

**Minutes of the Urban Ecosystem Group meeting  
Held on 9 January 2014  
By video conference between NRW's offices in Bangor (Maes  
y Ffynnon) and Cardiff (St Mellons).**

**Attendees**

Nigel Ajax-Lewis, Amanda Davies, Pete Frost (chair), Liz Howe, Jan Sherry

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Introductions and Welcome	It was agreed to end the meeting at 12:30 as three members of the group had to leave early to attend other meetings.
2	Apologies & submissions for AOB	Apologies were received from: Dave Thorpe, Clare Dinham, Rebecca Sharp. There was no other business
3	Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
4	Work plan, short and long term	It was agreed to add standing items to the long term work plan <b>Action 1: PF</b> It was agreed to add mapping as a standing agenda item: <b>Action 2: PF</b> (completed 9/1/14) It was noted that the map of OMHoPDL in Wales produced as part of the DEFRA research contract probably did not include all qualifying sites. It was agreed to approach local government ecologists (ALGE) to request digital boundary data (or at least site names) for: a) OMHoPDL sites not included in the DEFRA data; b) The best OMHoPDL sites for biodiversity; and c) sites on the DEFRA inventory which have since been lost <b>Action 3: AD</b> to request data be sent to Jonathan Rothwell at NRW. NRW will then combine the data to give a more complete map of OMHoPDL in Wales <b>Action 4: JS</b> It was recognised that this would be an iterative process and require constant attention to keep the data set up to date. It was noted that the Wildlife Trusts might have data on sites which did not appear in the DEFRA data set and it was agreed to approach them for that data <b>Action 5: AD</b> It was also agreed to approach Cofnod for data on sites which might have been missed <b>Action 6: JS</b> It was noted that Buglife might have information, illustrations or text which could be used in the proposed OMHoPDL leaflet and presentation for Wales. It was agreed to approach them to see if any of this could be used in Wales <b>Action 7: PF</b> It was agreed that NRW's Rhian Thomas should be kept informed of the group's effort to create an ecosystem service assessment toolbox <b>Action 8: PF</b>
5	OMHoPDL	This item was considered as part of item 4.

6	Resilient Ecosystem Fund and Welsh Government Nature Fund	<p>Five applications for urban projects were submitted to the REF and two were recommended to the assessment panel for funding. Both of these were accepted by the panel.</p> <p>Groundwork Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taff applied for funds to undertake environmental enhancements to the Trevithick Trail. However they went into administration before the offer was issued. The REF are now working with Merthyr Tydfil CBC and hope to be able to issue an offer to them to lead on the work within the project with Keep Wales Tidy supporting delivery. This is possible because the project was originally submitted on behalf of the LBAP which MTCBC coordinates. NRW's Miki Miyata-Lee is the REF Project Officer.</p> <p>The North Wales Wildlife Trusts secured support for a project to develop a 'Living Landscapes' Project within the Wrexham Industrial Estate which will work with businesses on the site and the Local Authority. Euros Jones from NRW is the REF Project Officer and an offer of grant is due to be issued shortly.</p> <p>It was noted that a series of consultation events had been held for the £6m Welsh Government Nature Fund and submissions for projects had been sought in writing beforehand. As a result the Welsh Government intend to develop a series of project ideas for whom delivery partners will be sought. It is not anticipated that funds will begin to be spent until the 2014/15 financial year has started.</p>
7	Reports from members	<p>Buglife reported that they submitted a 'Brownfield Stepping Stones for Wales' and 'Making a B-Line for Wales' paper with regards to the Wales Nature Fund (see item 6 above, papers available from PF on request).</p> <p>Buglife reported that they have also been awarded funding from the Co-Op to carry out an 18 month B-Line project in South Wales which is due to start in April. They hope to have a part-time officer in post by this time but that is yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Due to time constraints verbal reports could not be made in full at the meeting by other partners and all member are requested to send a brief (one side of A4 as an absolute maximum) report on relevant activities to the chair within 2 weeks of receipt of these minutes. <b>Action 9: All</b></p>
8	Research needs and evidence gaps (standing item)	This item was considered as part of item 4 above.
9	Policies	As part of its discussions on the three year work plan the group programmed a seminar to identify legislation and policies which needed amendment or creation to support its aims.
10	Check actions from last meeting	Due to time constraints this item was carried forward to the next meeting.
11	Review membership	<b>Action 10: All</b> to notify the chair of suggestions for new members on receipt of these notes
13	Confirm actions from this meeting	The single key point to note from this meeting is that the Urban Ecosystem Group has prepared a draft work plan for the next three years. The group welcomes comments on, and offers of assistance to deliver this plan.
14	Venue and Date of next meeting	Dates will be sought from members for the next meeting using Meet-o-Matic or similar internet service. <b>Action 11: PF</b>