alys Edwards to pass Stephen Bladwell contact details to Steve Bolchover so that they can discuss inclusion of additional beetle species on the s42 list with Stephen Bladwell and the species expert group

**ACTION 34.** All to note Bug Life Oil Beetle survey and engage as appropriate. Link:

<http://www.buglife.org.uk/getinvolved/surveys/Coming+soon+the+Oil+Beetle+Hunt>

**ACTION 35.** All to consider possibility of hosting Beetle Day events especially public sessions at shopping centres etc to increase recording and awareness.

Diana thanked Steve for attending and for his informative presentation.

#### **Paper to note A: Wildlife Crime Update: Ian Guildford**

Ian Guildford sent his apologies and Diana introduced the paper on his behalf. Chris Tucker on behalf of FCW noted that possibly the paper has a wider remit than necessary and that the focus should be on s42 species. Laura Palmer commented on the usefulness of the paper when influencing developers and policy colleagues.

Andy Schofield noted that crimes dealt with by the EAW and FCW such as fish poaching, waste crimes, felling offences etc are not included in the assessment.

**ACTION 36.** Chris Tucker to feedback comments on s42 focus for future wildlife crime updates to Ian Guildford.

**ACTION 37.** Andy to discuss with EAW crime team and ask them to feed in to the development of future papers. EAW to contact Ian Guildford directly to discuss.

#### **Paper to note B: iSpot: Madeline Havard**

All noted they were happy to engage with the iSPOT project. Chris Tucker remarked that FCW's view is this should feed into the work of the LRCs and NBN. FCW have plant health issues so iSPOT could also be linked in to FCW work identifying diseased trees.

**ACTION 38.** Sean McHugh to check if iSPOT data feeds into LRC's & NBN.



**ACTION 39.** Michelle van Velzen to discuss with Madeleine incorporating plant health id into iSPOT

Graham Oliver drew attendee's attention to OPAL <http://www.opalexplorenature.org/>, a Citizen Science recording initiative but only based in England. Is there a case to approach the heritage lottery biodiversity funding stream to develop a Welsh version?

**ACTION 40.** Graham Oliver to discuss case for a Welsh version of OPAL with LRCs.

**ACTION 41.** All to inform Graham Oliver if interested in involvement with OPAL type setup in Wales.

### **Paper to note D; Lichen Apprenticeship Progress Report: Trevor Dines**

Diana introduced the paper in Trevor's absence and recommended an extension of the volunteer scheme based on the report findings. The group agreed it was happy to continue with and extend the scope of the scheme.

Chris Tucker noted that FCW can offer the scheme to section managers and rangers to roll out in a similar format to the WAG initiative. Local Authorities, the National Trust and other bodies are also encouraged to do so.

The issue of resourcing for trainers was discussed, with the suggestion that where there was a lack of expertise in Welsh NGOs expertise from England may be able to help.

It was noted that the Scottish Lichen Apprenticeship scheme funding has recently been pulled, with no further funding available. Diana stated that WAG has asked the Botanical Gardens in Wales, as part of their remit letter, to hold training days and suggested that in addition WBP could fund up to ten days per year for third sector trainer in Wales, extended to external trainers if necessary.

Graham noted that in Scotland BTCV received funding for a trainer for one year and questioned why this has not happened in Wales. It was agreed there was a need to be more proactive in seeking these funding opportunities.

**ACTION 42.** Graham Oliver to send further details of the BTCV apprenticeship scheme to Diana.

**ACTION 43.** Sean McHugh to draft a brief terms of engagement for funding of third sector trainers for the apprenticeship scheme.

### **Paper to note F: WBP Planning: Sean McHugh**

Sean introduced the paper and informed the group that the 2011 WBP Conference will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> September in Trinity College, Carmarthen and asked the group for suggestions for the conference theme and content. It was noted that a similar format to last year would be useful, with WAG officials from various departments involved and with attendance from the incoming WAG Environment and Rural Affairs ministers. A cross-sectoral approach was advocated designed to reinforce policy linkages and challenge thinking. Issues brought up in the NAFW Biodiversity Enquiry (and Planning enquiry) could be addressed and WAG departments could give their perspective in a two-way learning process. The conference could form part of the response to the recommendations of the Sustainability Committee's inquiry. The conference could look at workshop based around Living Wales and Policy issues over the two days respectively.

A WAG Best Practice Report from their in-house activities could also be launched at the conference.

It was noted that the education workshop, run by Tina Hawkins (WAG), had been particularly successful at the 2010 conference. Tina has been asked to consider providing a training session for workshop leaders prior to the 2011 conference. Andy mentioned that a high-level Living Wales summit (July or Autumn) was being considered. Graham Oliver announced a conference taking place in July at the Museum titled 'Unknown Wales' in partnership with WTSWW celebrating Welsh Biodiversity and focussing on the positive. It is hoped that the event will be hosted by Iolo Williams and Chris Packham.

**ACTION 44.** Diana to investigate the WBP Conference input with WAG colleagues and feedback to Sean McHugh

**ACTION 45.** Andy Schofield to circulate details of the Living Wales high level summit event when available.

**ACTION 46.** Graham Oliver to circulate further details of 'Unknown Wales' event once available.

Laura Palmer suggested that there was a need to tap into the voluntary sector and local recorders and have a greater focus on the SD and climate change community when considering a target audience. It was agreed that the focus of the conference should be cross sectoral in order to make linkages between work plans. Diana informed the group that WAG undertakes a biennial departmental review of biodiversity work, however this has not been well publicised to date, and the best practice report should help in this respect.

Graham noted that a lack of information is the common theme and that research needs should be addressed in order to progress effective action. Mike Bruford responded that all universities in Wales have been tasked with providing a list of ongoing work and producing a gap analysis which was feeding into Living Wales.

**ACTION 47.** Diana to raise research issues with Chris Lea

Laura suggested influencing the theme of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) conference, however it was agreed that it is probably too late and effort would be better focussed influencing the content of the RTPI magazine. Tracey suggested taking the Living Wales message to the IEEM and Andy informed the group that IEEM are involved through the Living Wales partnership work stream.

Deb Hill requested that links to live coverage of the conference proceedings be made available online, for those unable to attend in person.

**ACTION 48.** Andy Schofield to discuss with WAG Communications team the possibility of filming at the conference and making this available online.

The dates for Wales Biodiversity Week were announced (4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June) and all are requested to investigate hosting events individually or with partner organisations events.

Deb Hill informed the group that Swansea Council was planning a ‘take over’ of Council screen savers for Wales Biodiversity Week this year and questioned whether this was something that could be rolled out Wales wide.

**ACTION 49.** Richard May/Laura Palmer to take the screen saver idea back to Wales LBAPs.

**ACTION 50.** Andy Schofield to discuss with WAG Communications team the possibility of producing a national screen saver presentation.

**ACTION 51.** All to circulate WBW date (4th - 12th June) to contacts;

**ACTION 52.** All to host WBW/ IYF & IDB events and/or coordinate with LBAPs in hosting events and to send event details to LBAPs/WBP secretariat (Sean McHugh) for publicity purposes

**Paper to note G: Changes to the Published s42 List: Trevor Dines**

Diana presented the paper and asked whether the group was happy to endorse the suggested changes. The changes were agreed in principle by the group and will now be forwarded to the Minister for sign off.

Sean Christian confirmed that a definitive list of s42 species in Wales is available on the WBP website <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/species-35.aspx> it was agreed that further communication was needed around the refreshed list.

**ACTION 53.** Diana Reynolds to discuss s42 list communications with WAG Communications Team

### **Feedback from WCMP**

The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) has been approved and will be made public shortly. The Marine Planning Consultation will go live in the near future and will be included in Actions for All.

**ACTION 54.** WBP Support Team to circulate Marine Planning Consultation and Marine Policy Statement event when available.

### **Feedback from UK Standing Committee**

Nothing to report at present as a meeting has not taken place since SG12

### **Minutes and Actions from SG12**

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**ACTION 18.** WAG/CCW to investigate provision of bilingual resources for the learning initiative group as and when mono-lingual materials are identified.

Diana informed the group that she and Hazel had investigated the possibility of providing bilingual resources. However CCW's translation service will be reducing in size and therefore cases will be decided on a case by case basis. Please contact Hazel or Diana for further information.

### **AOB**

Dusi Thomas brought the groups attention to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water project with Bradford University and introduced Emma Westling to the group. Emma informed the group that Bradford University and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are currently working together on an EU funded project called 'Prepared', looking at water and sanitation with 35 partners across Europe, Australia and the USA. The project has a strong climate change focus and is working to ensure the water sector is more adaptive to climate change. The project will begin by identifying case studies on adaptive management and evaluate the effectiveness of a catchment management approach. The group agreed to revisit the project in the future when initial results are available.

**ACTION 55.** All to send relevant case studies to Dusi Thomas

**ACTION 56.** Dusi Thomas to forward the 'Prepared' website link to the WBP Support Team

Diana informed the group that the Minister has made a written statement to the house regarding Living Wales.

**ACTION 57.** Alys Edwards to circulate Living Wales ministerial address link in Actions for All  
<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/110128nat/?lang=en>

#### **Project twenty 4**

A 24 hour event has been organised to encourage business to innovate, save money and help the environment. Project twenty 4 will take place on Friday and Saturday February 18 and 19 at the Carmarthen Campus of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. It has been sponsored by Menter Cwm Gwendraeth with support from its partners and is Wales's first 24 hour sustainability and innovation event

#### **Hay on Earth 2011**

Hay on Earth: smarter solutions for sustainability, a programme of workshops dedicated to developing practical sustainable solutions for Wales, run at the Hay Festival each year. This year's Hay on Earth will bring together organisations that have signed up to the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Charter; last year's winners of the Green Dragon's Den; and organisations that have taken part in Wales Sustainability Week (16-22 May 2011).

**ACTION 58.** Alys Edwards to circulate web link to Project twenty 4 and Hay on Earth in Actions for All

#### **Consultation on Future EU co-financing of Natura 2000**

In addition to the stakeholder conference, the European Commission has launched an online public consultation to gather the views of different stakeholders - as an input to the new Communication, which is aimed to identify ways of enhancing the success of financing Natura 2000. [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/natura2000\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/natura2000_en.htm)

The Consultation closes on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011- all are encouraged to respond.

#### **Marine Non Native Training Days**

Two marine non-native species training days; one on March 3rd at the School of Ocean Sciences, Menai Bridge and one on February the 16<sup>th</sup> at Dale Fort Field Centre in Dale, Pembrokeshire.

#### **Species and Habitat Integration**

The Species Expert Group are currently working to progress the identification of species actions to be delivered through relevant habitat management activity. Starting with workshops on upland, heathland and woodland. The first workshop is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> March in mid Wales. For further information contact Stephen Bladwell [Stephen.bladwell@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.bladwell@rspb.org.uk)

### **WAG Policy Gateway**

A volunteer is required to input into the Tobacco Control Action Plan on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb in Cardiff. Dusi agreed to ask if her colleagues in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water could attend the session.

**ACTION 59.** Dusi Thomas to canvass colleagues in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water for representation on the policy gateway.

### **Date of next meeting:**

**SG14** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011, WAG offices, Aberystwyth

**SG15** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, North Wales, location tbc

Diana thanked everyone for attending and for their hard work between steering group meetings and closed the meeting.