

Wales Mammal Biodiversity Action Forum

Minutes of the 9th Meeting

25th June 2013, by VC

1. Welcome, introductions & organisational updates

Present: Bangor: Iolo Lloyd (NRW - Chair), Jean Matthews (NRW - Minutes)

Llandeilo: Steve Lucas (BCT), Isabel Macho (Carmarthenshire CC), Jenny MacPherson (VWT – MISE), Mike Jenkins (NRW), Becky Clews-Roberts (The Mammal Society)

Apologies: Liz Halliwell (NRW), Ceri Morris (NRW – MISE), Lizzie Wilberforce (WTSWW), Henry Schofield (VWT), Rob Strachan (NRW), Jane Garner (NRW), Matthew Ellis (NRW), Rob Parry (WTSWW), Kate Williamson (The Mammal Society), Daniel Adam (Cyngor Gwynedd), David Cowley (Anglesey CC), Rebecca Pritchard (Menter Môn).

NRW update. Structure still being defined, most staff at officer level still in same groups and locations and doing the same work. Structural changes should be finalised by September.

2. BAP Process update

SEG & Ecosystems Groups meetings.

Isabel reported back from the biodiversity seminars in Feb. Workshops on how ecosystems groups can work, but nothing has come out of it yet. There were meant to be reps from WG biodiversity division (Dai Harris & another), but they didn't attend or send deputies hence people felt the meeting was less useful than it should have been.

SEG due to meet on 4th July. May find out more about the revised process at the Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board meeting on Friday 28th.

ACTION 1. Steve to raise issue of lack of WG representation & report back from WBSB. **Jean** to raise with Julia.

WV mitigation & licensing update.

A workshop was held in England to discuss the use of the displacement technique for moving water voles and whether this should be licensed and also the need for more guidance on the applicability of this technique compared to translocation. It was confirmed that displacement should only be used in limited circumstances and agreed that this needed to be made more explicit in revised guidance. The SNCOs agreed to review the legal position and licensing processes. (There is no provision for licensing works carried out for development under the Wildlife & Countryside Act as there is for EPS in the Habs Regs).

ACTION 2. **Jean & Rob S** to report back on revised advice and licensing process.

There was some discussion about the “Programme of Works” licence process that NRW is developing where a licence can be issued to an authority in relation to a number of operations at more than one site, using a suite of management. At present this is being developed with the forestry sector through NRW and will then be rolled out to the private forestry sector and to NNR staff & others for conservation licences (already being used in NE Wales with LAs countryside staff. MJ noted this would be useful for flood defence & water voles.

3. Project/partner updates

Only one update was circulated prior to meeting and JMa requested that updates should be sent asap for circulation with the minutes.

ACTION 3. All Please send updates through by end of week

ACTION 4. Jean to ask Tracey if she attends meetings of N. Wales LBAPs to ask for rep & deputy.

4. MaMoNet (Mammal Monitoring Network) project.

Becky is the Wales MaMoNet project officers working for The Mammal Society. The project has a 1-year grant from NRW and funding from the now defunct Wales Mammal Group. The project started in April and it is hoped that the project will continue in the long term and is seeking funding from the REF fund (NRW) and HLF. It is initially concentrating on hedgehogs and harvest mice. Key actions:-

i) promoting the use of hedgehog footprint. These are available from Becky or you can make your own. There is an option to have 10 tunnels for a wider scale local project.

ii) harvest mice – the project will be doing nest searches in areas not targeted by MISE.

iii) organising a conference in Feb 2014, probably at Aberystwyth.

iv) Other priority is the Mammal Atlas.

ACTION 5. ALL – feed to Becky any suggestions for contacts & projects e.g. flyers for NRW FC education section & link to website.

5. Harvest mouse project & species data

Harvest mouse project - Cofnod's report has now been finalised & the report will need to be circulated. It's a large report so has been sent to NRW via a download link. Has been sent to Ceri & Becky.

ACTION 6. Jean to forward link to Jenny.

ACTION 7. Liz & Jean to consider how to circulate report to others. Aim is to focus survey effort on most likely sites first.

Species Data – Barnaby Letheren unable to attend meeting, but has sent paper for circulation with the minutes (attached to the end of these minutes).

TG data still not available – WEL will raise this again.

ACTION 8. Steve via WEL– continue to raise this.

6. Mammal BAP Action – Steve has sent through the revised example of the common pip Action Plan. Need to formally review actions & targets.

ACTION 9. SPECIES LEADS to look at reviewing targets for discussion & sign off at next meeting 8 October. (Jean & Steve to discuss timetable for revision of bats' APs).

Article 17 reports out to consultation.

ACTION 10. Species Leads to check if distribution maps are correct.

7. Review of Priority Projects

WMBAF hasn't contributed to Evidence gaps list. Suggest pulling out possible projects from Priority species spreadsheet to be sent out with minutes with additional

column for suggested projects and having a library of projects that can be used for Evidence Gaps process and for future funding bids

ACTION 11. Jean to talk to Tracey for feedback on process and how it is working and to send out spreadsheet to members.

ACTION 12. ALL to look at spreadsheet & fill in possible projects.

Possible REF Projects. Marina TMS will put in proposal for MaMoNet extension. Lizzie W putting in WV officer post. Projects to be approved by panel, but not sure who is on it or how that was decided.

Suggestion to consider having WMBAF meeting in May to fit in with future Ecosystems funding opportunity.

7. Minutes of the last meeting and action points

ACTION 1: LH to ask Sian Whitehead about Wales Bird Forum paper on links to Ecosystem groups. *Post meeting note – this is a discussion paper on the targets and actions process, is still draft, but will be presented to SEG.*

New Action Jean to report back from SEG on actions target paper & discussion.

ACTION 2: Steve to review bat action plans, complete the generic action plan for bats and circulate. *Completed*

ACTION 3: Liz to identify whether any of the remaining mammal species action plans could be amalgamated into overarching plan. Ongoing **Action 13.**

ACTION 4: Steve to re-circulate Glastir and bats spreadsheet. *Completed.*

ACTION 5: LH/JM to raise concerns regarding dataflow between LRCs, NBN etc with CCW data team. Barnaby Letheren asked to come to meeting on 25 June. *Completed - Paper circulated with minutes.*

ACTION 6: Jean to provide update on rare woodland bats mapping work. *Mapping completed – report to be finalised & circulated.*

ACTION 7: Jean, Henry and Steve to consider next steps for rare woodland bats project and whether it would be possible to apply for ERD funding. May be problem with timing. *Ongoing*

ACTION 8: Jean to provide update on Landscapes for Lessers project. *Mapping completed – report to be finalised & circulated. Further action discussed with Steve.*

ACTION 9: Jenny, Ceri and Lizzie to arrange a MISE harvest mouse training date at WTSWW Parc Slip reserve. *Done. Thurs 5th September.*

ACTION 10: CCW to ask for LBAP rep for north Wales. Actioned a number of people contacted, but no offers. Covered under Action 4.

ACTION 11: Jenny, Jean and Rob to discuss water vole genetics project in MISE. *Ongoing discuss at MISE meeting on 22nd August*

ACTION 12: Jean and Liz to circulate data collation results for harvest mouse, etc as soon as available. Will be available soon following completion of Article 17 reports.

7. Any other business – None

8. Date of next meeting

8th October 2013 – Chair Henry Schofield. Focus on signing off revised actions and targets. Possible projects for bids for NRW funding.

February 2014? May 2014 – Focus on possible projects for Ecosystems funding