

WESG Meeting 15
Ladywell House, Newtown
Wednesday 22nd January 2014
10.30am– 3.00pm

Attendees

Chris Tucker (CTu) – NRW
Tracey Lovering (TL) - WBP
David Jenkins(DJ) – Coed Cymru
Richard Jones (RJ) - NRW
Fiona McFarlane(FM) - WG
Hilary Miller (HM) - NRW
Lesley Fletcher (LF) - RSPB
Jim Latham (JLm) - NRW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis (NAL) – WTSWW
Celia Thomas (CTh) – PCNPA
Jerry Langford (JLd) – Woodland Trust
Richard Crompton (RC)

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies

Sarah Mellor – National Trust
Elen Richards - NPTCBC

2. Woodland Ecosystem Group Action Plan (Standing item)

The Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board will decide on the WBP governance paper in light of the Nature Recovery Strategy. This will guide the purpose and direction of the ecosystem groups and their action plans. TL said that WBSB are aiming for a consultation on the Nature Recovery Plan in the Spring and the structure of WBP will follow this. TL suggested that the action plan identifies cross working with other WBP groups.

CTu suggested actions on Plant Health and biodiversity are needed.

Review Priority actions veteran trees and AW restoration?

ACTION POINT(AP) 1: CTu to redraft action plan (update/ make time bound and identify cross working, add evidence gaps actions).

HM gave an update on Chalara and biodiversity.

DJ pointed out that there is group looking at the impacts of Chalara on the industry (Chris Edwards, WG, and Chris Jones, NRW, are on the group.

He also highlighted Emerald Ash Borer as a threat to Ash woods.

AP2 : CT to raise Emerald Ash Borer with the GB Non Native Secretariat re risk assessment and response plan.

The potential for P ramorum to affect other species and upon mixed woodlands was discussed. It is a relatively low risk currently, infection of other species is sporadic.

AP3: ALL to consider what actions on for plant health are needed in the action plan.

Mike Townsend (Woodland Trust) has been doing work on the resilience of species and robustness of woodlands.

AP4 : CTu to invite Mike Townsend to next meeting.

Demonstration case studies for example trees for flooding. Group could find examples of these beneficial services.
Landscape scale projects like Pont Bren.

Woodland Trust have produced a report on trees and flooding – they will be putting a petition to WG imminently.

NRW – 14 catchment based projects, RBMP
JL informed us of a forthcoming Woodland Trust challenge fund for catchment land management.

The consultation on the new RDP will open very shortly.
CTh suggested that WESG respond to the consultation. Individual organisations will respond separately, JL offered the WT response as a starting point which WESG could amend/add to.

UPDATE from Fiona: The Glastir part of the RDP consultation opened on Thursday 23rd January. See link;



Welsh Government
Proposals for the Glas

Catchment management plan meetings are about to take place run by NRW, these are the 14 WFD catchment plans.
WT will be involved in all the plans and other members are welcome to feed into them.

AP4: CTu Find out what links there are between the pilot catchments and WDF catchment plans.

3. GWM and PAWS

There are issues with the woodland management scheme not incentivising PAWS restoration. There needs to be flexibility to have longer action. A PAWS option is needed.

AP5: FMcF to ask GWM what blockages there are.

The Glastir Stakeholder group hasn't met but PAWS are not mentioned in the brief.

The next RDP has a requirement for management plans for the management of schemes. These need to be proportionate.

CTh said that WESG should influence the level of biodiversity management required in plans. (i.e. in the format rather than individual plans)

AP6: FMcF to speak to Bill MacDonald (WG) on WESg involvement in designing plan format.

AP7: CTh to share an ideal, simple management plan with the group for consideration.

4. Restocking of Larch sites

DJ raised concern over the restocking of larch clearfell sites felled because of Phytophthora ramorum. Will there be a grant for restocking them? What is the advice on which species to use in restocking and when should restocking take place after felling?

AP8: CT to check whether there is a requirement or advice to allow a fallow period before restocking.

AP9: FMcF to find out what grants are available and what mixtures can be planted.

UPDATE from Jerry – [his email](#)

5. Tree Health Steering Group

NAL is on the THSG.

The Phytophthora response plan has not been signed off. However there is a revised plan announced in the Ministerial Announcement in early January.

AP9: CT to circulate to the group

We discussed a publicity and awareness campaign.

AP10: NAL to raise UK coordination at the THSG.

HM informed us of a 'Frax back' seminar. See attachment for details.

6 & 7. Old Growth, Tree Protection Group – NAL

A task and finish group for the better protection of non-woodland trees of value. Chris James is chair, Celia, Nigel, Hilary and David are on the group. The WT Tree Hunt work is included with Jill Butler involved. CTh has circulated the terms of reference (attached)

AP11: CT to inform Julian Woodman, Enclosed Farmland, and Stephen Bladwell, Species Expert Group, for interest.

8. Pembs NP woodland HAP

CTh has circulated a copy of the revised woodland HAP for the NP. There followed a discussion on HAPs and how the group should respond. We need to review the priority areas for woodland action annually to inform Lbaps, add to action plan.

AP10 : CTu to add reviewing priority areas to action plan.

AP11: Elen Richards, new LBAP rep for WESG, to find out where each Lbap is with their woodland HAP.

There followed a discussion on BARS reporting and priority areas. Member organisations use it to varying degrees from not at all to sole reporting tool. We agreed to have a BARS demonstration session at a future meeting from the WBP secretariat (Alys' replacement) on the benefits and costs (resource needed not just financial).

Could information from grants and licences be on BARS? Potentially having felling licences on BARS spatially would help identify if fellings are illegal.

AP12: ALL find out what targeting and therefore reporting on.

Future agenda item – Target Setting

9. Forest Condition Monitoring - CT

CT informed the group of work with Forestry commission and Forest Research on monitoring forest condition through the National Forest Inventory. The attributes being considered were developed in discussion with the UKNWHAP group. CT and FMcF are involved and will report back as appropriate.

10 . Evidence Gaps Project

TL gave an overview of the next steps of the project.

The evidence project is on the WBP website.

AP13: ALL to review the evidence gaps that we put forward. Look to refine the questions; what outputs do you want?, consider catchment or area approach. Please consider if a placement would be appropriate and bear in mind CBD targets. Let TL know what changes you need amending.

RJ asked about what current work is being done. The latest spread sheet show input from ???? ????? which does identify some research that is ongoing.

CT is attending a meeting on Ecosystems and Biodiversity with FC and FR .

AP14: CT to report back at next meeting and inform TL.

11. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The previous minutes were approved subject to correction on papers in development in item 6 Disease response.

Glastir Woodland Management review

AP1 Is the review of Glastir will be separate from the RDP consultation? See Fiona's update

AP2 not Completed Carry forward
AP3 Respond in RDP consultation
AP4 Respond in RDP consultation

An Advocacy group for Agroforestry has been set up to inform Wales Forest Policy. JL is on it along with agricultural sector, NGOs and WG.

Update on Planting Stock project – A pilot is running with CC, WT and National Botanic Gardens. A future £6M bid is being developed.

Disease Response Plan

DJ has talked to John Browne re licensing proposal to condition restocking on licences for the movement of timber. This would need supporting by grants for fencing and restocking.

Items for future agenda:

Group organisation, Leads on different topics, review membership.

DONMs -

Wednesday 21st May 2014 venue – Coed Cymru, The Old Sawmill, Tregynon to include site visit to Coed Y Graig

(notes below from Jerry re our next meeting)

Coed y Graig is just outside Newtown. It has a small car park for 3-4 cars. Planted in 1999/2000 as mixed native species, last I saw it was doing very well with no signs of squirrel damage.

Management plan: <http://cdn.woodlandtrust.org.uk/woodfile/213/management-plan.pdf?cb=e0c731dd8adb4066bdadefc67afbaf5>

Coed y Graig is one of the Woodland Trust's 'Woods on your Doorstep' Millennium community woodlands. It was created from a block of three fields of improved permanent pasture purchased by the Trust in 1998, and mostly planted with native broadleaves in 1999. The entrance is off a narrow road (Lonesome Lane) about 1 mile from the centre of Newtown. The land is moderately steeply sloping and includes the crest of the hill, from which fine views are available over Newtown. Fields are separated by derelict hedges, which have been retained to form the edges of the planting blocks. A swathe of open land has been retained to keep open views to the south west over Newtown. The fields border onto other improved pasture grazing land and to the south east to Rock Wood, semi natural ancient woodland, which extends for some distance to the north west and separates Coed y Graig from the village of Llanlwchairan. The key features present

are new native woodland and informal public access. There are a large number of small blocks of ancient woodland in this part of mid Wales, which collectively form one of the major concentrations of ancient woodland in Wales.