

**Action points and information points arising from the Wales Biodiversity Enclosed
Farmland Ecosystem Group (EFEG)**

4th Nov 2014, 1st floor conference room VC, Ladywell House, Newtown, 10.45-3.30 pm

Chair:	Clare Burrows (CB)	Natural Resources Wales
Present:	Cath Shellswell (CS) Colin Cheesman (CC) Jonathan Cryer (JC) Julian Woodman (JW) Sarah Hetherington (SH) Sarah Slater (SS)	Plantlife Plantlife RSPB Natural Resources Wales Natural Resources Wales Flintshire County Council
Minutes:	Jane Stevens (JS)	Natural Resources Wales
Apologies:	Afon Williams Carwyn ap Myrddin Ian Harris Helen Buckingham Liz Lewis-Reddy	RSPB Snowdonia National Park University of Bangor National Trust Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

2. Action points and matters arising from last meeting

AP 1: prepare a formal proposal for developing hedgerows as a theme for NRW stands at shows in 2015 (CB, SH).

3. WBP update

4. Research gap review

IP1: forum on LinkedIn for the Evidence Gaps Project set up to promote online discussion on potential mechanisms to meet evidence gaps and gather existing information/expertise
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Wales-Biodiversity-Partnership-Evidence-Gaps-8130371>

AP 2: Circulate the findings of the Orchard Survey in north east Wales (SS).

AP 3: Draft proposals for a research project on hedgerows (EF7) and one on orchards (EF9) (CB).

5. Glastir and Greening update

AP 4: Circulate table explaining Ecological Focus Areas in Wales (SH).

AP 5: Circulate definition of what classes as a hedge in EFAs (CB).

6. Habitat updates - Hedgerows

AP 6: Circulate Hedgelink report (CB).

AP 7: Circulate details of forthcoming hedge connectivity workshop when they are available (CB).

IP2: Jon Stokes from The Tree Council has offered to speak on the implications of ash dieback for hedgerows if a forum/workshop is organised for stakeholders in Wales. Currently only 10% of ash trees in Norfolk and Suffolk are healthy, with 10% dead and 80% infected. Jon is producing a report on the situation in England that is due out in January or February 2015.

AP 8: Forward to SH email to NRW's tree health officer regarding ash dieback action (CB).

AP 9: Circulate Jon Stoke's presentation on ash dieback if it's possible to obtain it (CB).

Habitat updates - Ffridd

IP 3: Plantlife has produced a new leaflet called 'Waxcaps and grassland fungi – a guide to identification and management'. CC brought copies to the meeting.

IP 4: A new booklet called 'Ffridd – a habitat on the edge' has been published by RSPB and NRW. Hard copies and electronic copies are available from CB.

7. Presentation on the arable REF project

AP 10: Circulate recently reviewed list of Priority Arable Plants that is due out on 1st Jan 2015 (CS).

IP 5: Margins of solar panel fields have potential as annually cultivated uncropped margins and it would be useful if this was a condition of planning, and if they could score for Greening in Wales.

AP 11: Supply CB with the targeting maps for arable so that areas that could be beneficial for both arable plants and birds can be ascertained (CS).

IP 6: The output maps from the arable REF project will be uploaded onto a web site (yet to be decided where) sometime before the end of this financial year.

AP 12: Circulate arable monitoring methodology developed for Pembrokeshire site (CS).

8. Discussion on arable actions

AP 13: Include something about the importance of arable plants for pollinators in one of the Policy and Legislation actions (SS).

AP 14: Engage with Russell De'Ath to find out whether the targeting maps produced by the Ecosystem Groups are being utilised in NRW's three natural resource management trial areas in the Dyfi, Tawe and Rhondda (AD).

AP 15: Engage with NRW's agri-leads / environment managers to promote the benefits of arable plants during farm visits. Supply them with a pdf copy of Plantlife's new identification guide to threatened arable plants (CB, JW, SH).

AP16: Find out if any publicity is planned for the cultivated plot at South Stack RSPB reserve (JC).

AP 17: Forward to Cath Shellswell information on arable options in Glastir (SH).

AP 18: Check if the arable actions are on the WBP website (CB).

AP 19: Book a slot in the February issue of the NFU and FUW magazines for an article on arable plants (SH).

AP 20: Produce an article on arable plants for the February issue of the NFU and FUW magazines (CB).

9. AOB, date of next meeting

AP 21: Investigate the possibility of a field meeting in April looking at orchards in north east Wales with the North Wales Wildlife Trust (SS).

IP 7: the Cool Farm Tool might be a useful topic for a future article in the NFU and FUW magazines.