

**WBP SG 1**  
**14 February 2007**  
**AGENDA**

The 1st Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held on Wednesday 14 February 2007 at Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys, starting at 10:30 hrs. Coffee will be available from 10:00hrs.

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
<b>1000</b>	<b>ASSEMBLE, COFFEE</b>			
<b>1030</b>	<b>1</b>	Welcome, Introductions and apologies		Mike Dunn Chair WBP
<b>1040</b>		<b>Ecological Connectivity Theme</b>	Introduction	Mike Dunn Chair WBP
<b>1050</b>	<b>2</b>	Non-native Species Mechanisms and Strategy	To inform members about UK action on non-native species	Niall Moore Head of Non-native Species Secretariat GB  PRESENTATION 1
<b>1110</b>	<b>3</b>	CCW's 'Natural Connections' project	. To inform members about current CCW work on Ecological Connectivity.	Jim Latham CCW Woodland Ecologist PRESENTATION 2
<b>1130</b>	<b>4</b>	Discussion	To identify synergies between the 2 above areas of work and explore how LBAPs can support these projects	CHAIRS Jim and Nail
<b>1200</b>	<b>LUNCH, and NETWORKING</b>			
<b>1300</b>	<b>5</b>	The new WBP	Explain the role of the Partnership and expectations of those involved	Mike Dunn Chair WBP PAPER 1
<b>1330</b>	<b>6</b>	NERC Biodiversity Duty	Update on progress and agree next steps	Steve Moon PAPER 2
<b>1345</b>	<b>7</b>	Species and Habitat Targets and new lists	Update on progress, timetables and how these will be translated into deliverable action in Wales	Liz Howe PAPER 3
<b>1400</b>	<b>8</b>	Wildlife Sites	Update on guidance and agree next steps	Nigel Ajax Lewis PAPER 4
<b>1415</b>	<b>9</b>	2005 reporting results for Wales	Update on progress	Emily Dicks PAPER 5
<b>1430</b>	<b>10</b>	WBP Communications	Key decisions required WBP Seminar, Wales Biodiversity Week, Website	Emily Dicks PAPER 6
<b>1445</b>	<b>11</b>	Marine and Fresh Water	Top 20 and update	Catherine Duigan PAPER 7

<b>1500</b>	<b>12</b>	WBP work plan and introduction to new staff	Structure of team and financial arrangements Staff work areas The Wales Biodiversity framework etc	Diana Reynolds PAPER 8
<b>1530</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>REPORTS BACK</b>		
		UK BAP Standing Committee  UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group business; UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group business.	To update WBP on UK matters  For Information  For Information	Mike Dunn
<b>1545</b>	<b>14</b>	Action Points	Review of outstanding Action from LBAP	Julia Korn PAPER 9
<b>1555</b>	<b>15</b>	Any Other Business Arrangements for WBPSG 2 & 3	Confirm date/venues for next 2 meetings	Mike Dunn Chair
<b>1600</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA AND FINISH</b>			

## **The New Wales Biodiversity Partnership**

### ***Background/Progress***

The Environment Strategy for Wales included a commitment to reconfigure the Wales Biodiversity Partnership to provide a leadership role and an expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales.

The Minister approved new secretariat arrangements and new Steering Group membership in Autumn 2006. The new secretariat team is now in place.

Details of the Terms of Reference and responsibilities of organisations and individuals involved are outlined in the Wales Biodiversity Framework, which can be found at:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/english/Wales%20Biodiversity%20Partnership/library.asp>

### ***Plan/Proposals***

The new Wales Biodiversity Partnership aims to be:

**Decisive:** new steering group

**Inclusive:** wider network, more closely linked to the steering group

**Transparent:** all papers on the web before the meeting

**Responsive:** feedback to and from the meetings via all members

**Focused:** on biodiversity gain

A list of Steering Group and Secretariat membership is attached

### ***Decision Points***

To welcome all members

To encourage clarifying questions and practical suggestions throughout the meeting

To keep a note of any topics on which you would like to receive further background information

Secretariat to collect these topics at the end of the meeting, so that customised development packs can be created for those who would like them.

## WBP SG-1

### PAPER 1, Annex 1: Agenda item 5

February 2007

## Steering Group and Secretariat Membership

### Steering Group

Dr Mike Dunn	Welsh Assembly Government, Chair WBP
David Jenkins	Coed Cymru
Steven Bromley	Groundwork Wales
Dr Tim Stowe	RSPB/Wales Environmental Link/Cynnal Cymru
Steve J Moon	Association of Local Government Ecologists
Michelle Bromley	Forestry Commission
Cliff Benson	Sea Trust
Dr Trevor Dines	Plantlife Wales
Chris Mills	Environment Agency
David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Robin Woodyatt	Welsh Local Government Association
Nigel Ajax Lewis	Welsh Wildlife Trusts/Wales Environmental Link
Brian Nelson	Dwr Cymru
Diana Reynolds	Welsh Assembly Government
Dr Rod Gritten	National Parks Wales
Peter Birch	British Waterways
Deborah Hill	Welsh Local Government Association
Roy Tapping / (alternating)	
Adam Rowe	Local Records Centre
Ioan Jenkins	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Dr Glenda Thomas	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Dr P Graham Oliver	National Museum of Wales
David Bullock/	
Helen Buckingham	National Trust Wales
Prof Graeme Hays	Swansea University
Ieuan Hughes Roberts	Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd
Prof Michael Bruford	Cardiff University
TBA	Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership

### Secretariat

Diana Reynolds (WAG)  
Michelle Calnan (WAG)  
Delcie Simkin (WAG)  
Julia Korn (CCW)  
Gaynor Ainscough (CCW)  
Dr Juliet Hynes (CCW)  
Sean McHugh (CCW)

## **The NERC Biodiversity Duty**

### ***Background/Progress***

- (i) Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 extends the duty on Government Departments (introduced by Section 74 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) to all public bodies.
- (ii) DEFRA has been hosting a series of meetings and workshops to develop draft guidance on the implementation of the duty and has appointed consultants to prepare this draft guidance.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

- To assist the Welsh Assembly Government in implementing the NERC Biodiversity Duty: the Joint DEFRA/Welsh Assembly Government Guidance due to be published in March 2007;
- The intention is to run a WLGA-sponsored conference in Wales on this guidance around the guidance publication date;
- Additional guidance in the form of key bullet points is currently being developed that could be badged as Welsh Assembly Government or Wales Biodiversity Partnership;
- The establishment of joint CCW/WBP annual reviews of progress in implementing the duty with local authorities is currently being considered.

### ***Decision Points***

1. To endorse the approach that is being taken.
2. To agree that a detailed paper be produced for discussion and agreement at the next steering group meeting in July.

## **SPECIES AND HABITAT TARGETS AND NEW LISTS**

### ***Background/Progress***

#### **Targets review:**

The new UK terrestrial and freshwater habitat and species BAP targets can be found on the UK BAP website <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?id=98> where the zipped files are available for download or viewing. Marine habitats and species targets will be amended once the priority review is completed.

#### **Priority species and habitats review:**

The final part of the list production is underway now. The three most urgent actions required for each species is being determined by the expert groups, along with indications for grouping the species plans (taxonomically, ecologically, by habitat or by policy). This information will accompany the list when it is put to the UK Standing Committee in May. The final negotiations are taking place on the terrestrial habitats to be put to UKSC in April.

#### **Welsh disaggregated terrestrial habitat and species targets:**

I should have completed all of the initial part of the habitat process by 14<sup>th</sup> February. The assignment of priority areas may not be complete. I have spoken with Plantlife and they are keen to disaggregate plant species targets to the LBAP level, to help both with delivery and local targets setting. I should have approached other Lead Partners by the time of the meeting and can give a verbal update.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

The disaggregated habitat targets will be circulated to LBAPs for comment and finalisation before uploading onto WBP website.

A pdf version of Priority Habitat of Wales will be put on the website along with an update to explain the process we have undertaken to produce new targets.

Species targets will be disaggregated where the Lead Partner feels it is relevant and realistic. These to be circulated for comment as above, prior to upload onto the web site. This project to be completed before the next WBP meeting.

### ***Decision Points***

- To endorse the above plan.
- To agree that a task and finish group be established when the new Priority lists are agreed by UKSC to produce a draft section 42 list.

**Liz Howe**  
**31.01.07**



## **STANDARDISED GUIDANCE TO DEVELOP LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES SYSTEMS IN WALES**

### ***Background/Progress***

The background to Wildlife Sites systems in Wales was given in Paper 7 at the WBP12 meeting in November 2006.

Since that time, work has progressed in amalgamating the detailed criteria of the three spatially separate systems developed by the North Wales Wildlife Trust, the Powys Wildlife Trusts, and the Gwent and Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales. This has involved checking the species lists used for each priority habitat within each of the three systems for qualifying for wildlife site status.

Data for Powys and South and East Wales is more comprehensive than that for North Wales at present.

This work will be informed by at least two current studies, one being undertaken by Ecotech to investigate the differences in flora within ancient woodland sites across Wales, and the other by Pond Conservation looking at species variation within ponds. Both are CCW contracts.

At present, where Wildlife Sites systems are operating, the system is managed by local authority staff with help from the Wildlife Trust, and LBAP partnership, with the exception of Powys, where the system is managed on a county based by the three constituent Wildlife Trusts, Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire, and Brecknockshire.

<u>Wildlife Site [WS] System</u>	<u>No. of LBAPs</u>	<u>%age of Welsh LBAPs</u>
WS System in place	16	66%
WS System begun	3	13%
No WS system in place	5	21%
Total	24	

A meeting is being held between officers from the 13 LPAs/LBAPs using the South and East Wales guidance on 26<sup>th</sup> February to discuss practicalities and revision.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

- To produce guidelines and criteria for the selection of Wildlife Sites within a given LPA/LBAP area (incorporating revised Welsh S42 BAP habitats and species);
- Incorporate existing geological guidance.

### ***Decision Points***

To form a task and finish group made up of the participants mentioned in the Wales Environment Strategy Action Plan, WBP, Local Authorities, WTs, ALGE, and CCW to take this work forward, providing an interim report to WBP SG 02, and completed work to completion by WBP SG 03, meeting the WES 2007 target.

**WBP SG-1**  
**PAPER 5**  
**14 February 2007**

**PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 TARGET IN WALES:**  
**WALES REPORT FROM THE 2005 UK BAP REPORTING ROUND**

*Background/Progress*

Following the previous paper presented at WBP11, Diana Reynolds agreed for CCW to continue to use the country level reports to publish a report for Wales in the context of the UK results; this data would be available to inform reporting for WES, SoE, FCS, Articles 10/12, Review of Habitat Regs and progress towards 2010 target etc. It is worth noting that in previous years Welsh partners have asked for detailed country level breakdown and that in 2005 100% reporting was received from lead partners.

*Plan/Proposals*

Emily Fleur Dicks, CCW Reporting Officer is currently working towards producing a Web-based, fully interactive and bilingual report that presents the Welsh subset of the 2005 reporting round data. Brief highlights from the initial analysis will be presented at the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. The main purpose of the report is to inform partners, decision-makers and the public about the progress of BAP in Wales, therefore the aim will be to provide lots of interpretation of data and key messages for Wales throughout and make the publication attractive, easy to read and accessible. It will focus on results and issues, which are particularly pertinent and relevant to Wales.

This report will compliment and provide the following added value to reports currently available on BARS and the UKBAP website:

- Detailed analysis of the full data set for species and habitats found in Wales (excluding the species and habitats that occur outside of Wales).
- It will put the Welsh results in the UK context but will only compare like-for-like i.e. only make comparisons with UK data for those features which occur in Wales.
- Breakdown analysis in the context of the distributions (limited, intermediate and wide-spread distribution) of Welsh species and habitats.
- Investigate specific examples where Wales has a particular responsibility (e.g. lesser horseshoe bat and Rhos pasture) and add text from relevant specialist/partner org and link to targets and LBAP success/constraint.
- How Welsh LBAPS feel communication can be improved.
- LBAP successes in Wales.

*Decision Points*

**Action for all:** to provide comment / feedback to Emily on draft report and for relevant specialists to provide text on specific Welsh example species and habitats.

## Appendix A: Wales BAP report Timetable

Wales BAP report timetable				
	Jan	Feb	March	April
week one	Download data from UKBAP website, filter out Welsh data and begin analysis Email Liz Howe and Pete Jones to identify species and habitats that have limited, intermediate and widespread distribution. Liase with website contractors to quote for design and production of live WebPages displaying the report and the data.	Analyse data. Liase with Liz Howe and Pete Jones. Produce draft bare bones report. Write paper for WBP SG1 and make PowerPoint presentation.	Polish report and finish data analysis liase with wider consultation group including Tim Blackstock, Catherine Duigan, David Parker and various specialists.	Launch new web pages, produce a press release including the Ministers response to the report.
week two	Analyse data. Liase with Liz Howe, Julia Korn, Pete Jones, Ant Maddock, Pete Brotherton and Robin Wynde.	Analyse data. Liase with Liz Howe and Pete Jones. Produce draft bare bones report. Write paper for WBP SG1 and make PowerPoint presentation.	Polish report and finish data analysis liase with wider consultation group including Tim Blackstock, Catherine Duigan, David Parker and various specialists.	Monitor use of the report web pages and report back to WBP.
week three	Analyse data. Liase with Liz Howe and Pete Jones. Produce draft bare bones report.	Present report and mocked up webpages in the form of a presentation to WBP SG1 on the 14th of February 2007.	Work with website contractor to develop web-based report, with interactive function to give detailed data.	
week four	Analyse data. Liase with Liz Howe and Pete Jones. Produce draft bare bones report.	Flesh out the text of report and finish data analysis liase with wider consultation group including Tim Blackstock , Catherine Duigan, David Parker and various specialists. Work on any changes / amendments suggested by WBP.	Work with website contractor to develop web-based report, with interactive function to give detailed data.	

COMMUNICATIONS AND AWARENESS WORK HANDOVER

Background/Progress

		Achievements						Future work	
Rationale for continued support	Work Area	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Set WBW date Provide branded WBW merchandise Central media contact Evaluation and feedback	Coordinating strategic awareness events: e.g. Wales Biodiversity Week	36 events First year run by the LBAP facilitator	72 events 11 schools Awareness Officer in post	134 events 47 schools new target audiences engaged.	157 events 9 schools sustainable long-term merchandise distributed	159 events 91 schools more long term sustainable merchandise distributed. Increasing involvement of other organisations.	New merchandise carrying campaign message. Increased involvement of RSPB & WT reserves.	Co-ordinate WBW08: Continued central support and coordination, events database on WBP website Reduced WBP input	Co-ordinate WBW09: Continued central support and coordination, events database on WBP website Reduced WBP input
Maintain web content develop new content manage web contract	WBP website support (80 days work per year)		Website scoping document	Website launched May 2004 1600 average hits per month	Website maintenance, development, contract management. Increasing available resources	Website maintenance, development, contract management. Increasing available resources.	Website maintenance, Restructuring development, contract management Increased resources aimed at biodiversity officers. Increased education and children's resources.	Website maintenance, development, contract management	Website maintenance development contract management
Share good practice across Wales Support local awareness work	Advice and support for local partnerships			Distribute games, info sheets, worksheets, posters, share good practice Liase with LBAP's and provide communication links.	Worksheets, games, display material all distributed. Attend meetings and events Write press releases. Liase with LBAP's and provide communication links.	Worksheets, games, display material all distributed. Attend meetings and events Write press releases Liase with LBAP's and provide communication links. Increased web resources aimed at LBAP's	Worksheets, games, display material all distributed. Attend meetings and events Write press releases Liase with LBAP's and provide communication links. Increased web resources aimed at LBAP's	Continued central support Liase with LBAP's and provide communication links.	Continued central support Liase with LBAP's and provide communication links.
Celebrate action share good practice encourage partnership working	Biodiversity Award / Celebration of local action			First WBP Award run, 25 entries in total with two joint winners, the Ruperra Conservation Trust and the Marloes Coast Project.	Publication proposal: A Celebration of local action	Local success document published, featuring 11 flagship projects. launch event attended by Carwyn Jones AM distributed to WBP award winners & all contributors. Proposed annual publication celebrating Welsh LBAP good practice	Local success document distributed to universities, libraries, colleges, WT offices and BTCV. Case studies section created on the WBP website	Proposed annual publication celebrating Welsh LBAP good practice could be a web-based resource in the future.	Proposed annual publication celebrating Welsh LBAP good practice could be a web-based resource in the future.
Reach wider audiences engage new sectors	Media liaison work - eg: press releases				Strong links with BBC Cymru Contributed to research and planning of 'Iolo's Welsh Safari'	Work with other WBP organisations to ensure messages are consistent and good practice shared Continued work with Iolo's Welsh Safari and UK programming e.g. Countryfile	Identify and build links with other sectors and organisations, using different communication methods. Continued work with Iolo's Welsh Safari as well as other productions	Use the WBP website to ensure messages are consistent and good practice shared	Use the WBP website to ensure messages are consistent and good practice shared

WBP SECRETARIAT TRANSFERS TO THE WILDLIFE TRUST

Strategic all Wales working Working in partnership Making use of existing networks	BBC 'Breathing places' campaign				Met with BBC to discuss linking BP's with LBAP work and expertise in Wales	Publicity for campaign during WBW06 Links with BP's BBC website Welsh LBAP expertise and projects showcased on BBC TV and radio	Continued publicity for campaign during WBW07 Coordination of LBAP involvement in BP's. Schools, businesses and communities actively involved in creating breathing spaces across Wales	WBP commitment to BP's campaign taken forward by WT and RSPB regional work stream staff Sean McHugh to regularly update LBAP's on BP's work.	WBP commitment to BP's campaign taken forward by WT and RSPB regional work stream staff Sean McHugh to regularly update LBAP's on BP's work.
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WBP Awareness work has gained considerable momentum, since the appointment of the first Awareness Officer in 2003.

### Plan/Proposals

#### WBP Website:

At WBG 10 IN November 1999, it was suggested by the Public Awareness Task Group (WBG PAPER 62) "Information provision is essential, ideally through a WBG Web site. These roles are integral to the functioning of a WBG Secretariat but more resources would be needed to undertake this work.

To date a total of £19,090.00 has been spent on developing and maintaining the WBP website. The biodiversity community and the public use the site regularly. An average of 10,902 individuals visit the site every month (figure calculated for last 12 months). In the last six months the events pages have been the most popular with the Welsh & English events calendars making up 30.57% of the pages viewed.

As stated in the Wales Biodiversity Framework document the WBP website will continue to be the central communications tool for WBP, developing to provide online newsletters, WBP papers and the home of the WBF document itself.

Recent web updates – live website demonstration at WBP SG1

- Re-organisation of the navigation bar to allow easier access to useful sections such as the library and more intuitive navigation to useful resources in the get involved section.
- Access to useful documents and reference items, such as case studies and examples of successful projects.
- Live database access to the species audit database, with search facility
- Improved links section
- Option for LBAPs to add local newsletters and pdf documents to their own local to you pages.
- Biodiversity Reporting pages, 2005 reporting data and links to other useful resources such as BARS and the NBN gateway (instructions on how to join and use the gateway).

The Current WBP website contractor is WiSS Ltd. Intec. Ffordd y Parc. Parc Menai. Bangor. LL57 4FG.

The current contract between CCW and WISS ends on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2007.

The Wildlife Trusts Wales will take over full responsibility for the website in August 2007.

### Decision Points

1. **To agree... the future of the WBP website.** Agree permanent/temporary extension of current web contract beyond 2007
2. **To consider and agree at the next WBP SG meeting ... the future of Wales Biodiversity Week.** Will WBP continue to support WBW with staff-time, web-pages and/or resources beyond 2008.
3. Amend/approve outline WBP conference programme. **(Sean McHugh)**



**WBP SG-1**  
**PAPER 7, Agenda Item 11**  
**14 February 2007**

**MARINE AND FRESH WATER ACTIONS**

***Background/Progress***

Catherine Duigan (CCW) provided a presentation on ‘Challenges of Working in the Aquatic Environment’ at WBP12. It was agreed that we should generate a list of the **top 20 ‘on the ground’ actions** for marine and freshwater biodiversity in Wales.

A draft list of high-level actions was prepared in December 2006, with input from various members of Marine & Freshwater Science Group, CCW.

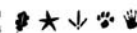
***Plan/Proposals***

A copy of the action list is attached for your consideration.

Further background and justification for these actions has also been produced and can be made available to WBP members on request.

***Decision Points***

- For all steering group members to endorse the proposed principles
- To identify relevant organisation(s) to agree to commit resources to fulfil those actions we wish to pursue
- To agree to each organisation reporting progress on these actions via BARS



## **PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR THE WBP TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY IN THE FRESHWATER AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

*Proposals from the CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group  
 December 2006*

**Proposed Principles for delivery of aquatic actions:**

1. No WBP member organisation to cut any resources allocated to marine and freshwater biodiversity and endeavour to increase them as opportunities arise.  
 Practical Action No: 5, 6, 11, 12,
2. WBP partners to continue to raise the profile of aquatic BAP amongst LBAP partnerships and local communities through promotion and action.  
 Practical Action No: 5, 6, 11,12,13, 16, 17, 20, 22
3. WBP to provide a forum for marine and freshwater stakeholders to communicate and share lessons learnt.  
 Practical Action No: 5, 8, 9, 19, 21
4. WBP partners to recognise and implement their statutory powers and duty towards biodiversity (NERC Act 2006), to utilise existing resources that can benefit the maintenance and furtherance of biodiversity, and to input into emerging and future legislative changes.  
 Practical Action No: 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22

<b>Proposed Practical Actions for the aquatic environment:            (from the CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group, December 2006)</b>		<b>Actions completed or led by:</b>			
		<b>WBP Steering Group</b>	<b>local level (e.g. LBAP, LRC)</b>	<b>CCW</b>	<b>Other</b>
5	WBP membership to be revised to include the full range of marine and freshwater related organisations. Principle Action No: 1- 4	✓			
6	Identify the appropriate funding streams that will enable those local actions already prepared (but not fulfilled) by LBAP partnerships to enable the implementation of marine and freshwater plans. Principle Action No: 1, 2	✓			
7	WBP members to promote the inclusion of measures to protect and enhance biodiversity within the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) process, and to support SMP group members to respond positively to their biodiversity duty under the NERC Act 2006, as well as to European and national protected sites and species. Principle Action No: 4	✓			

Proposed Practical Actions for the aquatic environment: (from the CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group, December 2006)		Actions completed or led by:			
		WBP Steering Group	local level (e.g. LBAP, LRC)	CCW	Other
8	WBP website to provide contact details for all those involved in marine and freshwater biodiversity in Wales, and to include links to UK BAP habitat and species sites e.g. <a href="http://www.LakesHAP.org.uk">www.LakesHAP.org.uk</a> Principle Action No: 3	✓			
9	WBP partners to establish 'best practice forums' on the WBP website for contentious actions e.g. habitat restoration, thus providing a consultation point for future similar projects. Principle Action No: 3, 4	✓			
10	WBP to adopt marine and freshwater biodiversity as standing agenda item for all meetings. In particular, WBP to review emerging marine legislation, particularly with respect to the Marine Bill and Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMRs). Recent examples include: <i>Andrews, J. 2006. Analysis of Options for delivering highly protected marine reserves in Wales. CCW Policy Research Report No: 06/42 (Project Officer Kirsty Demie).</i> <i>Gubbay, S. In Press. Highly Protected Marine Reserves – Evidence of benefits and opportunities for marine biodiversity in Wales. CCW Contract Science Report No: 762. (Project Officer Gabrielle Wyn).</i> Principle Action No: 4	✓			
11	WBP to assist in the production and implementation of further local aquatic habitat and species plans in Wales (requiring commitment of funding and other resources). Principle Action No: 1, 2	✓			
12	The WBP to develop an online resource of Welsh biodiversity images, striking artistic impressions of contrasting healthy and heavily impacted environments, facilitate photography and art competitions etc. to ensure that access to good quality material does not hinder the promotion of the aquatic environment. Principle Action No: 1, 2	✓			
13	WBP to raise awareness of the impacts on our environment of human activities. Principle Action No: 2, 4	✓			
14	WBP to review whether species identified for protection under the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals are protected both within and outside marine protected areas. Principle Action No: 4	✓			
15	WBP to investigate occurrences of biodiversity loss / failure to meet national and local BAP targets in Wales and identify causes and solutions.	✓			

Proposed Practical Actions for the aquatic environment: (from the CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group, December 2006)		Actions completed or led by:			
		WBP Steering Group	local level (e.g. LBAP, LRC)	CCW	Other
	Principle Action No: 4				
16	WBP to promote locally sourced produce, and accreditations such as Marine Stewardship Council and the Marine Conservation Society's good fish guide. Principle Action No: 2, 4	✓			
17	WBP too promote the awareness raising, monitoring and if appropriate, the removal of non-native species. Principle Action No: 2, 4			✓	✓ (e.g. EAW, WTs)
18	WBP members to make available historic or otherwise unavailable datasets for documenting reference conditions and distribution of habitats and species. Principle Action No: 4		✓		Colleges & unis, SFCs
19	WBP to facilitate workshops (including field visits) that link specialists and/or UK BAP species and habitat working groups with LBAP partnerships. Principle Action No: 3			✓	✓ (e.g. EAW, WTs)
20	WBP members to contribute to the creation of a Freshwater Biodiversity Liaison Officer post (at CCW). Principle Action No: 1, 2			✓	
21	WBP to establish representatives on the Welsh River Basin Liaison Panels. Principle Action No: 3, 4				EAW
22	WBP to provide support for LBAP partnerships in undertaking pilot projects relating to aquatic BAP, e.g. habitat and species recovery projects, innovative data collection and monitoring schemes e.g NHMGW and EA work with anglers etc. Principle Action No: 2, 4		✓		

## **WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN**

### ***Background/Progress***

The draft work plan is provided at Annex A. This work plan is based on the Priorities for Action/Next Steps outlined on page 23 of the Wales Biodiversity Framework. The framework can be found at:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/english/Wales%20Biodiversity%20Partnership/library.asp>

In addition to the actions listed on the work plan, the Welsh Assembly Government has identified a total of £98,020.00 which has been allocated to a number of projects providing biodiversity gain at a local level. Details of the projects and criteria used can be found in Annex B.

At WBP12 it was agreed that each WBP Partner would volunteer help to promote Natur Cymru. We have received feedback that:

- 2 members have run articles in newsletters, membership magazines etc;
- 4 members have taken promotional flyers at no/subsidised cost;
- 3 members have promoted Natur Cymru at shows, conferences;
- 1 member has provided a website link to the Natur Cymru website;
- 3 members have provided articles for publication.

### ***Plan/Proposals***

It is anticipated that a number of additions and/or updates will be required to the work plan as result of SG1 and that these will be included by the secretariat for circulation after the meeting.

It is intended to provide a costed one-year plan for approval at SG2.

### ***Decision Points***

To agree the work plan as outlined and any changes required.

To agree the creation of a new WBP website based on the framework incorporating comments received up to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

To agree that all members will raise awareness of the September conference, Tan y Bwlch event and up-coming PAW conference. (Secretariat can provide a short email message to assist with this.)

Approve or amend Climate Change and Outcome 21 Task and Finish Group membership.

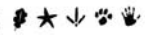
## Wales Biodiversity Partnership Work Plan 2007 (first draft)

	Action	Progress	Current lead or team
1	Contribute advice on biodiversity matters to the Welsh Assembly Government (all policies)	<p>Provided input to various Policy Gateway Planning sessions</p> <p>WBP members currently responding to consultation on the SEA Environmental Report on the Wales Transport Strategy; your views are required by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007.</p> <p><a href="http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/tran-scurrcons/wts/?lang=en">http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/tran-scurrcons/wts/?lang=en</a></p>	<p>Russell D'Arth            Ioan Jenkins</p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
2	Contribute advice on Climate Change proposals to Welsh Assembly Government	<p>Input to draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan provided by virtual task and finish group</p> <p>WBP members are currently responding to the Planning for Climate Change Consultation; your views are required by 30 March 2007</p> <p><a href="http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/pla-ncurrcons/?lang=en">http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/pla-ncurrcons/?lang=en</a></p>	<p>David Parker, Nick Birula            Jennifer Dack, Tim Stowe            Rod Gritten, David Cowley            Michelle Bromley</p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
3	Environment Strategy for Wales Outcome 21 (Action 32)	<p>Purpose: Develop delivery plan and monitor actions and commitments made, advise and make recommendations, develop collaborative approaches to increasing favourable condition</p> <p>Workshop took place in November, first meeting of task and finish group held on 16/01/07, draft action plan due for completion in February 2007</p>	<p>Andrew Peterken, Christine Edwards, Hazel Drewett, Bob Vaughan, Emyr Williams, Chris Edwards, Elfyn Jones, Tim Stowe, Diana Reynolds</p>

		February	
4	Environment Strategy for Wales Action 38 Develop Nature Sites Guidance	WBP12 agreed to the completion of production of guidelines and criteria for the selection of Wildlife Sites within a given LPA/LBAP area (incorporating new Welsh S42 BAP habitats and species)	Nigel Ajax Lewis
5	Environment Strategy Action 33	To be discussed and action agreed at SG1	TBA
6	Build on LRCs development in Wales to create a central biodiversity register /GIS layer/map showing the important priority habitats and species locations...	Wales Biodiversity Information Group due to be established in March 2007 to agree data standards and protocols for managing Wales' biodiversity data/information, agreeing priority data sets for dissemination and establishing dynamic flow of data to partners	Helen Wilkinson
7	Develop an all-Wales approach to delivering habitat and species targets...	CCW carrying out a simple desegregation exercise for Welsh habitat targets, present first pass to LBAP officers for further honing before being placed on BARS CCW establishing a small-scale ecological connectivity trial in SE Wales	Liz Howe
8	Assist Welsh Assembly Government in implementing NERC Biodiversity Duty	Joint DEFRA/Welsh Assembly Government Guidance due to be published March 2007  Additional guidance in the form of key bullet points currently being developed that could be badged as WAG or WBP  The establishment of (joint CCW/WBP) annual reviews with local authorities currently being considered	Steve Moon/Michelle Calnan

	WBP transfer	Ensure smooth transfer of information to new WBP Support Team by April 2007  Support new Officers and help with new projects as required. Ongoing	Julia Korn
	Direct Support for Welsh LBAP Partnerships	Attend meetings, share information, listen and respond to issues and concerns raised,  Work to ensure long term sustainability of LBAP Partnerships and their ability to deliver biodiversity action in line with Annex H of the Wales Biodiversity Framework	Julia Korn, Juliet Hynes and Sean McHugh
9	WBP Conference Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> at NEWI, Wrexham	Draft conference programme for outline agreement at SG1	Sean McHugh
10	LBAP/BARS/LRC support for LBAP Partnerships	Agree support areas for three support officers and identify LBAP Officer representatives to join SG1  Draft LBAP/BARS/LRC induction pack for LBAP Co-ordinators for approval at SG2	Julia Korn  Juliet Hynes
11	BARS/LBAP/LRC support for key central organisations	Hold meetings with CCW, FCW and EAW Chief executives to agree framework responsibilities by Feb 2007  Hold meetings with CCW, FCW and EAW to agree LBAP support and BARS, LRC usage and identify any barriers by March 2008  Work with key organisations to build capacity for LBAP delivery as outline in Annex H of the Wales Biodiversity Framework (March 2010)	Diana Reynolds  Julia Korn

11	Training and Development	Support PSMW Connect 4 Cymru Biodiversity Group  Draft programme for Plas Tan y Bwlch by April 2007	David Parker/Diana Reynolds  Julia Korn
12	Website/ biodiversity framework	First thoughts on web infrastructure to be provided for SG1 (as part of communications paper)  Agree whether to keep current contract in place post August 2007 (either short or long term) at SG1	Sean McHugh
13	Develop a coherent communication plan for the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders...	Links currently being improved with Partnership on Wildlife Crime (PAW), Wales Environment Link, Cynnal Cymru and Water Framework Directive  Complete full stakeholder analysis and provide proposals to SG3	Diana Reynolds  Juliet Hynes



## **WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS 2006-2007**

### ***Background***

In November 2006, an underspend of £100,000 of central funds for 2005/6 became available for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity projects.

Project proposals were requested for nature conservation or enhancement action that could be spent within the three months January - March 2007.

To qualify potential bids were asked to meet the following criteria:

- Directly contribute to nature conservation activities on the ground
- The project to be completed by 31 March 2007;
- A report on outputs to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government by the end of April 2007;
- Contact details included;
- Amount of funds needed and timescales;
- Names of habitats and species benefiting from project;
- The plan confirms the ability of organisation to spend and report back on time.

All applications received matched the criteria set that meant a further filtering process had to be undertaken.

It was decided to divide Wales into Geographical locations and distribute the grant to give the best possible geographic spread with the best possible representation from groups of fauna and flora i.e. birds, bugs, habitat, and mammal.

### ***Qualifying Projects***

Denbighshire Countryside Service: Wheeler Valley: Clwydian Range: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Water Vole habitat enhancement.

Gwent Wildlife Trust: Restoring the Gwent levels: Wetland habitat creation.

Cambrian Lapwing Recovery Trust: Habitat creation/ enhancement for Lapwing.

Butterfly Conservation Wales: Habitat enhancement: Alun Valley High Brown Fritillary project.

Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales: Craig Cilhendre Nature Reserve: Ancient semi-natural woodland enhancement and Computerising Management plans for habitat management.

Environment Agency: Hafren Forest: Blanket Bog/ upland heath restoration (6ha): Upper Severn.

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust: Survey and record priority species.

**Progress.**

All projects are on schedule, though the very wet weather has provided a challenge to some projects.

## **OUTSTANDING ACTION**

### ***Background/Progress***

This paper outlines outstanding action from the last 4 Local Biodiversity Advisory Group meetings held in October 2005, and January, July and October 2006. (For a list of outstanding action see associated paper).

### ***Plan/Proposals***

That the WBP Steering Group consider the action and decide which actions still need to be taken forward

### ***Decision Points***

- To agree which actions should be taken forward, and by whom.
- To sign-off this paper.

**Local Biodiversity Advisory Group – Outstanding Actions**

From 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005 to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006

**Most outstanding Action relates to recommendations taken to Wales Biodiversity Partnership meetings**

**ACTION FROM MINUTES 06/10/05**

**1. AWARENESS**

- LBAG also recommends that the awareness role of WBP is extended to target other key sectors, and all year round, and that links are made with the events and initiatives of WBP Partners and work by the BBC in Wales and the UK. The WBP awareness remit may extend to continuing professional development in sectors and professions through the LBAG Seminar and case studies ‘celebrating local biodiversity action’ (see below).
- LBAG recommends that an indicator of success in awareness raising is adopted by Welsh Environment Strategy and has been included in the LBAG consultation response.

**2. BIODIVERSITY ACTION REPORTING SYSTEM (BARS)**

- All members of LBAG to promote the use of BARS within their organizations
- LBAG to recommend to Wales Biodiversity Partnership that BARS is promoted within their organisations and the time and resources are allocated to enable staff to use BARS effectively. Biodiversity action and reporting needs to be built into job descriptions.

*This will be reinforced through the new Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering group.*

**3. UK REVIEW OF MARINE PRIORITY SPECIES**

- LBAG will strongly recommend to WBP that funding be found for a short-term marine BAP review post. (*Funding found for review*)

**4. REGULATION 33 OF THE HABITATS REGULATIONS**

(setting conservation objectives for marine Special Areas of Conservation- SACs)

- LBAG to recommend to WBP that where there is overlap with marine SAC features, and for Reg 33 packages to protect marine UK BAP priorities through the SAC conservation objectives. (

*Diana to taken up with David and Hazel in meeting 15/12/06*

## **ACTION FROM MINUTES 25/01/06**

### **1. LBAP REVIEW GUIDANCE**

LBAP Facilitator to put review guidance on WBP website after making small additions (Priority Habitats reference and add to NERC Biodiversity duty paragraph). *Carried forward on 05/11/06*

*The process has moved on since this guidance was produced and new information is included in Annex H of the Wales Biodiversity framework. Additional guidance will be required during 2007 when support for the review process will be addressed.*

### **2. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE**

- The LBAP facilitator will issue further guidance on how the review of the LBAP is affected by SPG and local development plans when more information becomes available.

*Carried forward on 05/11/06*

*This is included in the Framework for Biodiversity in Wales (Annex H)*

### **3. COMMUNICATION**

*Concern was raised that there was very little communication between national steering groups and local partnerships.....This is one of the issues highlighted by the 2005 reporting round report and is likely to be identified in the Wales Report.*

LBAG should discuss the recommendations made by the report at a future meeting

*This should be discussed in the light of the Wales Summary report.*

### **4. NERC Act (2006) BIODIVERSITY DUTY**

- LBAG agreed to recommend to WBP that a task and finish group is set up to issue Wales-focused guidance on the implementation of the NERC biodiversity duty.

*Welsh representation forms part of the DEFRA led NERC Guidance Steering Group. The WLGA will organize a workshop in January 2007 to explore the possible publication of a shorter bi-lingual guidance for Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government would edit and translate a Wales Guidance.*

## **ACTION FROM MINUTES 17/10/06**

### **1. LBAP FACILITATOR NEWSLETTER**

- LBAG members to send Julia feedback on the preferred style/content of newsletters.

*At the meeting on 17/20/06 LBAG decided that the format/style of any future newsletter should be decided by the new WBP Steering Group*

### **2. LBAP COUNTRY FACILITATORS MEETING 12/10/06**

- Julia to circulate the minutes from the LBAP Country Facilitators meeting to LBAG as soon as they become available.

*Julia will chase these minutes (still haven't received them).*

*Updated 02/02/07*