

WBPSG4
20th February 2008
AGENDA

The 4th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held at Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys SY17 5DE (see http://www.broneirion.com/Find_us.htm for directions), starting at 11:00 hrs. Coffee will be available from 10:30hrs.

TIME	ITEM/ PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
10.30	Assemble, tea/coffee		
11.00	1.1	Welcome, introduction and apologies	Diana Reynolds, Chair
11.10	1.2	Welsh GEMS (Group of European Marine Sites) – what, where, why and how.	Blaise Bullimore (Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries EMS)
11.30	2	A Biodiversity Duty for Public Sector Bodies and Local Government: proposals for joint WBP/CCW progress review visits	Bill Somerfield
11.45	3	Habitat Connectivity/Natural Connections update	Liz Howe
12.00	4	BAP Update – Habitat Groupings, LBAP Review	Liz Howe/Julia Korn
12.15	5	Use of BARS by organisations and government in Wales	Julia Korn
12.30	LUNCH		
13:15	6	Issues from LBAPs	David Cowley and Gareth Ellis
13.25	7	Taxonomic Group Presentations – explanation of this new regular agenda item	Bill Somerfield
13:35	8	Presentation: Taxonomic group - Butterflies	Russel Hobson
13.50	9	Discussion	
14:00	10	Marine Policy and Bill Update	Lia Moutselou
14:15	11	Business and Biodiversity - an approach for engaging businesses in Wales	Philip Trembath/Tom Lunn
14.30	12	WBP Planning	Sean McHugh
14:40	13	WBP Communications and conference funding award	Sean McHugh
14.50	14	WBP Review of progress	Bill Somerfield
15.05	15	Regular wildlife crime update	Ian Guildford
15.15	16	Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	Diana Reynolds

15.25	17	<p>AOB</p> <p>Circulate branded NERC Biodiversity Duty checklists.</p> <p>Date of July and November meetings - suggested within first two weeks of July before the school holidays start. Should be a South Wales location this time.</p>	Diana Reynolds
15.35	Afternoon tea and finish		

20 February 2008

A Biodiversity Duty for Public Sector Bodies and Local Government: proposals for joint WBP/CCW progress review visits

Background/Progress

The biodiversity duty on public sector bodies and local government was introduced in England and Wales in October 2006.

- Comprehensive guidance was issued bilingually in May 2007.
- Welsh Assembly Government has circulated a 'leadership brief' to all staff and is preparing additional guidance for Heads of Divisions and public sector bodies, on request.
- During 2006, a Welsh Assembly Government officer contacted each local authority to explain the duty and identify a 'biodiversity champion'. Meetings were held with most champions and actions agreed.
Bullet point 'biodiversity checklists' were approved by the WBP Steering Group in July 2007. These can be found at:

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/english/Library/default.aspx?pid=13>

Additional checklists have been created for Public Sector Bodies and one about enforcement and have been included in Annex 1 and 2 for your approval.

At present a number of visits and meetings with local government occur involving various parties; some cover the requirements of the Biodiversity Duty and Habitats Regulations; compliance with the Regulations is expected under the Duty; see Annex 3 & 4.

The purpose of this paper is to seek agreement on a way forward for progress visits with local government; if successful, this approach could be adapted and extended to public sector bodies.

Plan/Proposals

In July 2007 the WBP Steering Group resolved to build on the work done in 2006 by the Welsh Assembly Government. The aim is to improve collaboration with local government and set up joint WBP/CCW annual progress visits.

The goals for the joint CCW/WBP annual reviews are to:

- improve ecological capacity in each local authority
- support 'biodiversity champions' in each local authority
- maintain support for Local Biodiversity Partnership co-ordinators
- better achieve the Environment Strategy Outcomes for biodiversity

The following benefits to WBP/ CCW are expected from this approach:

- brings new voices to re-enforce existing messages
- increases transparency
- shares the workload
- increases compliance with the Biodiversity Duty

A proposed timetable is mapped at Annex 5.

We recommend that:

1. WBP identifies a lead person as ‘ Implementation Officer’ for Wales (for which Joanna Robertson of CCW has volunteered)
2. WBP/CCW authorise this Officer to contact each LA/NP Chief Executive and Biodiversity Champion and CCW nominated Regional staff member to agree a date for an annual ‘biodiversity review meeting (with the intention of replacing/ combining the existing CCW model and the WAG Nature Conservation Branch meetings?)
3. The annual visit will involve a WBP member or the WBP implementation officer and a member of CCW staff. They will meet with the Champion and any other relevant elected Member or Officer
4. The review will be informal and conducted in a manner intended to increase commitment to demonstrate compliance with the Duty.
5. The ‘implementation ‘ officer will provide a briefing sheet for the visit covering all Wales issues, new material, good practice examples, tools for self-assessment against standards and training opportunities. The CCW staff member will contribute local knowledge and identify examples to illustrate good practice and areas with scope for improvement.
6. The record of each visit will be confidential to the local authority, CCW and WBP and will contain commitments made.
7. Measurement of progress would use the table in Annex 4 from which de-personalised totals can be derived for WBP’s public use. The ALGE standards are the starting point. See <http://www.alge.org.uk/publications/index.php>
8. Each year, the WBP Implementation Officer will provide an update on progress visits, with a simple rating of performance against these standards. Examples of good practice will be highlighted and case studies collected.
9. Towards the end of 2009, a formal report will be drawn up to contribute to the DEFRA/ WAG review of the Duty and its implementation.

Decision Points

To approve the contents of the Public Sector Bodies and Enforcement checklists.

To endorse or adapt this recommended approach.

To volunteer time and effort by named staff of Wales Biodiversity Partnership members/ organisations.

Annex 2

Habitats Regulations and Biodiversity Duty Enforcement: Support and Intervention Regime

Overview/Principles

It is expected, by the Welsh Assembly Government and Wales Biodiversity Partnership, that each local authority and public sector body will provide essential biodiversity and nature conservation services to ensure compliance and enforcement of the habitats regulations (as amended in 2007) and the NERC Biodiversity Duty (2006).

To achieve compliance and enforcement, it is the responsibility of the authority concerned to provide sufficient resources. Guidelines are provided¹ but it is perfectly legitimate to provide an equivalent service in an alternative format.

These are statutory duties and failure to achieve compliance and enforcement is not acceptable. Intervention by the Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales or the Welsh Police Force can be expected where there is a risk of non-compliance.

This document lists the risks you face from non-compliance including the hierarchy of interventions that may be required. It should be read in combination with the relevant Biodiversity Checklist² for your organisation and any relevant guidance from that listed in Annexes F and H to the Biodiversity Framework for Wales³. A summary of the support mechanisms available to help you retain local control and achieve best practice are also included.

Potential Risks of Non-compliance

All figures are rough estimates.

As a Competent Authority under the Habitats Regulations you are responsible for your own and others compliance with this legislation.

To remain compliant you should employ sufficient qualified ecologists and biodiversity staff to provide advice as early as possible in development of your plans, projects and policies and amend these to incorporate the advice provided. If you are not sure what constitutes a plan, project or policy or are not clear about how the Habitats Regulations and/or the NERC Duty affect them, always seek advice from the sources below.

¹ Current recommended is for a minimum of one full-time permanent or long-term biodiversity co-ordinator, one full-time permanent ecologist and a small programme and training budget for each local authority; one permanent full-time staff member also with small programme and training budget for all other public bodies and large central government departments.

² NERC Duty checklists <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=13>

³ <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=1>

Failure to comply can lead to:

- PR damage to your employer
- Significant legal costs
- Time consuming and unconstructive workloads
- Judicial Review
- Criminal Conviction

Don't take the risk: Get it right first time.

Example Scenarios

Judicial Review

Any member of the public can instigate Judicial Review proceedings, which, even if the end result is in your favour, will cost you large amounts of time and resources to process. Worst case they may lead to fines and court costs if successful.

Estimated cost: minimum £200,000+ for administration, possibly much higher

Criminal Conviction

Prosecutions in Wales are rare but arrests have been made and offences can lead to large fines or, in some cases, prison sentences. Public sector staff are not exempt.

Estimated cost: Majority of sentences for wildlife crime are up to £5000 (+ costs) and/or 6 month sentence; Introduction of Non-native species attracts a 2yr sentence; Offences in relation to protected sites are higher, SSSIs carry a maximum £20 000 fine.

Call-in

Anyone in Wales can ask the Welsh Assembly Government to call in a planning decision for reasons including “likely significant effect on sites of nature conservation importance”. The administrative costs are high and you face the embarrassment of having the decision made outside your authority.

Estimated cost: minimum £100,000+ for administration, possibly higher

European Infraction

Fines are charged as an initial lump sum followed by daily payments until the infringement is removed, in this case for the “natural features to be restored to their original condition”. In the case of mature trees this could take many years. Failure to pay can lead to stoppage of European funds such as convergence or rural development payments. Infraction costs of all three types will be passed on to the local authority within whose purview they occur.

Estimated cost: up to £11million lump sum plus £1million daily costs in addition to any administrative burden. Recent cases include one off fines of £7million, daily costs of £180,000.

Any one of these costs would set you back a large percentage and in some case significantly more than the funding required as an annual budget for nature conservation and biodiversity action.

Intervention

Most of the time, most of the public sector in Wales demonstrates compliance and in many cases offers best practice in biodiversity and nature conservation activity. However, as with any complex service, things can go wrong.

The Welsh Assembly Government and Wales Biodiversity Partnership will always attempt to intervene early and positively to allow you to continue to provide an ever-improving high quality service. When advised by our statutory advisors or others of a particularly high level of risk we may also need to intervene to ensure compliance.

Support Mechanisms

A range of support services, including the following, exist to help you achieve compliance and enforcement within your area of responsibility. It is always advisable to contact the relevant person as early as you can about any particular issue or concern.

- The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) are able to provide partial funding to assist with biodiversity and ecology roles within Local Authorities
- The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) provides a support team to assist biodiversity co-ordinators across Wales and your co-ordinator will have a named contact from this team from whom they can ask for advice or guidance at any time.
- Likewise, CCW provide advice and guidance on ecological issues and your ecologist will be supplied with the name of a local contact from whom they can seek advice or guidance when needed
- Each local police force has a Wildlife Crime Officer who can be contacted for advice or investigation if you are concerned that an offence may have taken place or be at risk of occurring.
- CCW hold regular development meetings with Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to improve ways of working within and between the LPA and CCW.
- The Wales Biodiversity Partnership provides further advice and guidance including on-site visits to assist you in developing best practice.
- The UK web based Biodiversity Action Reporting system is available to report on biodiversity action taken and targets met.

All the services above are provided free of charge. In addition, there are a number of low-cost actions that you may also wish to take such as:

- Establishing a service level agreement with your Local Records Centre (LRC) so that they can provide you with the local biodiversity data that you require for planning and decision making.

- Considering ALGE/IEEM membership for your ecology staff so that you and they can benefit from professional development and up to date guidance to maintain competency and standards in Ecology.
- Enabling attendance of biodiversity co-ordinators at WBP Conference, LBAP Courses or other suitable professional development events.
- Ensuring that all Planning Officers, Building Control Staff (and other relevant staff) regularly attended Habitats Regulations training events with CCW or other providers.
- Contact the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) (Rachel Jowitt [rachel.jowitt@wlga.gov.uk] current WLGA contact for Environment) or Public Sector Management Wales to purchase consultancy support for improving your biodiversity working practices.
- Run internal courses in different departments on the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty and develop best practice examples to demonstrate compliance.

**ANNEX 4
STANDARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOOD PRACTICE UNDER
BIODIVERSITY DUTY**

HALLMARK	RATING	EXAMPLE
Champion in place Biodiversity built into decision making (i.e. as standard part of cabinet paper and/or as standing item on scrutiny committees etc) Uses BARS to record targets, actions and achievements	(Y/N) (Y/N) (all/some/none)	
Hosts and funds at least one LBAP Co-ordination post	(More/yes/no)	
Has SLA in place with LRC	(Yes/in progress/no)	
Planning Policy and Development control: LRC and survey data in place before planning permissions are accepted (Use of electronic biodiversity toolkit)	(Yes: no known cases of incorrect conditions, No: at least one case of incorrect conditions in last 6 months)	
Planning Policy and Development control: enforcement takes place	(Yes: no known cases of non-enforcement, No: at least one case of non-enforcement in last 6 months)	
Conservation volunteering and Environmental Education Quality/ quantity; Inclusiveness; Community participation and action.	Baseline/ more/ less	
Management of Local Authority land: Are Outcome 21 actions up-to date? Knowledge and management of S42 priorities on all LA owned land.	(Y/N) Progress	
Assisting other Land Managers and Owners: Use of agreements and local grant funds	(Y/N) Number/ amount	
Statutory Responsibility and Professional competence: at least one fully trained ecologist in post and advice taken; use of web based biodiversity learning module.	More/yes/no numbers	

To be used in combination with ALGE Increasing the Momentum.

**ANNEX 5
TIMETABLE FOR PROGRESSING REVIEW VISITS**

Date	Activity
Jan – Mar 2008	Preparatory work with WLGA, including endorsement of WBP Checklists. WBP to attend Leaders' Meeting. Explore collaboration between SD and biodiversity champions.
May 2008	Local Government Elections
June 2008	Minister's attendance at WLGA Council Meeting to launch new approach to Biodiversity Duty
June 2008	WBP Implementation Officer contacts LA/NP to identify any change in champion and arrange visit; liaison with CCW named contacts.
JULY TO DECEMBER	Visits to 25 local authorities/ National Parks Workshops with Minister based at LRCs
February 2009	Summary paper for WBP SG
MARCH - DECEMBER	Review of progress and second visits (annual after this)
November 2009	Recommendations for DEFRA/WAG review of S40 NERC Act 2006
February 2010	Summary paper for WBP SG (annual after this)

Title

Habitat connectivity/Natural Connections update

Background/Progress

There is increasing interest in large-scale approaches to nature conservation to combat the combined effects of habitat fragmentation and climate change. CCW, with partners, is investigating and promoting these approaches and their application to delivery mechanisms in Wales.

Principles for this work have previously been presented to CCW's Council and to WBP, as well as to wide range of partners. At the WBP meeting in July 2007 an expanded paper on the subject was proposed, to be prepared by CCW and in close collaboration with the NGO and university sectors. Accelerating interest and new initiatives since then have to some extent changed the context for such a paper. These initiatives and general progress since July 2007 are reviewed here.

Defra projects on connectivity. Defra have commissioned two closely linked projects on ecological connectivity (total cost c.£95k): the first to review the scientific basis, and the second to develop indicators. Although lead by Defra, the projects are being funded and/or steered by a partnership, that includes JNCC, CCW, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Dept.of Environment Northern Ireland, WAG, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust and RSPB. CCW has contributed funds specifically to advance the freshwater aspects. The projects were let to Forest Research in December 2007, and are scheduled to report in May 2008.

Update on CCW's actions. CCW has continued to work with Forest Research to develop maps of functional habitat networks, which now include layers for fens and bogs. The maps are available (for example to LBAP groups) from Jim Latham (CCW) to help guide nature conservation action. A pilot study in Southeast Wales is taking shape after many months discussion, and it is hoped this will be carried out by a wide partnership lead by CCW.

CCW's Terrestrial Science Group (TSG) is preparing a technical report to describe research to date and provide general policy recommendations. The scope of this paper has been changed to take account of results from the Defra projects and to avoid duplication.

Plan/Proposals

The previously proposed paper for Wales should go ahead, taking full account of the results of the Defra projects and the experience of its broad steering group. It should explore how the findings can be applied most effectively to the Welsh situation, and to particular issues such as involving connectivity measures within BAP targets.

Decision Points

- a. To endorse and note the actions reported.
- b. To discuss the scope and time-scale of the WBP strategy paper on connectivity in the light of recent developments.

Title: BAP Update- Habitat groupings, LBAP review,

Background/Progress

1) Wales Habitat Groupings

UK Standing Committee requested the Country Biodiversity Groups to establish Country Habitat Groups to act as the focus for coordinating action and achieving targets for habitats. Table 1 has been sent to UKSC on behalf of WBP as our draft grouping. Leads for the groups are necessary and some suggestions are included in the Table. Agreement with these and volunteers for the gaps are required.

The groupings follow ecological divisions for reasons of implementation and availability of expertise. The alternatives of grouping habitats by ecological zone (upland, lowland) or by sectors (agricultural, forestry) would give too few and rather unwieldy groupings. We have proposed that 2 habitats, blanket bog and mudflats, are each represented on 2 groups due to their overlapping nature.

2) BAP Process in Wales

The development of a Country process for implementation of the UK and Welsh BAP targets is proceeding on several fronts

- i) UKSC/BRIG/BRAG – development of guidance on UK and country level processes, provision of information on species and habitat associations, success criteria etc.
- ii) Grouping habitats by countries- see 1 above
- iii) Assigning country actions to priority species- BRIG process that should have reported at the beginning of February
- iv) Analysis of the results of iii as applicable to Wales- JNCC help is available
- v) Links to UK groups for habitats and species
- vi) Use of BARS as the focal point for all BAP activity in Wales (see Paper 5)

In addition, we should ensure that we take the opportunities that are offered by the refreshing of ESW to include the BAP process in Wales. Work that is in progress on the implementation of Outcome 21 relating to protected sites needs to be taken account of in the BAP process and this may be achieved through linkages of the CCW ISIS database and BARS.

Several new BAP habitats and species groups do not have representatives on the WBP membership (ponds, orchards, open mosaics on previously developed land, skates and rays).

3) LBAP Review

Each LBAP partnership in Wales will review their LBAPs over the next 2 years. Currently guidance exists in the form of Annex H of the Wales Biodiversity Framework and the WBP review Guidance. In addition the UK BAP review process will inform local review processes. LBAP Partnerships are being advised to write reviewed BAPs on BARS and WBP Support Staff have been employed to provide training and advice. Wales will be responsible for deciding who the primary delivery bodies are in Wales. As we have an established and successful network of LBAP Partnerships WBP should consider recognising them as key delivery mechanisms and ensuring that appropriate support is available for them to be able to fulfil this role on the ground.

Plan/Proposals

- i. It is envisaged that the development of the Welsh BAP process will require input from across the membership of WBP and we therefore suggest that a Task and Finish Group is established to advise WBP.
- ii. Use T&F group to consider UK guidance on the BAP process and develop a WBP structure for implementation

Decision Points

1. Acceptance of the habitat groupings proposed
2. Acceptance/volunteer for Lead roles of habitat groupings
3. Agree need for T&F group- volunteers needed
4. Seek WBP representatives for new Welsh habitats and species groups where relevant
5. Formally recognise LBAP Partnerships as one of the key mechanisms for delivering reviewed BAP in Wales.

Liz Howe and Julia Korn

Table 1 PROPOSED WBP HABITAT GROUPS OF PRIORITY HABITATS

Habitat Grouping	Priority Habitats	Possible Lead
Marine	Intertidal boulder communities <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs Estuarine rocky habitats Seagrass beds Sheltered muddy gravels Tidal swept channels Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats Carbonate reefs Subtidal sands and gravels Subtidal mixed muddy sediments Mud habitats in deep water <i>Musculus discors</i> beds Blue mussel beds Horse mussel beds Maerl beds Saline lagoons Mudflats*	CCW
Coastal	Coastal saltmarsh Mudflats* Coastal sand dunes Coastal vegetated shingle Maritime cliff and slopes	
Farmland	Arable field margins Hedgerows Traditional orchards	WAG
Grasslands	Lowland calcareous grassland Lowland dry acid grassland Lowland meadows Purple moor-grass & rush pastures Calaminarian grasslands	CCW
Heathland	Lowland heathland Upland heathland	
Woodlands	Lowland beech and yew woodland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Upland mixed ashwoods Upland oakwood Wet woodland Wood pasture and parkland	FCW
Wetlands	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh Lowland fens Lowland raised bog	EAW?

Habitat Grouping	Priority Habitats	Possible Lead
	Reedbeds Blanket bog*	
Uplands	Blanket bog* Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats Limestone pavements Mountain heaths and willow scrub Upland calcareous grassland Upland flushes, fens and swamps	
Freshwater	Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating water bodies Eutrophic standing waters Mesotrophic lakes Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes Ponds Rivers	EAW
Urban and brownfield	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	

* These habitats need to be represented in 2 groupings as shown

TITLE: USE OF BARS BY ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT IN WALES

Background/Progress

The Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) is a web-based ‘database’ created to support the planning, monitoring and reporting requirements of the UK BAP; it is used to assess progress on actions towards targets and the status and trends for priority species and habitats. It will be used to assess the UK’s contribution towards the 2010 target ‘to halt biodiversity loss’.

BARS is supported by all countries in the UK, their governments and conservation agencies and many UK partners in the voluntary sector.

BARS holds country biodiversity strategies, the national plans for species and habitats, local, company and organisation biodiversity action plans as well as information on independent projects.

The system does NOT hold survey information but does provide automatic access to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway where these data are held.

BARS is available FREE to all users; it helps to meet their needs for customised reports and to communicate their contribution to biodiversity actions and targets.

BARS offers a public search facility.

Progress in Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government has recorded all Wales Environment Strategy actions on BARS.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships have made use of BARS since 2004 and will review their plan entirely on BARS from 2007 onwards.

Lead Partners, including CCW, reported on BARS for the 2005 UK BAP report.

Since 2007 CCW Species Challenge Fund grants require recipients to use BARS; this will be rolled out to all other CCW grants for biodiversity action from 2008 in line with other UK grant givers.

Two BARS Support Officers (Gareth Ellis and David Cowley) have been seconded to WBP to work 1 day a week over 18 weeks, starting on 06 February 08, to support staff in organisations to populate BARS in line with their ‘operational agreement’; they will also support LBAP partnerships review their LBAPs on BARS.

Further details are provided at Annex 1.

Plan/Proposals

To aid the more efficient and effective planning, monitoring and reporting of biodiversity actions, it is vital that everyone involved in biodiversity conservation uses BARS to report all action and target information.

BARS enables the sharing of information with other practitioners such as LBAP partnerships.

In Wales, Government and Government sponsored bodies must lead the way and in doing so, encourage others to follow.

In the move to full use of BARS in Wales, CCW, the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency and various departments of the Welsh Assembly Government have been asked to identify how they will do this. CCW brings a draft Operational Agreement to this meeting; Annex 2.

Decision Points

1. To endorse this process
2. To welcome the CCW draft Operational Agreement
3. To agree a timetable for all the above organisations involved in this process

Annex 1: Welsh Assembly Government: Update on our use of BARS January 2008

Transport Wales

Transport Wales (TW) has been investigating the potential use of BARS but has been delayed. TW planned to have improved the method of collecting information and the level of support given to this. The results of the 2006 reporting round are being considered which should enable a request for a decision regarding the use of BARS to be made shortly.

Our contracts for consultancy support have recently run out and new ones are being introduced. It is intended to get BARS activity incorporated in the new contracts. We still need Directors approval for the contract - and at the same will put up the paper on BARS sign up as well. We will update WBP when the new contract/Directors agreement is in place. Assistance with training would then be required.

Agri-environment Schemes

Two officers from Technical Services Division - Agriculture & Environment Branch have attended a basic BARS training course (1 day @ UNIGLAM) with LBAP Coordinators which provided a background and introduction to the basic use of BARS. This has enabled one of them to act as the WAG contact for LBAP Coordinators (Steve Chambers), the lead contact for their BARS actions that refer to WAG.

The Biodiversity Policy Manager met with representatives of Tir Gofal (TG) on 16/01/08 to assess what is needed to import the existing TG data onto BARS, and to set up systems for updating future TG data onto the system.

Economic Development

Currently there are 3 staff members within DE&T who have requested basic BARS training and are on a waiting list for the next course for organisations to be held in North Wales.

Two members of staff have attended training as an interim measure until a specific training event has been organised.

All relevant DE & T updates will be undertaken by these 3 members of staff once fully trained. The NC & B team will help in this process where it is deemed necessary.

Policy Actions

An officer from Nature Conservation & Biodiversity attended a 1day basic BARS training course with LBAP officers and also took part in the BARS workshop that was provided as part of the WBP Conference. There has also been collaborative learning and working with CCW staff in updating and adding progress reports to actions on BARS.

A number of key policy actions (21 in total – 3 completed and 18 ongoing) have now been placed on BARS and progress on the Welsh Assembly Government actions are in the process of being updated (ongoing).

The BARS site has been re-designed to include to provide a direct link to the Wales Environment Strategy and includes access via a map of Wales.

Environment Agency Wales

Update to be provided following internal meeting later this month.
Several members of staff attended training for organisations in January 2008.

Forestry Commission

New members of the Environment Team will not start until April at the earliest. The Biodiversity Officer is likely to be responsible for BARS use within the Forestry Commission in Wales.

A Great Britain meeting will allow time for discussion of existing FC systems and use of BARS so progress will be made on removing some of the barriers, raising awareness and getting some consistency in commitment. The earliest date by which the FC can realistically make progress on an agreement would be SG06 in November 2008.

FC are committed to this and although progress may be slow it is on the table and it's being built into all new thinking.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT COMMITTING CCW TO THE USE OF BARS 2008-12

This Operational Agreement stands as evidence that the COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES and the WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT intend to work together towards the mutual goal of providing information about biodiversity targets and actions through the BIODIVERSITY ACTION REPORTING SYSTEM WEBSITE.

Both ORGANISATIONS believe that implementation of a programme to share such information more widely will help achieve goals set out in the WALES ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY.

To this end, each organisation agrees to participate in the programme by providing the following services*:

1. Commit to using BARS for all appropriate areas of work which deliver biodiversity outcomes;
2. Set up a task and finish group to direct the work, under the chairmanship of a senior officer; schedule meetings to identify strategies, timetables and oversee the implementation of an agreed plan to populate BARS with information on CCW actions;
3. Provide funding for this work – continue to support the UK BARS development work with £XXk annually; bid for funds for a dedicated support officer;
4. Make progress with entering information for priority work areas to meet agreed deadlines;
5. Offer support to those staff whose job descriptions require them to use BARS in key areas/ appropriate polices and structures
6. Maintain and update information in BARS

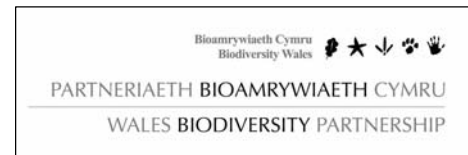
* List specific activities that will be undertaken between the parties or other specifics of the agreement.

We, the undersigned, as authorized representatives of CCW, Welsh Assembly Government and WBP, do hereby approve this document.

For _____
Date _____

For _____
Date _____

WBPSG-4
PAPER 6
20th Feb 2008



Title: Issues from LBAPs

Background/Progress

1. At WBP 3, the lack of integration of biodiversity issues within the Sustainability agenda was an issue raised by LBAP officers. The sentiment is still prevalent and it is requested that WBP look at means of addressing this concern and provide assurances to LBAP partnerships of our shared commitment to sustainable development principles and the integration of biodiversity within this framework.

2. Work is continuing to review LBAPs, enter SMART data on BARS, provide for biodiversity conservation through developing LDPs and develop habitat connectivity links. The majority of this effort relies on accurate baseline data to determine the extent and location of priority habitats. The CCW Phase 1 data is a key element with regard to the spatial distribution of habitat types. However, the Phase 1 data while a useful reference point, does not directly map to UK BAP habitats and is inevitably inaccurate in many instances due to land use changes, habitat succession etc. This shortfall poses a risk to biodiversity delivery and LBAPs and the wider biodiversity community require a mechanism to refresh and reinvigorate habitat mapping in Wales.

Plan/Proposals

1. That integrating biodiversity into sustainable development is revisited and the outcome of this discussion is fed back to LBAP officers.
2. That WBP respond to the challenge of habitat mapping in Wales and recognise that LBAP work is dependant on accurate data on the location, extent and condition of priority/local habitats. That WBP and its member organisations make addressing this point a priority.

Decision Points

1. To identify a process with which to take forward the integration of biodiversity within the sustainable development framework.
2. To prioritise the provision of accurate baseline habitat data in Wales.

Gareth Ellis Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
David Cowley Isle of Anglesey County Council

Taxonomic Group Presentations

Background/Progress

At the November WBP Steering Group meeting it was “suggested that we should have reports on how well species or habitats are doing as a standing item at WBP meetings so that everyone could get an idea of how successful biodiversity action is in Wales.”

Plan/Proposals

The support team has discussed possibilities with a number of WBP members and recommends the provision of a regular PowerPoint presentation to each WBP Steering Group meeting focused on a particular taxonomic group, including brief slides describing:

- the positive changes and/or good news stories for key species from this taxonomic group over a time period suitable for discussion of the species under consideration
- the negative changes and/or warning signs for key species from this taxonomic group over the same time period
- a small number (no more than three) of opportunities for WBP to take action to assist the species under consideration.

Following the presentation there should be a brief discussion including;

- a celebration of success
- an opportunity for the WBP Steering Group members to ask questions (including questions from the wider network, which can be provided to any member of the steering group before the meeting)
- an opportunity for the Steering Group to decide on any assistance – collaborative, financial or otherwise that it wishes to provide to assist the presenting partner with their work

It is recommended that this opportunity be open to all WBP members with preference given to presenters from the smaller voluntary sector partners on a first-come-first-served basis. A nominal amount of funding (£2000) has been set aside from the WBP Direct Nature Conservation Budget to assist with the final bullet point above.

Russel Hobson of Butterfly Conservation Wales has kindly agreed to provide the first presentation.

Decision Points

(To be taken following the first presentation)

- a) To agree any actions required in response to the first presentation
- b) To agree this format (or an amended format) for future steering group meetings
- c) To suggest taxonomic groups for future presentations and/or agree that a suitable note is included in the action note to encourage volunteers following this meeting



Title: Marine Policy and Bill Update from Marine Policy Team, Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)

Background/Progress

1. Marine Bill

The Bill is currently in the process of being drafted by Parliamentary Counsel (PC) with support from DEFRA policy teams, WAG and WAG Legal Services teams.

- Draft clauses have been put together on nature conservation, the overarching marine policy statement, sea fisheries committees, setting up the MMO, but they are not yet finalised - the drafting process is iterative and takes time.
- Clauses are still being drafted on marine licensing, the detail of marine plans, recreational sea angling, other fisheries aspects, enforcement and various transitional arrangements (e.g. what happens to MNRs).

Defra aim to have a draft Bill ready for publication in Spring (about Easter). We are working with Defra to try to make sure everything is completed for this.

- Defra and WAG are also working together to create some guidance that will be published along with the draft Bill to explain how we think the Bill will work. The Bill will create a set of tools that can be used - the tools will generally be the same for England and Wales but how we use them might be different - this is what the guidance will explain (we hope).
- There will be a period of pre-legislative scrutiny following the publication of the draft Bill. This is likely to include a Committee of one of the Houses of Parliament examining it - calling witnesses and asking for evidence - and also some public consultation. The details have of this have not been finalised.
- Some things will not be included in the draft Bill because there will not be time to finalise everything before it is published. This includes any changes to inshore fisheries management in Wales (which will be the subject of a consultation shortly) and coastal access provisions, which are more than likely to be included in the Marine Bill. These matters, and any changes needed following pre-legislative scrutiny will be made before the Bill is introduced to Parliament, or by amendments tabled as the Bill progresses through the Parliamentary process.

The Bill is due to be introduced to Parliament in November this year.

2. Marine planning

WAG are working with Defra to agree a way in which the development and sign off of marine plans can be agreed between Welsh Ministers and the Secretary of State. Welsh Ministers will be responsible for marine planning in Wales, but because they are not responsible for everything that happens in the sea (e.g. oil and gas), we need to agree a process that enables non-devolved and devolved matters to be covered by the same plan and in the same way. It would be too complicated and contrary to the aim of holistic planning to have different plans for devolved and non-devolved things, particularly as there are so many ways that they can impact on each other.

3. Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership (WCMP)

WCMP Role

The Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership (WCMP) is a national non-statutory advisory group made up of a wide variety of organisations having interests in the management of the coastal zone and maritime area of Wales. The Partnership acts as advisor to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) on coastal and maritime policy, encourages policy development that is integrated across sectors and reflects the combined interests of all stakeholders.

WCMP is a unique and informal advisory, stakeholder group, which is not bound by the views of the Ministers and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). WCMP can disseminate information on their behalf (as well as that of its members) and acts as a bridge between marine and coastal policy stakeholders and the Government.

WCMP is not part of WAG and Marine Policy. The WCMP officer is housed by WAG at Cathays Park, and receives some administrative support from Marine Policy Branch.

WCMP Membership

The Partnership comprises of representatives of maritime and coastal interests in Wales from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Member organisations represent a wide range of interests from sectors involved in the coastal and marine environment, including: Business and Industry, Natural and Cultural Heritage, Recreation and Tourism, Local Government, Academia and Local Partnerships/Fora. (See organisation membership list at p.9, Appendix B, WCMP Annual Report 2006-2007)

WAG is our 'client' not a member of WCMP.

WCMP structure and meetings

The Partnership meets three times a year, moving around the coast of Wales. A Steering Group also meets on a regular basis to manage the running of the

Partnership. The Steering Group membership is based on those funding organisations that commit to contributing to the WCMP on a regular annual basis either in cash or kind (See p. 7, Section 5, WCMP Annual Report 2007).

The Steering Group includes WAG departments that fund WCMP. The Steering Group does not however influence the advice and opinions promoted by WCMP, which represents those of the whole membership.

WCMP work and outputs

One of the main outputs of WCMP is the organisation of meetings and events, however there are a range of other outputs through which the WCMP supports its members and advises WAG. These include regular electronic updates and a website (www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk) which posts the minutes of Partnership meetings and associated papers; research outputs; occasional papers and all consultation responses. A list of all WCMP written outputs can be viewed at p.11, Appendix C, WCMP Annual Report 2006-2007.

Plan/Proposals

Relationship between WCMP and WBP

At the 15th February WCMP meeting it was decided that WCMP would keep a watching brief of the work of Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) and Green Seas Partnership (GSP).

Nigel Ajax-Lewis (Wales Environment Link, WEL, who in turn was asked to liaise with Iwan Ball - the WEL representative on WCMP) and Steve Moon, who attends meetings of both partnerships, provide the link between the two partnerships.

WCMP officer will attend WBP meetings and be involved in their work when there is some emphasis on marine and coastal policy focus and the Chair and Steering group consider it appropriate that she does so. Equally a WBP representative could attend WCMP meetings if specific issues relating to WBP interests are on the agenda. This would be of particular use when the input of or feedback from stakeholders of non-conservation interests may be required (e.g. WCMP wider membership).

Further Information:

- WCMP Annual report 2006-2007
http://www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk/images_client/resource/WCMP%20Annual%20Report%20200607%20FINAL.pdf
- WCMP Role presentation
http://www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk/images_client/resource/WCMPpresentationbangor201107.ppt
- WCMP recommendations to WAG on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
http://www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk/images_client/resource/WCMP%20MSP%20Advice%20FINAL%2025_04_07.pdf

- WCMP Response to Marine Bill White Paper
http://www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk/images_client/resource/WCMP%20Marine%20Bill%20White%20Paper%20Response%20FINAL.doc

Decision Points

- To note the progress on the marine bill
- To endorse collaboration between WCMP and WBP as described above

Title: Business and Biodiversity - An Approach for Engaging Businesses in Wales.

Background/Progress

Biodiversity is an issue for businesses due to their dependence on natural resources and ecosystem's goods and services. Businesses can have direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity; including impacts from site management, use of raw materials, planning processes and legislation.

Businesses seeking to reduce their environmental impacts, using Environmental Management Systems should now consider biodiversity impacts. Therefore an integrated approach to tackling these issues is required.

A number of organisations in Wales provide advice and support to businesses, including ARENA Network's Business Biodiversity Wales and Business Environment Coordinators located in local authorities, the Wildlife Trusts Wales Wildlife Partnerships and the Wildlife Trusts' national Biodiversity Benchmark scheme. There are also some local schemes such as the Shared Earth Trust's 'Biodiversity's the Business' scheme in parts of Ceredigion.

These projects deliver different support services to businesses. Cooperation between delivery bodies makes sense.

Plan/Proposals

Joint marketing of the business and biodiversity delivery services would inform businesses of the range of different services available for tackling biodiversity issues. The different projects provide a range of services so cooperation is important.

WBP network membership would allow businesses to take part in discussion on biodiversity issues at a local and regional level. Businesses are rarely engaged in biodiversity actions in Wales and business membership of the WBP network provides the opportunity to involve major landholders and stakeholders in biodiversity action.

WBP organisational involvement is needed to provide an agreement on what the benefits are for businesses in joining the WBP. This approach needs to be used in WBP network business membership marketing material. The WBP website is also a key tool for providing information and links on biodiversity services for businesses and WBP membership.

A WBP 'forum' for delivering bodies to share ideas and develop projects, ensuring coordination and opportunities for referrals. Also to ensure that the different services are complementary, and consistent in the quality of advice given to businesses.

Goals

- 1. Joint marketing of services available to businesses on Biodiversity issues.**
 - Produce a joint leaflet between ARENA Network's Business Biodiversity Wales project, Wildlife Trusts and Shared Earth Trust and send out to business groups and partner organisations/funders.
 - Ensure that website links are in place on the different project websites.

2. Membership of WBP network across Wales – potential for businesses to join wider partnership if making significant improvements through becoming part of LBAP.

- Include WBP network membership as part of advice available to businesses through ARENA Network services, and in Biodiversity Review reports. Produce application form for WBP membership for businesses (see Annex 1).

3. Get WBP organisations involved in engaging businesses.

- WBP to update website to include service providers ARENA Network's Business Biodiversity Wales project, Wildlife Trusts and Shared Earth Trust.
- WBP to agree what the benefits are for businesses in joining WBP, for use in WBP marketing materials.
- WBP to develop materials and resources to market the WBP including the benefits it would bring to businesses.
- Set up a WBP 'forum' for advisors to business.

Decision Points

- Membership of WBP network by companies implementing biodiversity actions – endorsement by WBP steering group for this action.
- Discuss criteria for entry of businesses to WBP network groups and the benefits for businesses in joining the WBP network.
- Setting up of WBP Business and Biodiversity Forum.
- Endorse the revised WBP membership application form for businesses (Annex 1).

References:

| <http://bioamrywiaethcymru.org.uk/English/GetInvolved/default.aspx?pid=3>
| <http://www.arenanetwork.org/BioDiversity/Default.aspx>
| <http://www.businessbiodiversitywales.com>
| <http://www.wildlifepartnerships.org/aims.htm>
| <http://www.countdown2010.net/business>

ANNEX 1

WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP: APPLICATION FORM

This is the application form for the WBP network. Members of the WBP network, will be invited to join WBP Task and Finish groups and also to apply for membership of the WBP Steering Group when the membership changes. Membership of the WBP Steering Group will normally be for a three year term in the first instance.

Please complete the following boxes and return to the address below. Applications to join the network can be made at any time. If you require any advice on completing this form, please contact: Delcie Simkin, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Policy, Welsh Assembly Government, Crown Building, Northgate Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2JS Tel 01970 653821 e-mail:

delcie.simkin@wales.gsi.gov.uk

1. Your contact details

Contact name:

Business name:

Address:

Post code:

Email address:

Telephone number(s):

2. Business contribution

- Please indicate the name of the business you would be representing in your role on WBP:
- You will be expected to enable your attendance at relevant meetings or, if necessary, to send a substitute in your absence: has your business agreed to do this?
- Your business will also be expected to provide additional support through communications, publicity or other staff: has your business agreed in principle to provide this support?
- Please outline the work that your business has undertaken to reduce its impacts on biodiversity? (**max.50 words**):

3. Business contribution

In no more than **50 words**, tell us about the contribution that your business would give to the Wildlife in Wales :

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)

Data Protection

The information you give on this form is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998. We will keep it confidential and only use it for Wales Biodiversity Partnership purposes. We will keep this information during the period of your membership with us. Please tick this box if you agree Ticked

Title: WBP Planning

Wales Biodiversity Week 2008

The Wales Biodiversity Week 2008 will take place between the 7th & 15th June. WBP will support the event centrally, providing merchandising (6.2k proposed – jute bags, notebooks, calendars, pencils & magnifiers), publicity and a centralised web events calendar. An evaluation of WBW 07 is provided in Annex 1.

Decision Points

- a) To agree to circulate WBW date (7th - 15th June) to your contacts
- b) To agree to host events and/or coordinate with LBAPs in hosting events
- c) To agree to send event details to LBAPs/WBP secretariat for publicity purposes

WBP Conference 2008

This year's WBP conference will take place on the 10th and 11th September at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. A UK BAP one day gathering will precede the conference on the 9th Sept (same venue), the format of which is still to be decided. In terms of the WBP Conference, one suggested theme focuses on biodiversity within the sustainable development framework; how can we put biodiversity and the environment at the heart of the SD framework? If acceptable, a working title will be developed from this. As it's a broad theme, other suggestions already submitted can be woven in if feasible e.g. citizen science projects involving national/regional recording/volunteering initiatives; ecosystem service provision in river catchments.

WBP Conference 2009

Suggested dates are Sept 2nd & 3rd; Sept 9th & 10th; Sept 16th & 17th
Suggested location is South Wales, options include: University of Glamorgan;
Swansea University; Cardiff University.

Decision Points

- a) To circulate the Aberystwyth WBP conference date (10th & 11th Sept) to your contacts & to note the date of the UK event (9th Sept)
- b) To agree this year's conference theme
- c) To suggest/volunteer as a speaker/workshop facilitator
- d) To agree the WBP 2009 conference date and location

Wales Biodiversity Week 2007 Report

This year's events for Wales Biodiversity Week (9th -17th June) were very successful. In all over 100 events were hosted, providing a platform for biodiversity through education, fun, awareness raising and pledges for wildlife.

Merchandise consisted of jute bags, explorer notebooks, magnifying glasses, pencils and 'Nature's Calendar' posters –all branded with the WBP logo and website signposting. A similar merchandise package is proposed for 2008.

Highlights include the launch of the BBC Breathing Cities Springwatch Festival in Swansea on the 9th June which marked a year of action for the city; Over 1800 public pledges were made to 'do one thing for wildlife' at this event alone and Jane Davidson AM was on hand to support the event and witness the enthusiasm of all who took part. Iolo Williams opened the 'One Planet: Wildlife and Climate Change Funday' at Llangollen and the Biodiversity Fair hosted at Plas Tan y Bwlch was a great success. Similarly, the Go Wild! Event at Memorial Park Meadows, Pontllanfraith, was well attended with an enthusiastic audience.

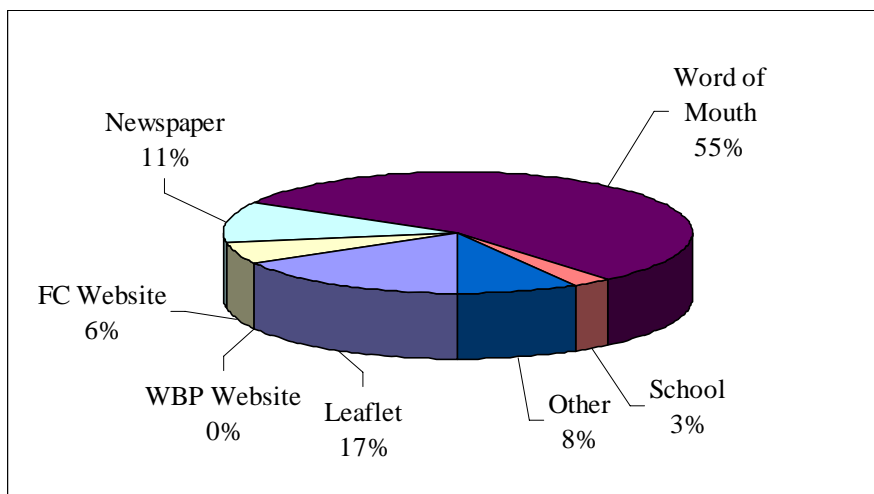
- **Original** – In Wales, the annual, coordinated week of countrywide events and activities organised specifically to promote and raise awareness of action to protect local biodiversity is a success story which other countries now wish to model.
- **Established** – The 9-days of events involving a wide range of partners is now firmly established in the environmental calendar, running between the second and third weekends in June.
- **Opportunities** – The week provides opportunities for regional and partnership working and networking.
- **Successful** – Thousands of people attend WBW events across Wales. Public questionnaire responses indicate that WBW events are extremely successful ways of raising awareness of positive and personal actions to protect biodiversity.
- **Regional Working** – Regionally coordinated events are a key feature of WBW, pooling LBAP resources and facilitating partnership; examples include;
 - Biodiversity Fair hosted at Plas Tan y Bwlch by Denbigshire, Conwy and Wrexham biodiversity coordinators - a fantastic example of shared resources, enthusiasm and ideas.
- *Go Wild* in South Wales is hosted in alternate years by the two neighbouring counties of Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly bringing together regional partners in an enormous and successful event.
- **Commitment** – Local biodiversity partnerships have already committed to future events during Wales Biodiversity Week in 2008.
- **National Partners** – The new BBC Breathing Places campaign has provided much needed media support for local biodiversity work. The coordinated link between the BBC and WBP is an effective alliance, maximising publicity and reinforcing the public's awareness of Wildlife in Wales.

- **Schools** – The number of schools involved in Wales Biodiversity Week has is a vital component of the strategy and LBAPs are very effective in engaging schools. In Conwy, school activities were enjoyed by 810 pupils from 13 local schools in 2007.

WALES BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2007: PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE

36 forms were returned from WBW events across Wales.

1. How did you find out about today's event?



2006 Results:

word of mouth 42%: just stumbled across it: 18%, children told at school: 1%, newspaper: 10%, leaflet 16%, television: 0%, WBP website: 2%, other websites: 2%

2005 Results:

just stumbled across it: 8%, children told at school: 8%, newspaper: 18%, leaflet: 20%, television: 1%, WBP website: 4%, other websites: 6%

2004 Results:

just stumbled across it: 17%, children told at school: 9%, newspaper: 11%, leaflet: 8%, television: 1%, WBP website: 5%, other websites: 2%,

2003 Results:

just stumbled across it: 9%, children told at school: 19%, newspaper: 17%, leaflet: 12%, television: 1%, word of mouth: 21%, CCW website: 1%, other websites: 4%, other:16%

2. **This event is about something called biodiversity. Before the event, what did that word mean to you?** *(And after the event, has your understanding of the word changed?)*

Here are the responses:

Amrywiaeth natur. / The diversity of nature.

Holistic approach to life.

Not really. *(Yes.)*

Diversity of natural resources – re-use, recycle etc. *(It has reinforced my understanding.)*

Looking at the environment “holistically”. *(Similar – but now more aware of the diversity in Wales which needs protection.)*

The diversity of life; species, habitats, their ecosystems and genetic variability. *(Same.)*

Aspects of the environment, wildlife, habitat of areas. *(Not sure.)*

(No important as ever.)

Using world’s resources economically. *(Understanding wealth of natural resources and their vulnerability.)*

The diversity of biological organisms. *(No, it hasn’t changed.)*

Different forna (sic) and nature. *(Far better understanding.)*

A wide range of species within a habitat. *(No.)*

Er, lay orf. I’ve been working in ecology for years and I still don’t know. *(No.)*

Biodiversity → different habitats/species. *(Different species/habitats.)*

Recycle. Look after wildlife – flowers, birds, animals. *(Try and do more.)*

Recycling, preservation. *(Same.)*

Range of wildlife in environment. *(Not much.)*

Appreciation of all forms of life. Living together. *(Strengthening of above.)*

Different types of species – plant and animal. *(Same.)*

Don’t know. *(Don’t know.)*

Plants and wildlife. *(No.)*

Didn’t know. *(Taking care of the planet for the future.)*

The environment, protecting nature etc. *(No.)*

Interdependence of flora and fauna. *(Much the same.)*

Same. *(No.)*

Anything to do with living things. *(Diversity of wildlife and habitats.)*

Nature’s intricacies and their support. *(No.)*

How the way we live and the way we treat our environment affects the state of the world we live in.

Understood meaning OK as I am a biologist. *(Unchanged.)*

Natur / Nature. *(Ydi pwisgwydd amddyn natur. /Yes – important to defend nature.)*

The diversity within nature. *(Same as before.)*

Earth’s variety. *(Same.)*

I didn’t know the word before. *(I got the translation, and understand the importance.)*

Save our environment. *(No.)*

Understanding/protecting nature. *(As above.)*

3. How do you feel about nature?**Views from members of the public:**

Mae'n gwenud bywyd yn fwy diddorol a hardd. / It makes life interesting and beautiful.

Committed to it's sustainability.

Needs to be preserved and protected for future generations.

Staying plas Tan y Bwlch with RSPB group. Always interested in birds and other wildlife (especially as I live in London!).

That humans are too removed from their "animal" nature – and need to return to a partnership with the natural world.

Passionate about conserving it. Humble in its infinite variability, simplicity and complexity. Awed by its power.

I love all aspects of nature and the environment and am passionate about recycling.

We ought to respect it more!

We should respect all life and abuse none of it.

Nature is more important than humans – we rely on it.

Needs to be managed.

Conservation aware.

It's a living.

A resource we need to care for / cherish.

Good – look after it.

It is our duty to preserve nature for our descendants. So much to be enjoyed.

We need to value it and respect it.

Enjoy it, member of RSPB etc. It's essential we all do our best to ensure nature can thrive and improve.

Think its very important to teach children to respect it and protect it.

It should be cared for and treated well.

Very important.

I love it!

Very important to us now and for future generations.

Passionately.

Support and encourage it whenever possible.

Good.

Nature needs all the support we can provide – it is at the heart of life.

Nature is fascinating and beautiful and we are so lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

We are a part of it and must try to educate everyone in this belief.

Pwysig iawn. / Very important.

I like it.

Protect it. It's beautiful.

I think it's a nice place to relax and you have to protect the nature.

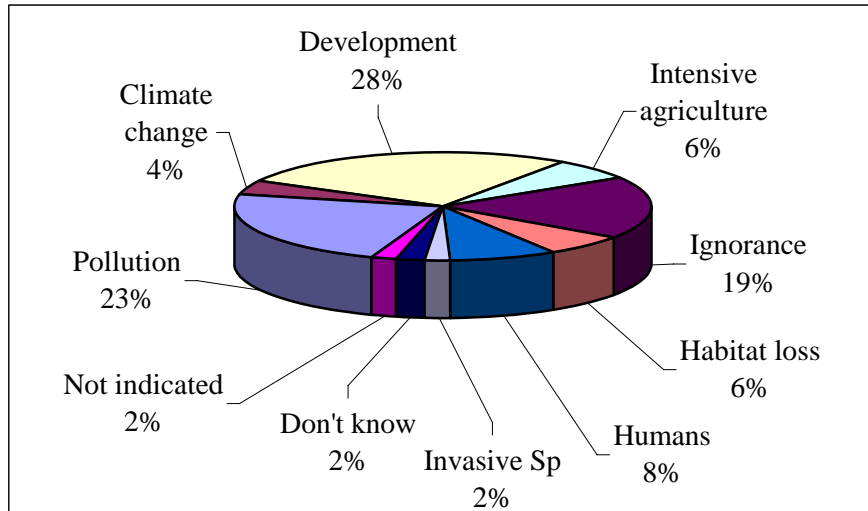
Nature lovers.

Preserve at all times.

4. Do you understand the importance of protecting biodiversity in Wales?

Of the 36 members of the public who had returned a form, all but one had indicated YES! One form had no boxes ticked.

5. What do you think the main threat to your local biodiversity is?



2006 Results:

Pollution: 22%, Climate change: 7%, Development: 20%, People: 16%, Intensive Agriculture/Pesticides: 6%, Tourism 1%, Ignorance: 13%

2005 Results:

Pollution: 19%, Climate Change: 18%, Development: 17%, People: 7%, Intensive Agriculture: 6%

2004 Results:

Pollution: 24%, Development: 18%, People: 18%, Litter: 12%

2003 Results:

Development : 33%, People: 17%, Pollution: 15%, Ignorance/apathy: 7%

Comments received include:

Sbwriel, codi tai newydd, ceir, mwg o ffatrioedd (ond nid yn ein ardal ni). / Rubbish, building new houses, cars, smoke from factories (but not in our area).

Farming practice mostly (Anglesey).

Pollution.

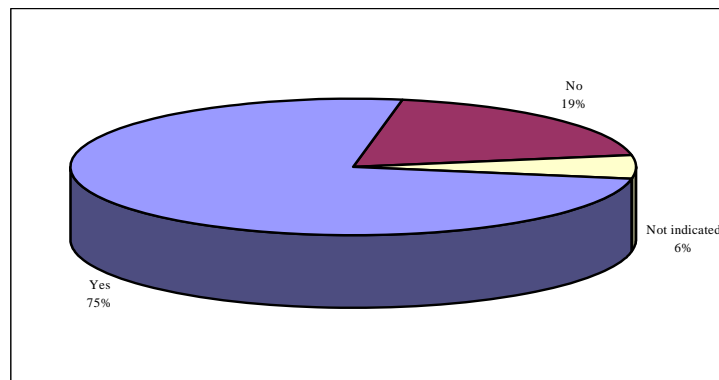
Buildings, over development, urban development (Greater london, heathrow).

Ignorance and apathy and wanting things easy and instant, thus encouraging profit to dominate political decision-making where it concerns environmental issues.

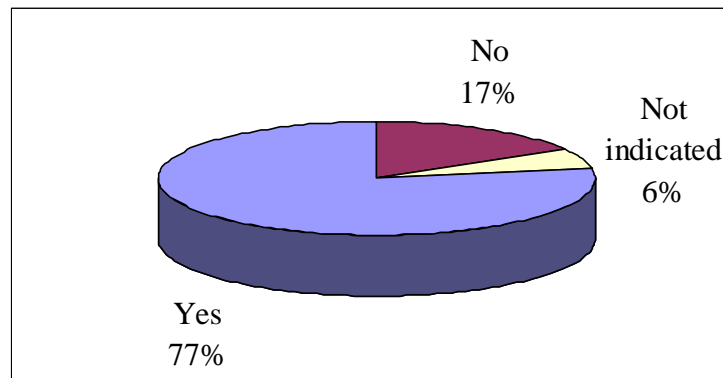
Ignorance.

Chemical pollution, general global warming, lack of vegetation for wildlife habitat.
 Apathy and lack of information.
 Over development by man – housing, industry, quarries.
 Peat cutting (large scale), people not understanding how important it is.
 Mismanagement / not enough people working to help.
 Intensive farming; uncaring people eg dog-walkers.
 Arrogant land-owners.
 Development from housing/industry.
 We manage a caravan park – recycle paper, glass, tins, our own plastic and cardboard. Should be more facilities and NO CHARGES.
 Emissions, housing developments.
 Supermarkets.
 Pollution of rivers.
 Housing growth, ignorance and apathy.
 Building.
 Don't know – pollution?
 Roads and traffic.
 The lack of knowledge. May people are unaware of the threat to the planet because of land-filling.
 Over development of green areas.
 This modern way of life.
 Lack of understanding by the public.
 Man-made pressures –0 demand on resources.
 Climate change, poor farming methods, over development.
 The apathy of people, whodon't think the small amount they can do will help in the larger scheme of things.
 Bad Council policies (importing non-native plants).
 Dynoliaeth. / *Humanity*.
 Building of new houses and estates.
 Lack of understanding/commitment.
 As always – MAN!!

6. This event has shown me that I can make small changes to my lifestyle for the benefit of biodiversity



7. **This event has provided me with information on how I can get involved with local organisations and events, and whom I can contact for more information and advice.**



8. **What is the main message you will take home from today's event?**

Bwyd gwyllt yn hwyl. / *Nature is fun.*

The need to protect our wildlife.

Need to continue to protect and care for all aspects of the environment.

Nature is boundless and we are lucky to be able to enjoy and benefit from the things it provides for us.

Recycle. Look after the countryside.

Spread the word and promote!

Many are working to protect the natural environment, but too many are complacent.

It's just as important to get rid of trees as well as planting them.

Already involved.

A start has been made on protecting valuable habitats.

It's more for when I'm not being paid.

Positive outlook on environment. The importance of getting involved/volunteering.

Recycle – look after wildlife – birds, animals, flowers etc.

Learned about bats – no mention of biodiversity (except pointing out that it's biodiversity week).

Reiterate what previously thought.

Nature is in our hands.

Refuse the plastic packaging.

To be more concerned about recycling my waste and to help wherever possible.

There are people around who do care.

Presently do all I can to support and encourage wildlife.

Get out and enjoy wildlife and get the kids involved.

Nature needs all our help to preserve biodiversity and we should do our best to recycle.

Everyone can help. Just a little, done by millions of people can make a difference, so don't think it's not worth doing your bit.

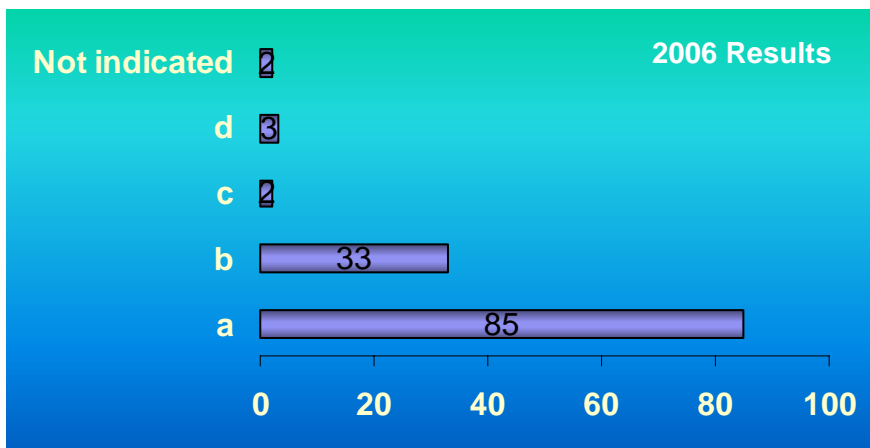
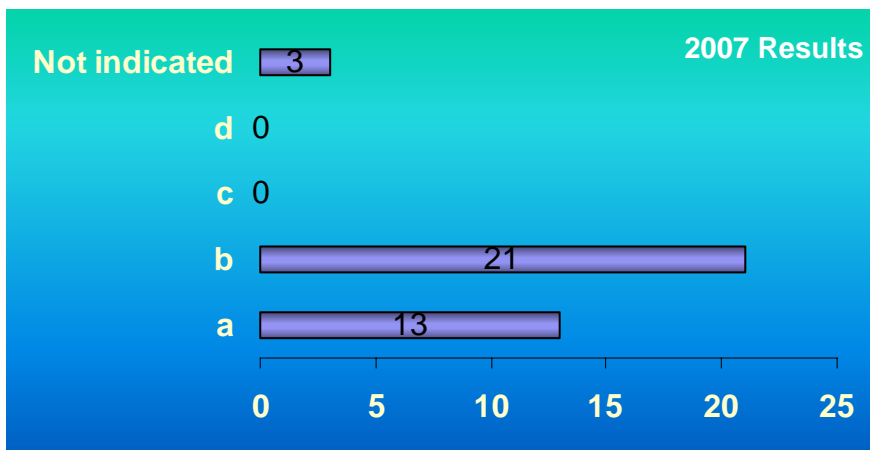
Geology underlies biodiversity.

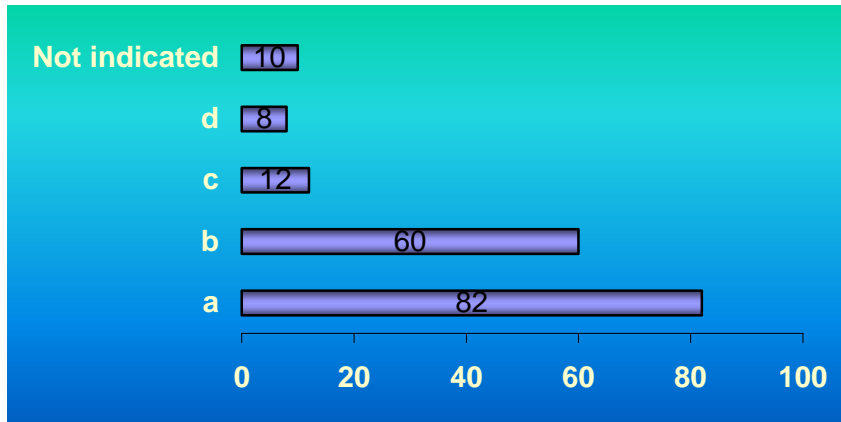
Mwynhau amgylchoedd oddi amgylch. / *Enjoy the environment around us.*

Small changes are as important as big ones.
Protect Wales / environment.
That the Welsh nature is well protected.
The need to recycle.
Be more aware of protection required.

9. Which of these statements describes your personal situation? (Many people had selected more than one option.)

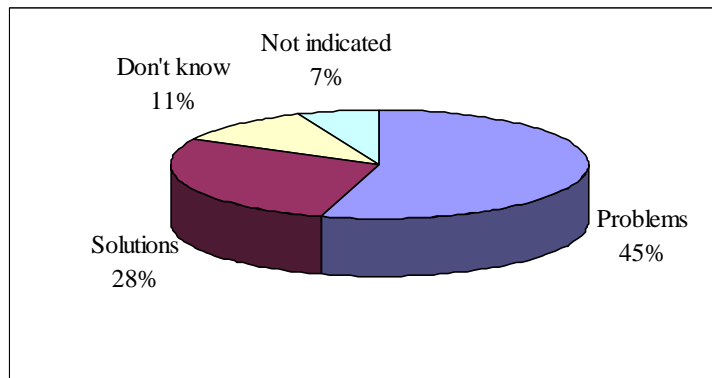
- a. I am making an effort to take care of the environment, but it will only have an impact if others also make an effort.
- b. I am making an effort to take care of the environment and it is having an impact.
- c. I don't know what to do to take care of the environment.
- d. None of these.





11. Do you feel that you know more about environmental problems, or solutions to them? Please tick a box.

(NB: 11 people had ticked both the “problems” and “solutions” boxes.)



2006 Results:

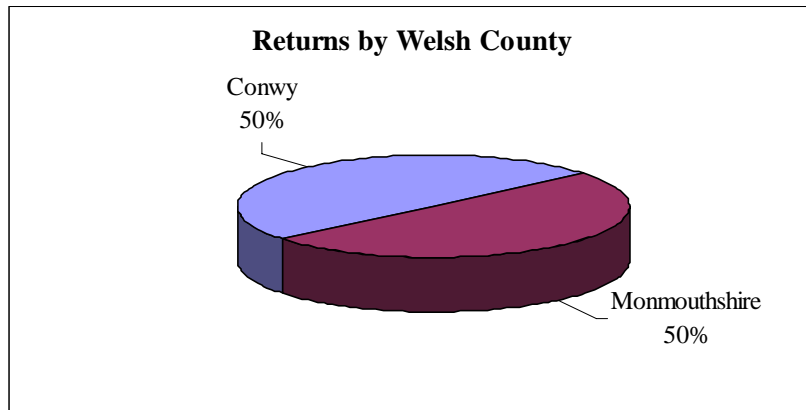
Problems: 45% Solutions: 19% Don't Know: 14% Not Indicated: 6%

2005 Results:

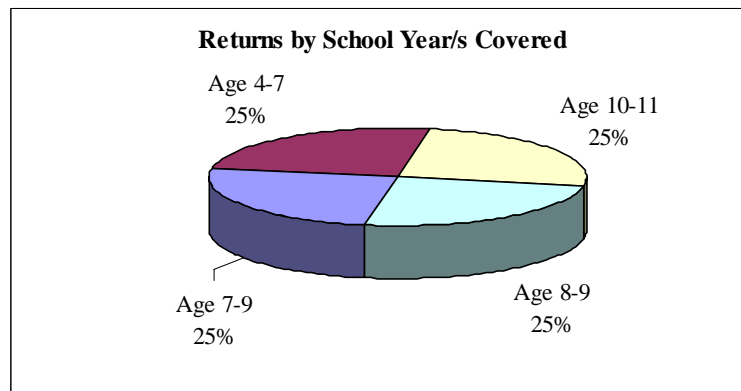
Problems: 45% Solutions: 22% Don't Know: 19% Not Indicated

WALES BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2007: TEACHER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

4 Questionnaires were returned, from 4 primary schools in 2 Welsh counties:



1. Teachers were asked to give the age range that they teach:



2. **Was the event held at your school, or externally?**

Of the forms received, 2 attended in-house events, and two travelled to external venues

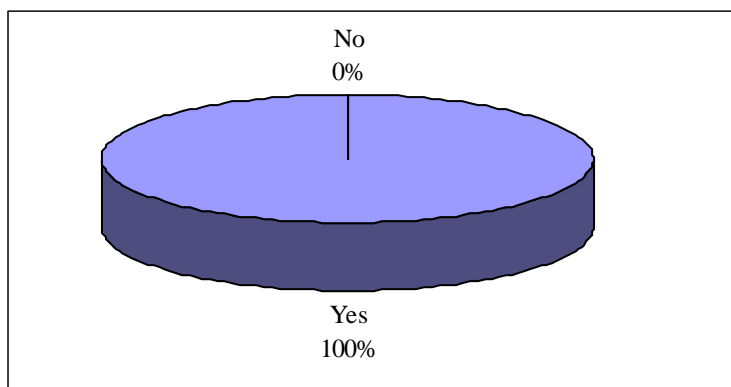
3. **If you attended an external event, where was it held?**

Two teachers stated that their class had attended external events at Tintern Station.

4. **Did the event support the curricular development of your year group/s?**

All four agreed that the events supported the curriculum.

5. **Would you be interested in further biodiversity activities?**



6. **Where would you like these activities to take place?**

All four respondents would like further biodiversity activities to take place at their respective schools.

7. **Were the teaching methods used at the Wales Biodiversity Week event, or by the person who visited your school, appropriate?**

A resounding “Yes” from 100% of those who returned a form (same as 2005 & 2006).

8. **Have you used the teachers’ pages on the Wales biodiversity Partnership’s website?**

Two teachers had used the web pages, and two had not. Reasons for not using the teacher’s pages were given as:

Heb gael cyfle eto, ond yn bwriadu gwneud! / *Haven’t had an opportunity yet, but I intend to!*

Ddim yn ymwybodol o rhain. / *Not aware of these.*

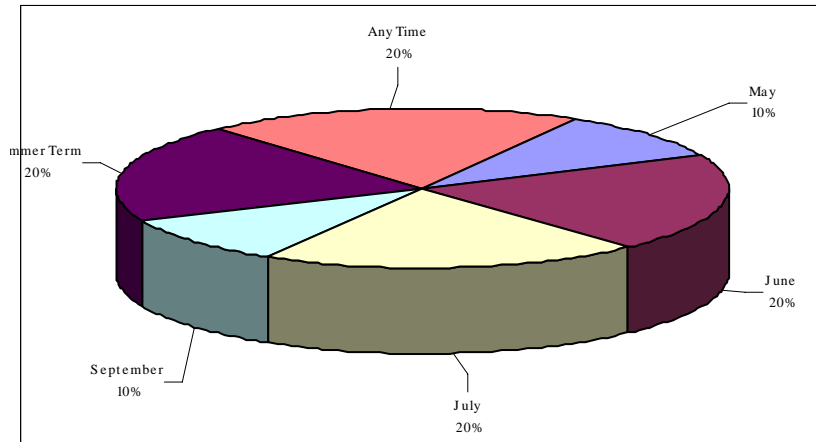
9. **Have you received a Nature’s Calendar wall-chart? If yes, have you found it useful?**

Only one of the four teachers who returned forms had received a wall-chart, and they commented:

Do, newydd e dderbyn gan y Swyddog Bioamrywiaeth Sirol. / *Yes, just received it from the County Biodiversity Officer.*

10. **What time of year would you like these activities to take place?**

All suggested more than one month/term, one would be happy for events to take place at any time.



11. Did your pupils enjoy the event/activity? Do you have any other comments?

Plant wedi gwir fwynhau cymryd rhan yn yr amrywiol weithgareddau a dysgu ffeithiau am greadiuriad y Môr. Roedd y gweithgareddau a'r cyflwyniaid yn addas iawn ac wedi codi ymwybyddiaeth y disgyblion o fio-amrywiaeth morol. / *The pupils have really enjoyed taking part in the various activities and learning facts about maritime creatures. The activities and the introduction was very suitable and it has raised awareness amongst the pupils of maritime biodiversity.*

Do wir, yn fawr iawn. Roedd y swyddog ddaeth i'r ysgol yn rhagorol a chanddi berthynas wych hefo'r plant (Nia Jones). / *Yes, indeed, very much. The officer (Nia Jones), who visited the school was excellent and she had an excellent relationship with the children.*

A fantastic day, with lots of opportunities for follow-up work. One of the best trips ever!

Thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you very much.

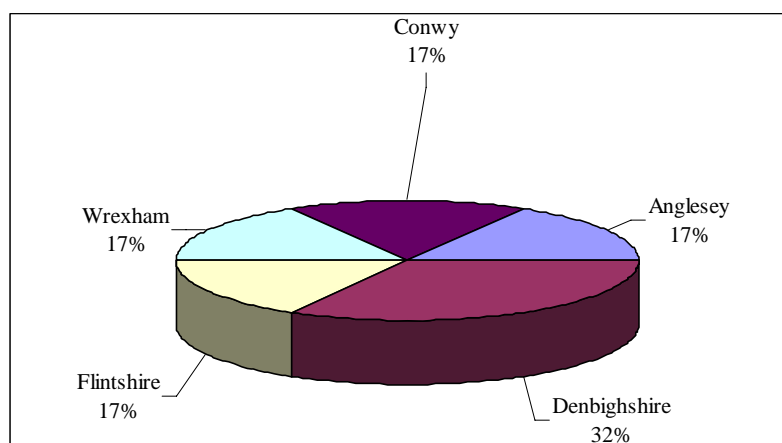
WALES BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2007: EVENT ORGANISER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please describe event/activity:

While events took place throughout Wales during Biodiversity Week 2007, only three Event Organiser's questionnaires had been returned, one from each of the following:
Cemlyn Creature Count
Biodiversity Train Ride
One Planet: A Festival of Welsh Biodiversity

2. Which LBAP group was your activity linked to?

Several LBAPs were represented at one of the events:



3. Who did your event target?

All three events were aimed at families.

4. What were the main objectives of the event/activity?

As with every Wales biodiversity Week, the overall priority of the events was to **raise awareness and generate enthusiasm for biodiversity.**

Responses received:

How many different species can you count in 2 hours at Cemlyn Wildlife Trust nature reserve

Learn about the biodiversity and geodiversity of Dee Valley, value of biodiversity, and have fun!

Showcase plight of biodiversity and work done by conservation organisations, LBAPs etc, awareness, effect of climate change, have fun.



- 5. What was the duration of the event/activity?**
One event took place in the evening, one lasted a whole day and the other for half a day.
- 6. Was the event open to the public?**
Yes, all 3 events were open to the public.
- 7. Do you feel that this event was successful? Why?**
Yes – lots of people, good weather and over 140 species!
Definitely – huge response. 130 people came, loads of good feedback.
Yes – lots of people through the door, lots of compliments from public and people displaying / running activities.
- 8. What was the actual attendance (best estimate)?**
1,160 adults and children attended the three events for which forms had been returned. Many more attended other events that took place Wales-wide
- 9. Was there celebrity involvement? If yes, then who?**
One event was attended by the local councillor, and another was opened by BBC Wales' Iolo Williams.
- 10. Was the event bilingual (Welsh and English)?**
All three events were bilingual.
- 11. Was there access for the disabled?**
All three events were accessible by everyone.
- 12. Was there media coverage?**
Two events were featured in newspaper articles.
- 13. Have you found the merchandise useful?**
All three organisers were enthusiastic about this year's WBW merchandise and provided the following comments:
Notepads, pencils and magnifiers great to give out and perfect combination of merchandise for an event such as the creature Count. Bags are a great idea and a good way of getting the message across. Comments about the bags have all been extremely good.
Great as prizes, making event more special, tying into theme of the week as a whole. Bags particularly went down well – I had people fighting over them!
Fantastic for branding the event and links with others. Brilliant prizes for kids and bags were superb for all – really went down well.
- 14. Do you think that Wales biodiversity Week is worthwhile?**
A resounding YES! Comments as follows:
WBW is a fantastic opportunity for the biodiversity community to come together to involve the public in the work that we do. WBW seems to really have become established and welcomed. WBW is an asset to

walks and used as an example of success and best practice from other regions trying to establish such a week.

Hard work but worth it!

It's fantastic! Hard work but so worthwhile, gets better every year and can't wait for next year!

Recommendations for the future

- **Continued central coordination and support from WBP is essential to provide a national focus and maintain the high standard of biodiversity awareness events across Wales.**
- **Continued use of the established biodiversity branding to provide a professional and recognisable identity for biodiversity in Wales. This is easily achieved by continued use of the biodiversity event banners and by production of recycled pencils and magnifiers that carry the biodiversity icons and WBP web address. Foster links with WBP partners to pool merchandise and/or source Welsh products.**
- **Continued use of the WBP website as a central online searchable database for all Wales Biodiversity Week events. Implementation of an online pledge system linked to LBAPs/WBP for follow up.**
- **Keep messages simple and relevant**
- **Positive solutions to environmental problems are needed to encourage and enable people to change their behaviour.**
- **Events must be targeted at the full spectrum of potential audiences, ranging from specialised training provided for enthusiasts to taster events at shopping centres and country parks to enthuse and inspire those who are currently not engaged or interested.**
- **Encourage the use of new media: conservation video diaries produced with BBC2 W, Wildlife photography competitions and exhibitions, environmental art and poetry.**
- **Expand schools work – for example: suggestions included wildlife gardens in all Welsh schools, biodiversity training for teachers, and increased use of the ‘outdoor classroom’.**
- **Combine effort and work in partnership with existing UK wide and Wales wide campaigns e.g: BBC’s Breathing Places, CCW ‘My Place’, National Museums and Galleries of Wales public interface projects and implementation of the WAG Environment Strategy action plans.**

Of course, biodiversity events take place through the year in Wales, reinforcing the messages of WBW and providing fun and educational days out for participants. Building the momentum towards biodiversity is crucial with the general public as well as the language we use and this is a task that requires an all-year focus.

WBPSG-4
PAPER 13
20th Feb 2008

Title: WBP communications and conference funding award

WBP Communications Framework

A biodiversity communications framework and partner template has been produced (Annex 1a) to improve internal and external communications with a wide variety of stakeholders. The framework aims for a coordinated and consistent approach and identifies the actions required to successfully implement the communications strategy. Annual monitoring and evaluation is proposed measured against the actions in the framework and the WBP secretariat will update as appropriate.

The WBP website is an integral element of the communications strategy and a phased web reconfiguration is proposed to highlight WBP core messages, enhance site functionality, navigation and reorganise content (Appendix 1b). The first phase involves the home page and a 'mock up' of the WBP web site home page has been produced (<http://demo.wisshost.net/wbp>). Estimated total cost for the web refresh is £3.5k.

Decision Points

- a) To endorse the communications framework concept
- b) To offer suggestions for improvement
- c) To assist in implementing the actions in the communication framework
- d) To endorse the web reconfiguration & review the demo WBP web site page and feedback

WBP post conference funding

At the 2007 WBP conference in Wrexham, conference contributors were given the opportunity to apply for funding based on workshop outputs and/or ongoing work requiring financial support.

An amount of £500 per project was offered with some flexibility to cover additional costs. Proposals have been received and are listed in Annex 2.

Decision Points

- a) To review the project proposals and funding amount
- b) To endorse the concept for future conference events

WBP SG4 Paper 13; Annex 1a

WBP Communications Framework

Audience Stream	Target Group	Activities	Action	Responsibility	Time frame
Non specialist audience	a) General public b) Children & young people c) Ethnic community	Core communication messages	'How you can help wildlife in your area' text on WBP website	ST	By Mar 08
			Signpost opportunities to 'get involved' on WBP website	ST	By Mar 08
			Listing of all partner organisations on WBP website	ST	By Apr 08
		Shows/events	Attend shows/events & raise awareness/action	All	Ongoing
		University career fairs	Welsh Speaking WBP Members to attend University career fairs	TBA	Begin Spring 08
		Wales Biodiversity Week	Merchandise/publicity & promotion Link with LBAPs & partner organisations Event hosting	ST ST LBAPs/partner organisations	By Apr 08
		BBC Breathing Places Campaign	Reinforce understanding and awareness of campaign. Shape campaign where lead	BCTV/RSBP/WTW	Ongoing
			Link in with BB campaign to ensure Wales representation at BB meetings; disseminate information to LBAP partnerships & LRCs	ST	Ongoing
Shows/events/meetings targeted at ethnic community	Gain more ethnic community understanding of biodiversity & increase participation	BEN/ALL	Ongoing		
WBP partnership	Staff and members of wider partnership Communications officers of member organisations; volunteers within each organisation	Core communication messages	Key messages on website 'Who we are' explanation on website 'What we do' explanation on website Links to members on website Membership form on website	ST ST ST ST ST	Begin Nov 07 Begin Nov 07 Begin Nov 07 Begin Nov 07 Begin Nov 07

		Task & Finish Groups	Identify communications officers in partnership & collate key biodiversity messages	ST	Ongoing
			Disseminate timely, relevant messages & information signposting	ST	Ongoing
			Ensure representation of key members based on speciality & interest	ALL	Begin Nov 07
		SG Meetings	Disseminate meeting papers, minutes & Actions for all	ST	Ongoing
			Invite members to carry out actions based on speciality & interest	ST	Ongoing
		Publications	Bigger picture/roadmap schematic	ST	Begin Feb 08
		Outcome 21	Develop key messages and stakeholder engagement plan	CCW	Begin Nov 07
LBAP Coordinators	LBAP Coordinators & LRC staff	LBAP meetings	Attend LBAP meetings, respond to queries; offer support & WBP guidance; research issues	ST	Ongoing
		Written statement	'What WBP can offer' introduction & 'What we are trying to achieve'	ST	Begin mid Sept 07
		Email	Short, supportive emails (3 main points) & signpost to further information	ST	Monthly, after every ST meeting
		One to one	Post LBAP meetings & during volunteer days	ST	Monthly or bimonthly
		Volunteering	Get involved in an LBAP activity & record activities	ST	Monthly

Policy makers and professional staff	Local and Public authority staff	Meetings/guidance/seminars	NERC guidance document NERC guidance bullet points NERC guidance seminars Biodiversity Champions progress monitoring	WAG WAG WAG WAG/CCW	Completed Completed Jul-Dec 2008 Annually
	Elected representatives	Core communication	Invite comments arising from SG papers & minutes	WAG	Ongoing
Farmers & landowners	FWAG, NFUC, FUW	Meetings/guidance/seminars	Secure greater action & decision making in favour of biodiversity	ALL	Ongoing
			Foster links with farming representatives & landowners	ALL	Ongoing
Education	Schools, Higher Education colleges & Universities	Meetings/guidance/seminars	Contact to establish practical ways to incorporate key biodiversity issues	ALL	Ongoing
			Meeting & action plan to address skills gap within environmental sector	ST	Ongoing
			Audit of organisations involved in classroom OoCL	ALL	
			Breathing Places Education strand	RSPB	Ongoing
			Influence school curriculum to take account of biodiversity	ALL	Ongoing
Business	Arena, CBI Wales, Wildlife Trust Benchmarking, SFC	Meetings/guidance/seminars	Make links with industry & business organisations to secure greater action & decision making in favour of biodiversity	Arena?	Ongoing
Crosscutting Themes	BARS	Meetings/guidance/seminars	Develop & advocate BARS as the reporting and communication tool for Biodiversity	ST/ALL	Ongoing
	Conference	Presentations	Develop & deliver national conference	ST lead	Begin Nov 07

		Workshops Exchange Fair Networking			
	Web Site	Content management	Add events, news, announcements; check web links every 3 months	ST	Begin Nov 07
		Restructure	Restructure to reflect biodiversity outcomes in WES & reflect WBP key messages/priorities	ST	By Apr 08
	Valuing our Environment	Report	Developing an evidence base for the importance of the natural environment	EAW/NTW	Completed
	Community Strategies Sustainable development forums Spatial Planning Group Local Service Board representation	Meetings/guidance/seminars	Secure greater action & decision making in favour of biodiversity by influencing development of key strategies with biodiversity linkage	All	

BB Breathing Places; BARS Biodiversity Action Reporting System; BEN Black & Ethnic Environment Network; EAW Environment Agency Wales; ESH Environment, Sustainability & Housing; FWAG Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group; FUW Farmers Union Wales; HEA Higher Education Authorities; LBAPs Local Biodiversity Action Plans; LRCs Local Record Centres; NFUC National Farmers Union Cymru; NT Natural Trust; OoCL Out of classroom learning; ST Secretariat (WBP); WAG Welsh Assembly Government; WBP Wales Biodiversity Partnership; WES Wales Environment Strategy;

WBP SG4 Paper 13; Annex 1a

Organisation & contact details	Please list representation on Environmental Policy Gateway Groups attended by your organisation: (e.g. Spatial Planning Group, SD forum; Local Service Board)	Please list the key Biodiversity Messages from your organisation	How would you improve biodiversity communications in Wales? (please list suggestions/comments for internal & external communications improvements)

WBP SG4 Paper 13; Annex 1b

Project Name & Description

Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) design and CMS upgrade to biodiversitywales.org.uk / bioamrywiaethcymru.org.uk website

Project overview

The project is a revision of the design template to make the site more attractive to the end user and less 'dry'. The goal is to engage the audience with images and content they can immediately relate to and ensure it is a website they feel involved in.

Within this refresh, the new design will be integrated with a Content Management System (CMS) to produce a fully updateable website, with opportunities for multiple authoring and editing.

Content Management System (CMS)

Unlike the current web editing system, the CMS provides a scalable, user administrable web based application which acts both as web site generator and site editor. The main benefit of the full CMS is that ANY authorised person can manage site content, therefore site maintenance can be a shared task, either within the organisation or with WiSS.

The necessary tools are already in place to enable a multi-authoring scenario with perhaps one person being responsible for each specific area of the website.

A powerful range of tools enables web site administrators/owners to manage and maintain a dynamic and interactive data-driven web site using familiar editing techniques within a web browser interface. The CMS provides bilingual toggling, document and image upload tools and a print page option as standard.

WiSS' Content Management System will provide Wales Biodiversity Partnership with a robust website solution together with the necessary flexibility to match growth as and when needs arise.

Note: The Splash page with the language choice goes altogether (having a page with no text on it is a negative when it comes to searching/search engine ranking) - and is replaced by a Home page in English and a second one in Welsh, both looking exactly the same, just text in the appropriate language.

Both URL's would be used in publicity material (I think they already are) so Welsh users would go directly to the Welsh home page, English to English. Toggle would enable language swapping at any time. This is the method preferred by the Welsh Language Board.

In summary, this is a project to enhance the current website both visually and content wise, so that it addresses the client's technical needs and audience expectations.

Costings

To redesign the website as discussed and described
(see demo page <http://demo.wisshost.net/wbp>)

£1,500 – 2,500 +VAT to reconfigure the website (lower time estimate received from WISS)

£1,000 +VAT To build the CMS website

£250 +VAT To provide XML feed to BBC. This allows our events to port directly to the BBC maximising coverage.

£500 +VAT To provide facility for Events to be filtered by local authority and for on line form so visitors can fill in pledge cards with their details.

~£250 To migrate the website content (£1,500 +VAT if WISS carry this out; minimal cost if WBP do the legwork following training)

£3500 Total estimated cost

Cost of amendments to brief during site build

Amendments to the requirements during site build will be assessed upon receipt and discussed with the client. Should this need arise, WiSS will charge for such work on a day rate agreed in advance with WBP.

Day rate for additional work £500.00+VAT

Additional work covers changes to original brief, additional elements, major changes to site design and layout

Please note: - at no time will WiSS Limited carry out additional work without first communicating a fixed price to the client or estimate additional days required to complete item of work.

WEB Contractor

David Waller
WISS
Parc Menai
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 4FG
Tel: 0870 432 9477

WBP Project Manager

Sean McHugh
WBP Support Team
Wildlife Centre
Fountain Road
Tondu
Bridgend
Tel: 01656 726 984

WBP Conference Outputs 2007

Organisation	Proposal	Outline	Cost to WBP
RSPB	Farmland bird seminar report	The document will be brief, eye-catching and contain the list of actions/recommendations and a short commentary from the discussion session. Could be formally presented to the relevant Assembly Ministers to inform the Axis 2 review (Elin Jones AM) and Biodiversity targets (Jane Davidson AM)	£300
CCW - Rob McCall/Clive Walmsley	A Practical Guide to Conserving Carbon and reducing emissions from Conservation Management	Conservation management practices can have a significant effect on carbon storage and emissions. The carbon impacts of potential management procedures are often hidden, contradictory or counter-intuitive. Conservation practitioners are faced with a growing awareness of the importance of considering carbon costs but conflicting messages on how to best address those considerations in the field. The proposed short pdf guide will provide a simple means of assessing likely carbon consequences of 'everyday' commonly used reserve management options, enabling the best option to be selected, while reducing the risk that changes will be	£500 Delivery Date: 1st draft by mid January 2007, for completion by end March 2007

		introduced that threaten the conservation objectives and yet deliver little reduction in emissions. A grading system will be devised that will simplify this process, without diminishing validity of conclusions. The guide will provide links to sources of detailed information for more complex appraisals.	
Butterfly Conservation	Managing the land for Moths and Butterflies – a Farmers’ guide	Bilingual leaflet. Wales’s wide distribution. Match funded with Butterfly Conservation.	£500
Bat Conservation Trust	Bat Training for Trainers Course	<p>Because bats and their roosts are protected, a householder with a roost in their house must consult the appropriate Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO) before taking any action against the bats or their roost. The SNCO must also be consulted before the householder carries out any activities that may affect the bats, for example, timber treatment, roof repairs or cavity wall insulation.</p> <p>On these occasions, the SNCO may contact a local ‘roost visitor’, to visit the householder. They collect information for the SNCO on the species, the structure and the proposed plans, and also provide a valuable service by educating the householder about their bats.</p> <p>Although the roost</p>	<p>£500</p> <p>BCT seeks £500 from WBP to assist in the running of this course. The total amount to run a course like this is estimated to be in the region of £3,000. For more information please contact Kit Stoner, Training Development Officer for the Bat Conservation trust</p>

		<p>visitors are volunteers, it is vital that they provide the correct information on the roost report forms, as advice concerning potential roost disturbance will be based on these forms. To ensure that the SNCOs have a knowledgeable network of volunteers they set up a training scheme for potential roost visitors. They have to carry out this training before they are granted a licence and can be used by the SNCOs as roost visitors. A trainee roost visitor is taken on by a local 'trainer' – someone who has at least two year's experience as a licensed roost visitor, and has attended the SNCO/BCT run <i>Training for Trainers course</i>.</p> <p>The training for trainers course ensures that volunteer trainers are highly familiar with all of the theory in our syllabus (e.g. legislation, biology, ecology, key ID features). Some of this is done on a one-to-one basis; some is done in small groups. The course is split over two days, with day one devoted to legislation concerning bat roosts as well as discussions on the types of roost discovered (e.g. all summer, winter and intermediate roosts). Mitigation and compensation will also be covered as well as what advice can legally be given by a volunteer</p>	
--	--	--	--

		<p>and of course by the SNCO.</p> <p>This course is the foundation for which most bat workers across the UK are equipped to train other bat workers and is fundamental to their training. We require funding to help cover administration, T&S for expert trainers and SNCO staff as well as resources specifically for the course (e.g. roost locations and site visits, bat specimens and training equipment including a resource pack for trainers).</p> <p>(kstoner@bat.org.uk; 020 7501 3627). The course is scheduled to run in February / March 2007.</p>	
<p>Marine Conservation Society -Gill Bell</p>	<p>Guide to Beach Surveys</p>	<p>MCS Beachwatch surveys show that beach litter has increased by 90% since 1994 on UK's beaches. The 2006 survey recorded an average of 2,524.8 items per kilometre of beach surveyed for the Welsh region compared to 1,989 items / km for the UK overall. Beach litter is costly, unsightly and a danger to marine wildlife with over 144 marine species known to have been killed by entanglement and 177 species have ingested litter.</p> <p>MCS co-ordinates</p>	<p>£500-£1000</p> <p>Design and research costs: £500 Translation costs: £50</p> <p>Quantity: 2,000 Printing costs: £620</p>

		<p>national beach surveys and has over 300 groups around the UK, however only 38 surveys were undertaken in Wales for Beachwatch 2007 (compared to 40 in the Channel Islands). The aim of the 'Guide to Litter Surveys' is to increase participation in beach litter surveys and will demonstrate how to carry out a survey safely. The guide will also promote biological data recording.</p> <p>Working with key partners such as CCW, Keep Wales Tidy and local community groups, the leaflet will be disseminated as a means to increase volunteer conservation activity throughout Wales.</p> <p>Costs: The leaflet will be printed in full colour on waterproof paper (suitable for use on the beach) and designed to be pocket size when folded.</p>	
--	--	---	--

WBP Review of Progress

Background/Progress

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership was reconfigured during 2006 and held its first meeting in its new format on 14th February 2007. The purpose of the reconfiguration was to enable the Wales Biodiversity Partnership to be:

Decisive: by establishing a steering group with new meeting structure and template for papers

Inclusive: by strengthening the links to a wider network of WBP membership throughout Wales

Transparent: by providing all papers on the web before steering group meetings and encouraging active membership of the wider network

Responsive: by providing a larger, inter-organisational (WTW, WAG, CCW) support team to assist with gaining and acting on feedback from all members

The Steering Group made an average of 25-30 decisions per meeting during 2007, substantially above the number achieved previously. Through careful use of related funding an additional £345,000 was identified and used for direct nature conservation activity during the 2007.

Plan/Proposals

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/Library/default.aspx?pid=1>

A copy of the WBP Terms of Reference and an up-to-date version of the WBP Work Plan is included at Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

During the meeting the steering group will engage in a short exercise to reflect on our progress so far, recognising any successes and planning further changes to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. **Members of the wider network are asked to input their views prior to the meeting via steering group members or members of the support team.**

Decision Points

To thank all those involved for the improvements made so far.

To agree any immediate suggestions for improvements to our current ways of working.

To remit the support team to review the outputs of the short exercise and suggest any further improvements to ways of working to the July steering group meeting.

Annex 1

Wales Biodiversity Partnership Terms of Reference

The role of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership is to promote action to maintain, enhance and monitor biodiversity in Wales and to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on issues affecting biodiversity in Wales. Specifically, the WBP will:

- Focus on the implementation of Species and Habitat Action Plans and Welsh biodiversity targets.
- Continue to support Local Biodiversity Partnerships in the implementation of LBAPs through guidance, training and promoting access to new financial resources.
- Provide advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on the Section 74 List.
- Seek to raise government, business and public awareness of biodiversity conservation and the part they can play and the action they can take.
- Through monitoring systems including the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), report to the Welsh Assembly Government on progress in implementing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in Wales.
- Ensure that the Welsh perspective is understood in the UK context through representation at the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee and UK Biodiversity Groups working on Habitat and Species Action Plans by co-ordinating approaches to common issues where appropriate.
- Ensure a two-way flow of information between the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee and the Wales Biodiversity Partnership to secure the effective working of both.
- Where required, working through specially convened Task and Finish Groups to progress specific issues.

**Agreed at WBP meeting
1 February 2005**

Annex 2

Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) Work Plan 2007-8

	Action	Target Date	Progress	Lead	Contact
CONSULTATIONS					
1.	Contribute to consultations	Jan 2008	Schedule 9 review (Wildlife and Countryside Act) and Section 50 review are currently out for consultation on DEFRA website. http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/naturalenvironment.htm <i>Closing date 31st Jan 2008</i>	WBP	
TASK & FINISH/WORKING GROUPS					
2.	SG2 Task & Finish Group Wildlife Economy Wales			WBP	Tim Stowe tim.stowe@rspb.org.uk Tel 2920353001/ 07939592904) Nick Bialynicki Birula nick.birula@environment-agency.gov.uk Tel 02920 466144/07770846163) Nigel Adams nigel.adams@wales.gsi.gov.uk Tel 02920 368022) Paul Finch paul.finch@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) Emyr Thomas e.thomas@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01248 385644)
3.	Environment Strategy for Wales Outcome 21 (Action 32) ("favourable condition") Task & Finish Group Purpose: Develop delivery plan		Action Points available on WBP website at:- http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/English/Library/default.aspx?pid=2	WBP	Andrew Peterken andrew.peterken@ccw.gov.uk Tel 02920 772420) Christine Edwards c.todd@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01248 385561) Hazel Drewett h.drewett@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01248 385569)

	and monitor actions and commitments made, advise and make recommendations, develop collaborative approaches to increasing favourable condition		<p>SG3</p> <p>The communication/engagement plan has been drafted to coordinate the messages to be given both within and between organisations.</p> <p>The SG agreed that a communication plan was needed and to include the use of BARS in the proposed methods of communication</p>		<p>Bob Vaughan (bob.vaughan@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk Tel 02920 466129)</p> <p>Emyr Williams (emyr.williams@eryri-npa.gov.uk Tel 01766 772205)</p> <p>Chris Edwards (Chris.Edwards@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Tel 01970639846)</p> <p>Helen Buckingham (helen.buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk Tel 01690 713315)</p> <p>Pete Williams (p.williams@ccw.gov.uk 02920 772400)</p> <p>Tim Stowe (tim.stowe@rspb.org.uk 2920353001/ 07939592904)</p> <p>Diana Reynolds (diana.reynolds@wales.gsi.gov.uk Tel 01970 610216)</p>
4.	<p>Environment Strategy for Wales Outcome 21 (Action 32) (“favourable condition”)</p> <p>SG3</p> <p>Decision point 5: WBP to consider how to resource the communications and engagement plan in both financial and staff time terms.</p> <p>Action 11 - WAG and CCW: to consider this at their next meeting.</p>			BT/CCW	
5.	<p>Environment Strategy for Wales Action 38: Develop Nature Sites Guidance</p> <p>Task & Finish Group</p> <p>Standardised Guidance to Develop Local Wildlife Systems in Wales</p>		Sent out to WBP for consultation – ended 15/12/07.	WBP	<p>Nigel Ajax Lewis (n.ajaxlewis@welshwildlife.org Tel 01656 724100)</p> <p>Sean McHugh (s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org Tel 01656 726984)</p> <p>Julian Jones (jonesj@radnorshirewildlifetrust.org Tel 01597 823298)</p> <p>Robert Taylor (scentedgardens@tiscali.co.uk Tel 01994 48468)</p>

	<p>Purpose: To agree guidelines and criteria for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites</p>			<p>Michelle Bromley (michelle.bromley@forestry.gov.uk Tel 08456 040845/07815 186496) Gareth Ellis (GarethEllis@breconbeacons.org Tel 01874 620470) Steve Moon (Steve.Moon@bridgend.gov.uk Tel 01656 643170/07971 520445) Hazel Drewett (h.drewett@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01248 385569) Zara Lomax (zara.lomax@wrexham.gov.uk Tel 01978 292517)</p>
6.	<p>Species and Habitats Priority Lists</p> <p>Task and Finish Group Purpose: To produce new section 42 list once the new priority lists are agreed by UK Standing Committee</p>		<p>SG2 DECISION: The UK priority list was endorsed.</p> <p>SG3: Following the meeting a corrected version of the Wales Section 42 list and other documents will be uploaded to the WBP website.</p> <p>The steering group (SG) agreed that species that have come off the UK list, because the populations seem to be OK, should be added to a parked list where their status can be kept under review.</p> <p>Annex 3 contains some extra species and habitats that the task and finish (T&F) group would like to add to s42.</p> <p>The s42 T&F group are also identifying the top three actions to parallel the UK signposting process.</p> <p>Consultation with WBP completed.</p> <p>List approved by Minister and posted</p>	<p>WBP</p> <p>Liz Howe (L.Howe@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01248 385669) Julia Korn (j.korn@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01248 385793) Michelle Bromley (michelle.bromley@forestry.gov.uk Tel 08456 040845/07815 186496) Graham Oliver (graham.oliver@nmgw.ac.uk Tel 02920 573221) Gareth Ellis (GarethEllis@breconbeacons.org Tel 01874 620470) Russel Hobson (rhobson.bcw@btconnect.com Tel 01792 642972) Reg Thorpe (reg.thorpe@rspb.org.uk Tel 01248 363800) Kate Williamson (kate.williamson@eryri-npa.gov.uk Tel 01766 772255)</p>

			on WBP website.		
7.	River Basin Plans Task & Finish Group River Basin Planning Purpose: To consider ways to ensure biodiversity is fully considered in the River Basin Planning process		Virtual consultation on Chris Uttley's paper complete. COMPLETED.	WBP	Juliet Hynes (j.hynes@welshwildlife.org Tel 01656 726987/07817 148736) Stephen Atkins (wnwfsfc@lancaster.ac.uk Tel 01524 68745) Michelle Bromley (michelle.bromley@forestry.gov.uk Tel 08456 040845/07815 186496) Chris Uttley (c.uttley@ccw.gov.uk Tel 01179 638142) Robert Taylor (scentedgardens@tiscali.co.uk Tel 01994 48468) Rosie Carmichael (RACarmichael@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Tel 01267 224880)
NNS					
8.	UK Non-Native Species Framework Strategy Task & Finish Group Non-Native Species Purpose: To consider the implementation of the UK Non-Native Species Framework Strategy in Wales.			WBP	Alison Smith (alison.smith@wales.gsi.gov.uk Tel 01792 222429) Robert Taylor (scentedgardens@tiscali.co.uk Tel 01994 48468) Michelle Bromley (michelle.bromley@forestry.gov.uk Tel 08456 040845/07815 186496) Kate Williamson (kate.williamson@eryri-npa.gov.uk Tel 01766 772255) Rod Gritten (Rod.Gritten@eryri-npa.gov.uk Tel 01766 772251)
9.	SG3 Action 17 Add NNS actions from the Marine and Freshwater actions to the work program of the Wales NNS working group.			SEC	Julia

NERC DUTY					
10.	SG2 ACTION 37 Approach the WLGA to establish formal links between WBP and WLGA committees and to help develop and roll out Wales wide NERC training guidance.		Diana Reynolds to meet with Hazel, Kevin and David to take this forward.	SEC	Diana
11.	SG2 ACTION 31 Seminars for Biodiversity Champions (BC) to be carried out in South and West Wales (LRC and Secretariat to arrange) - WLGA, ALGE and WAG to input into BC support.		SG2 ACTION 34 Secretariat and LRCs to invite the Minister to lead the Biodiversity Champions Events already planned and arrange a second event in the North to enable the Minister to meet all champions. Will take place post May 08 elections.	SEC	
12.	SG2 DECISION Extend the concept of Biodiversity Champions to other public sector bodies.		Secretariat to put these in place, once Local Authority Champions working well.	SEC	
LBAP ISSUES					
13.	SG3 Action 23 LBAP Guidance for Wales – simplification of Annex H of Biodiversity Framework. Draft the leaflet for WBP approval in Spring 2008.	April 2008		SEC	Julia
EVENTS PLANNING					
14.	SG2 DECISION: Provisional dates of 9-12th Sept were agreed for the 2008 conference , suggested location Aberystwyth.		SG3 Action 21 Action Secretariat SMH: confirm 10th-11th September conference booking with Aberystwyth.	SEC	Sean
15.	SG2 ACTION 27		SG2 DECISION:	SEC	

BT Biodiversity Team
 WBP Wales Biodiversity Partnership
 SEC WBP Secretariat

	Secretariat to establish dates of Wales Biodiversity Week as 7 th -15 th June 2008 with BBC asap and circulate.		In response to LBAP co-ordinators views on how important it is to them that the WBP centrally organise the Wales Biodiversity Week merchandise, it was agreed that WBP should co-ordinate sharing of suitable merchandise.		
FUNDING ISSUES					
16.	SG2 ACTION 1 Secretariat to work with CCW to consider how a funding officer - to help partnership members find suitable funding streams including match funding - might be put in place and report back to next meeting (Nov).	Nov 2007		SEC	Diana
17.	SG2 ACTION 2: Secretariat to work with CCW to investigate mechanisms by which WBP could assist in prioritising CCW grant areas and adding biodiversity value to all funding streams.			SEC	
18.	SG2 ACTION 21 Diana Reynolds to investigate CCW/EA match funding regulations and report back.			SEC	Diana Reynolds
19.	SG2 DECISION 2007 WBP Conference - all workshop streams will be offered £500 to £1000 to fund post-workshop direct biodiversity action coming out of their workshop. Secretariat to put administration in place to				

	support this.				
COMMUNICATIONS/IT					
20.	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	WBP	Helen Wilkinson
21.	Website/ biodiversity framework		Agreed to keep current website contract in place.	SEC	Sean McHugh
22.	Develop a coherent communication plan for the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders.		<p>Links currently being improved with Partnership on Wildlife Crime (PAW), Wales Environment Link, Cynnal Cymru and Water Framework Directive</p> <p>SG2 DECISION: it was agreed to continue the actions on Breathing Places, Wildlife Economy Wales and NERC Biodiversity Duty and to broaden the appeal to the partnership to improve public understanding and involvement in the WBP.</p> <p>SG2 ACTION 30 Secretariat will update the mechanisms list, transfer relevant actions to the work plan and take this work forward.</p> <p>Complete full stakeholder analysis and provide proposals to SG3.</p>	SEC	Sean McHugh

BT Biodiversity Team
 WBP Wales Biodiversity Partnership
 SEC WBP Secretariat

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

23.	Environment Strategy Action 33 (“landscape scale projects”)		To be discussed and action agreed at SG1(??)	WBP	
24.	SG3 Action 6 Add draft outline of Wales country habitat group plan to next SG agenda.	Feb 08	On SG4 agenda.	SEC	
25.	SG3 Action 19 Include Marine Bill discussion in SG4 agenda.		On SG4 agenda.	SEC	
26.	SG3 Action 25 Approach ARENA about SG4 paper		On SG4 agenda.	SEC	
MISCELLANEOUS					
27.	SG3 Action 7 Circulate UK Standing Committee minutes to WBP when they become available.		Nov 2007 minutes not yet rcvd.	SEC	

Title – Wildlife Crime

Background/Progress

Within Wales there are two full time Police Wildlife Crime Officers (PWCO) both of whom are seconded to work with the Countryside Council for Wales. Sgt Ian Guildford is based at the St Mellons Office in Cardiff and Sgt Rob Taylor has just commenced the role and works primarily from CCW's Mold office. The end of 2007 saw the retirement of Sgt Pete Charleston from the North Wales Police and his replacement by Sgt Taylor. Pete will continue to work for Chief Constable Brunstrom in a part time advisory role. In addition to these two officers PC Andy Scourfield is seconded to work with the Forestry Commission in Resolven, South Wales and PC Eryl Lloyd has been seconded to work with the Environment Agency in North Wales.

These officers are supported by a number of part time PWCO's based across the four forces in Wales. A partnership between CCW, Dyfed Powys Police, the Elan Valley Trust and the Welsh Assembly has seen the funding of a Rural Police Community Support Officer in the Rhayader and Elan Valley area, the remit of this officer is to tackle the problem of illegal off roading in the area.

All reports of Wildlife Crime within Wales are collated by the four Police Forces and figures are then supplied to the National Wildlife Crime Unit based in Scotland for analysis.

The attached paper gives an overview of recent cases.

On the 21/22nd January 2008 the next Welsh Wildlife and Environmental Crime Conference took place, hosted by CCW and the Dyfed Powys Police at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on, the theme of this years conference was 'Working in Partnership to combat Wildlife Crime'.

Plan/Proposals

WBP are asked to consider how frequently they might wish to receive a regular paper on this topic.

Decision Points

To agree to table a regular update on wildlife crime annually or more frequently

To agree the format of this regular report as per the enclosed annex or a variation of this...

Annex 1

PAW Cymru sits as a working group of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime and is chaired by Mr Richard Brunstrom, the wildlife crime priorities within Wales are currently:

- Illegal off Roothing on SSSI's
- Illegal Burning on SSSI's
- Development affecting European Protected Species

The National Wildlife Crime Priorities are:

- Hen Harrier Persecution
- Avian Influenza
- Freshwater Pearl Mussels
- Caviar
- Bats
- Internet Crime
- CITES enforcement review

Recent successful prosecutions for Wildlife Crime include the following:

- Bridgend County Borough Council for an offence of recklessly disturbing Dormice on the ISLAND farm site in Bridgend (£1000 fine + £200 costs).
- A demolition firm for destroying a bat roost in Pendine (£1000 fine + £500 cost)
- A Merseyside man for disturbing Goshawks (4 months imprisonment suspended for 12 months)
- Two men from North Wales and East Anglia for the illegal sale of Bluebell Bulbs (£5000 and £2000 fines + £200 costs)
- A householder in Cardigan for destroying a House Martins Nest (after appeal at Swansea Crown Court fined £400 + £500 costs)

Court cases currently pending include damage to a SSSI in North Wales, the illegal use of a Larsen Trap nr. Abergavenny, illegal possession of wild finches in Port Talbot and illegal Badger digging in West Wales.

Various operations aimed at reducing wildlife and environmental crime are currently being run, these include Operation Foxtail which is targeting Badger Digging/Baiting, Operation Antler targeting deer poaching in the Afon Forest area of South Wales, Operation Pitman which is an environmental operation centred in the Merthyr/ Cynon Valley areas looking at issues such as illegal off roading.