**WBP Coastal Ecosystem Group Meeting 8, 8th November 2012, CCW Offices, Aberystwyth**

**Present**: Peter Rhind Chair (CCW); Mike Howe (CCW); Sean McHugh (WBP); John Clark (WEL/RSPB Cymru); Matty Murphy (CCW); Alan Kearsley-Evans (National Trust); Chris Wynne (Wildlife Trusts Wales)

**Apologies**: Julie Bowes (WG-SEED); Jane Hodges (Pembrokeshire Coast NPA); Steve Chambers (WG-SEED); Angus Garbutt (CEH); Mark Winder (Swansea CBC); David Cowley (Anglesey CC); Quentin Grimley (CCW); Kirsty Lindenbaum (CCW); Mike Bailey (CCW); Nick Edwards (CCW); Jane Hodges (Pembrokeshire NPA); Emmer Litt (CCW).

**Sand Dune rejuvenation project update**A progress report on the work at Kenfig and future projects was given by Mike Howe. The project received an award from the ERDC fund in 2011-12 and 3.5ha of sand dune was stripped of vegetation to allow natural geomorphological processes to take place. The exposed sand was colonised by marram which has been sprayed. A Ken Pye report relating to geomorphological studies at 10 of our large dune systems (Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr are covered by earlier reports) will be released in December. Monitoring of species, vegetation and a topographic survey are on-going. An invertebrate survey is also on-going. Invertebrates with a sand-dune affinity have been recorded on the site but it’s too early to say at present how successful the project is. Phase 2 of the remobilisation (ERD Fund) will see a further 6ha of dune rejuvenated adjacent to the previous remobilisation plot. As part of the same award, a 1.5ha scrape will be created at Merthyr Mawr.

The remobilisation work has generated publicity opportunities and articles have appeared in Natur Cymru, British Wildlife and Y Naturiaethwr and a ‘Bringing back sand dunes to Life’ leaflet from CCW. The Kenfig remobilisation project also featured on the Radio 4 [Costing the Earth- Sands of Time](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01dtvk1) program recorded from Kenfig.

**RSBP Futurescapes**John Clark gave an update of the project. 3 [Futurescapes projects](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/futurescapes_wales_tcm9-261753.pdf) taking place in Wales; 3 rivers west Wales, Gwent Levels and the North Wales Moorland project. Futurescapes is a partnership effort among the RSPB, fellow environment organisations, local communities, businesses and government bodies to develop a vision for a wildlife-rich countryside in selected areas and to work together to achieve it.

**Coastal EG academic Workshop**Angus Garbutt attended a meeting on behalf of the CEG involving WG, academics and ecosystem specialists looking at research gaps and evidence gaps. A report will be released and circulated to CEG members.

**BARS**  
The new spatially aware version of the [Biodiversity Action Reporting system](http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/) is available. The coastal priority map layers will be added to the system in December. Details of the coastal ERD projects will also be added.

**AOB**Nicola Rimington corresponded with the chair to highlight Pensarn Beach as a possible project looking at shingle erosion and beach nourishment.

**Date of next Meeting**A field meeting is proposed, April 18th 2013 was suggested. The location is likely to be in north Wales. Peter will investigate possible locations.

**Actions**

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| **No.** | **Actions** | **Who** | **By** | **Comments** |
| 1 | Future Projects includ. ERDC & EW projects | ALL (send to Peter Rhind) | ASAP | Project ideas required to take advantage of future ERD funding & other grant funding.  Note: 3 coastal projects were successful in the latest ERD funding:- Kenfig sand dune rejuvenation phase 2; Horton Mere Gower Project-connectivity, grazing infrastructure ; Coastal connectivity baseline exercise on the Llyn. Full details of projects will be released shortly and circulated to the group. |
| 2 | Welsh sand dune remobilisation report | Mike Howe | Jan | Report will be released in Dec, Mike Howe to circulate. |
| 3 | WBP conference | Sean McHugh | Complete | All conference presentations and workshop outputs are available: <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Wales-Biodiversity-Partnership-Conference> |
| 4 | Coastal Action Framework | ALL (send to Peter Rhind/Sean McHugh) | By Jan 31st | Coastal Action Framework needs updating to pull out specific actions and to prioritise |
| 5 | Coastal priority habitats GIS layers | Sean McHugh | Complete | Alan (NT) required the coastal layers. Have informed Jan Sherry who will send Alan details |
| 6 | Coastal access update | Quentin Grimley | Complete | Quentin has put together an update which will be circulated with the minutes.  Leaflet created by Wildlife Trust for [reserves along the Wales Coast Path](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=wildlife%20trusts%20leaflet%20reserves%20wale%20coastal%20path&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&ved=0CC4QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk%2Fuploads%2Ffiles%2FWT%2520Reserves%2520along%2520Wales%2520Coast%2520Path%2520leaflet.pdf&ei=SFi3ULbbIoa3hQeC44HIAw&usg=AFQjCNFcPxa1OLad5Al0H2WEON4UWPN1Ew) |
| 7 | Coastal access funds | Peter to speak with Quentin | ASAP | Funding opportunities available for coastal habitats on/adjacent to the Wales coastal path |
| 8 | Dwr Cymru funding available | All (contact Paul Henderson) | Ongoing | WFD projects fund is open to third sector (charities & not-for-profit) organisations who want to do something to improve failing water bodies in Wales. There has to be some linkage to Dŵr Cymru Assets and operations. If anyone would like to know more, please get in touch with Paul Henderson (Paul.Henderson@dwrcymru.com) |
| 9 | National Habitat Creation Programme | All-contact Rick Park to discuss potential projects in your area | Ongoing | A briefing note has been prepared and a more detailed inventory is available from Environment Agency Wales (richard.park@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk) |
| 10 | Spring 2013 field meeting | Peter Rhind | Ongoing | A field meeting is proposed, April 18th 2013 was suggested. The location is likely to be in north Wales. Peter will investigate possible locations. |
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| **Previous Actions update** | | | | |
|  | Monitoring of coastal ERDC projects | Steve Chambers to discuss with SEED colleagues | Next meeting | Update required. Sean to chase |
|  | Future Projects includ. ERDC & EW projects | ALL (send to Peter Rhind cc Sean McHugh) | ASAP | Projects submitted to ERDC, 3 successful.  Keep as an on-going action foe CEG members |
|  | Ecology of beach nourishment report | Emmer Litt | Next meeting | Emmer is currently on maternity leave |
|  | Coastal vegetated shingle priority areas | Peter Rhind | Next meeting | Peter is working this up |
|  | Sand dune Workshop Proceedings to be made available | Peter Rhind | ASAP | Peter is still waiting for a final presentation before he can release the proceedings |
|  | Baglan Burrows potential development. CEG Chair needs to discuss with local CCW staff & organise surveys/comment on LDP Deposit. Also needs to be raised at a high level in CCW, potentially to Council | Peter Rhind/Mike Howe | Ongoing | Invertebrate survey on-going. The site is small but is a good mosaic of habitats with pioneer dune slacks. Potential for it to be notified as part of Crymlyn Burrows SSSI. |