

**Meeting Notes, Urban & Brownfield habitat group meeting**  
**28/04/09 1000:1300** at The Shropshire Wildlife Trust office,  
 Shrewsbury

*Present: Pete Frost, Liz Howe, Steve Chambers, Sorrel Jones, David Thorpe, Richard Wistow, Margaret Peters*

Item	Title	Activity	Action for:
1	<b>Introductions and Welcome</b>		
2	<b>Apologies &amp; submissions for AOB</b>	<i>Apologies received from Isabel, Nigel and Jan</i> This group is referred to as the 'Urban habitat group' on the WBP website. The initial focus for the group will be open mosaic habitats on previously developed land then focusing on urban sites.	
		Margaret to sort out replacing that with the correct title with Julia Korn	MP <i>API</i>
3	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>	Agreed	
4	<b>Refining the habitat definition</b>	<i>The aim is to assist DEFRA in refining the habitat definition and produce a species list for these open mosaic habitats. We will need to include any species that occur on contaminated land on the s42 species list. DEFRA are running a couple of months behind schedule, the interim report was due out on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.</i>	
		All to mark an 'x' against all species on the NERC act s42 species list which you <b>wouldn't</b> expect to occur on these sites and send to Margaret by 12/05/09. Liz will sort out the invertebrates.	<b>ALL</b> <i>AP2</i>
		<b>Comments on the NERC act s42 species list:</b> <u>Invertebrates</u> Liz reported that the best way to provide a species list for these habitats will be through the data on Recorder, you can search for the site name and it will come up with the species that might occur on that site. <u>Vascular plants</u> Same type of approach needed as for the Invertebrates. The BSBI database would be the central holding for vascular plants, threatened plants database and ATLAS data is held on the NBN gateway. Vice Counties rare plants registers will have details of all the rare plant species in all. Only 2 registers are believed not to have been completed. The Environment Agency haven't got the Data agreement in place yet with Cofnod so we won't have access to this data until this is sorted. <u>Mosses and liverworts</u> Most of these are associated with specialised habitats. <u>Fungi species</u>	

	Liz to provide Pete with the full title and contact details etc. for the datasets mentioned above and to ask Tim Blackstock (CCW) to identify the mosses and liverworts and Alan Hale (CCW) for the fungi.	LH	AP3
	David to let Pete know as soon as the data agreement is set up between Cofnod and The Environment Agency.	DT	AP4
	Make ADAS aware of the Wales invertebrate dataset on Recorder (search facility available by site name, grid ref or species name) and the other data references above.	PF	AP5
	<p><b>Lichens</b></p> <p>The majority of Section 42 species aren't found on open mosaic habitats on previously developed land. An important community is found in the criteria for mine sites and coal spoil SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). The coal spoil SINC is based on the fact that there are 8 species of lichen present (see the following CCW research reports:</p> <p><i>A Strategic Conservation Assessment of Heathland and Associated Habitats on the Coal Spoils of South Wales - Middlemarch Environmental Ltd CCW Contract No, FC 73-01-553</i></p> <p><i>A Strategic Conservation Assessment of heathland and associated habitats on the coal spoils of south Wales. Phase II: Assessment of Environmental Parameters, Authors D. L Jones and G. Jones, CCW Science Report No 824</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological, Historical and cultural Importance and Significance of Surviving Coal Spoil Tips in the Heads off the Valleys Area , Govannon Consultancy, CCW Contract No FC -73-03-318</i></p>		
	Richard had a copy of the research report at the meeting – title of report and list of 8 lichen species identified in it to be sent to Pete	RW	AP6
	<p><b><u>Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians, Fish</u></b></p> <p>The group are happy to identify these.</p>		
	<p><b><u>Other species not on the s42 list :</u></b></p> <p>Nigel has come up with a list of key indicator species for open mosaic habitats on previously developed landing South Wales. There should be one available for North and Mid Wales.</p>		
	Sorrel to get the other 2 lists and send to Margaret.	SJ	AP7
	All to send Margaret a list of species that are associated with Brownfield sites but do not occur on the s42 list.	ALL	AP8
<b>Actions carried forward from previous meeting 29 01 09</b>	(Pete reported that he will be the Welsh representative on the overarching UK habitat group and that he will ask for the ADAS team to survey a test site in Wales as part of their contract with DEFRA).		
(Under item 4,notes from previous meeting)	Send details of datasets that ADAS will be using to all mineral officers in Local Authorities so that they can provide more datasets. Send to Pete	IM	AP9
	Forward the survey of sand and gravel quarries produced by Paul Day, CCW and the digitalised metal mine report by Alan Hale, CCW to Pete Frost for onward transmission to ADAS	LH	AP10
	Locate the metal mine inventory and list of landfill sites: David is waiting for some tables and will chase up.	DT	AP11

5	<b>Agree a list of threatened sites and actions</b>	Richard would like to see a refined definition of a ‘threatened site’. He reported that it is hard to grade the threat with regards to the coal spoil sites. At the moment the threatened sites will be the ones that are likely to be damaged in the next 12 months. Once ADAS have reported and we have a definition we can use that as an example.	
		Planning applications for landfill sites in Flintshire have been submitted to the Environment Agency. Ecological surveys are needed for certain species. A holding response should be produced ready for when our organisations are approached about planning permissions on brownfield sites. The response should state that such sites are now a BAP priority habitat and that they will need an ecological survey done. All to sort this out with their internal Planning team.	ALL <i>AP12</i>
		<b>Priority sites:</b> The two sites in Newport – Warehouse Yard and South of Ringland (to the West of hartridge school) Merthyr Village, Cwm Glo The British, Talywain	
		Liz and Pete to bring these sites to the attention of CCW regional staff re possible designation	LH & PF <i>AP13</i>
		Sites to recommend to ADAS as sample sites, list of main categories for these sites: 1. Quarries (sand and gravel, limestone, granite/rhyolite) quarries 2. Docks 3. Demolition sites 4. Landfill sites 5. Metal contaminated sites	
	All to send Margaret a list of sites to recommend to ADAS by <b>12/05/09</b> . This list would be a good starting point to get people to think about compiling a long list of sites for future consideration.	ALL <i>AP14</i>	
	All to start producing a long list of sites for surveying, the site details will include site name, grid ref and any info that’s already been collected about that site. There’s no deadline for this list.	ALL <i>AP15</i>	
	Need to review the 15 coal spoil sites in South Wales that are mentioned in the CCW research report for possible designation. Pete to commend that ADAS look at these as possible example sites for Wales.	PF <i>AP16</i>	

6	<b>Welsh Guidelines for SINCS</b>	<p>Sorrel Jones updated the group on the Welsh guidelines for SINCS. Briefing notes from Sorrel attached.</p> <p>Richard reported that RCT CBC operate on a planning system, using the SINC as a ‘flag’ to say that this process has to consider the SINC. Then they will get the ecological work done to find out a lot more about the site. A TPO (Tree preservation order) can be on a SINC but under these SINC criteria a SINC can’t also be a Site of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>Liz asked if SINCS are embedded in a Technical Advice Note (TAN). They are in the old TAN 5 on Nature Conservation. SINC is an accepted concept in planning and most LA’s will have policies on SINCS. It can be used as a material consideration in planning applications.</p> <p>David reported that on sites in North West Wales that are not designated but have rare protected European species on them, the LA has the choice to qualify these sites as SINCS through the SINC panel or through the Ecologist. (Non statutory sites)</p>	
7	<b>Policies</b>	<p>Identifying policies that are threatening to brownfield sites and which ones should we be influencing in order to conserve brownfield sites?</p> <p>Steve Chambers reported about WAG’s planning policy re developing on brownfield sites, including the definition of previously developed land from the Planning Policy Wales 2002 document. The exclusions and minerals reference needs to be carefully looked at here. WAG policies group could comment upon and influence future policies including TAN5. The nature conservation value on previously developed land is what this group should concentrate on.</p> <p>We need an updated TAN5 to work from. Pete to check on the latest with the Karen Maddock Jones, CCW and also to find out if people have been applying the PPW requirement to “improve derelict land” in greenbelts (see 2.6.2 PPW doc) to areas outside greenbelts where strictly speaking this provision does not apply.</p> <p>Other policies that are potentially threatening to brownfield sites: EA has a policy recommending development on previously developed brownfield or contaminated in preference to greenfield sites. EA also has policies on Waste which may be of importance here.</p> <p>David to find out more about EA’s policies mentioned above and send details to Margaret</p> <p>Richard to find out more about the Heads of the Valleys policy re planting trees to create a forest on derelict land, send details to Margaret.</p> <p>Steve to ask Basil Hollington, Rural Affairs Dept, WAG if there’s a policy and extant guidelines about transforming reclamation land back into agricultural land. If there is something, how would we go about changing these?</p> <p>The percentag of development on brownfield land is a UK sustainability indicator, one of the monitoring targets on LDP’s in England.</p> <p>Sorrel to obtain the details and send to Margaret, if this is an issue we can feed this into the Policy group.</p>	<p>PF <b>AP17</b></p> <p>DT <b>AP18</b></p> <p>RW <b>AP19</b></p> <p>SC <b>AP20</b></p> <p>SJ <b>AP21</b></p>

		The group agreed that it would be beneficial to have a Wales wide standard for SINC systems (including RIGS) but that each area should retain the ability to set its own selection criteria.	
		Is there something relevant in the Wales Environment Strategy action plan? Liz to find out	LH <b>AP22</b>
		David to find out more about the WAG guidance on NERC duty for LA's to promote biodiversity.	DT <b>AP23</b>
		All to come up with some positive policies that the group can influence	<b>ALL</b> <b>AP24</b>
8	<b>Review of membership</b>	The group endorsed applications for membership from the following: Emily Meilleur, Margaret Underwood, Richard Pryce (corresponding member) and Steve Williams. We could do with 2 more members, one from a minerals group and one from DETT (ex WDA). <i>Note: following meeting Pete Frost spoke to Steve Spode from WAG who agreed to become a corresponding member of the group.</i>	
9	<b>AOB</b>	Invite Diana Mortimer to the next meeting to make a presentation on the ecosystem approach.	MP <b>AP25</b>
		Liz reported that she had undertaken a features review of SSSI's which had artificial rock exposure and presented a list of these sites. This has produced a potentially very interesting list of sites for ADAS to consider in their research. Liz is continuing to use this method to search for other potentially interesting sites.	
		Liz to compile a list of what she has at the moment and forward on to Pete to give to ADAS.	LH <b>AP26</b>
		Sorrel reported that following WBP workshops that were held to get feedback from LBAP partnerships, one issue the partners raised was the lack of communication from the habitat groups to the LBAP partnerships. Fortunately this group is well supplied with LBAP members.	
		All members to make sure they feedback to their LBAP partnerships.	<b>ALL</b> <b>AP27</b>
		Margaret to send meeting notes to Sean McHugh for inclusion on the WBP website.	MP <b>AP28</b>
		Information about the group to be put on BARS?	
10	<b>Time, date and place of next meeting</b>	Margaret to send out potential dates for the next meeting in July, 6 <sup>th</sup> of July onwards.	MP <b>AP29</b>
		David has agreed to sort out a site visit to Talacre and will check when the visitor centre is available.	DT <b>AP30</b>