

**PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH CYMRU
WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WALES BIODIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP HELD AT THE ARMY TRAINING ESTATE, CASTLEMARTIN,
PEMBROKE SHIRE ON 4 MARCH 2003**

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBG)	Welsh Assembly Government Countryside Division Welsh
Trish Fretten	Assembly Government Countryside Division Welsh
Steve Lucas	Assembly Government Countryside Division Welsh
Richard Evans	Assembly Government Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department, Aberystwyth
Patrick Cowdy	Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department, Aberystwyth
Joanna Robertson	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator Wales
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wildlife & Countryside Link
Tony Prater	Wales Wildlife & Countryside Link
David Keast (Chair LIAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
David Bullock	National Trust
Dr Mike Wilson	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales Countryside
Tim Blackstock	Council for Wales Pembrokeshire Coast National
Jane Hodges	Park Environment Agency
Teg Jones	MoD
Clive Thomas	

Attending for the Group Discussion, by invitation:

David Worrall	Countryside Council for Wales, West Area
Matt Sutton	Countryside Council for Wales, West Area
Bob Haycock	Countryside Council for Wales, West Area
Wendy Payne	Planed
Bethan Cox	Pembs LBAP Partnership
Andrew Tuddenham	National Trust, Pembs Heathland Project
Derek Moore	Wildlife Trust South and West Wales
Jerry Langford	Woodland Trust

Apologies:

Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales Snowdonia
David Archer	National Park Authority
Lindsay Roberts	Welsh Assembly Government Planning Division
Philip Coates	S Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Dr Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden of Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water
Nick J Somerfield	FUW
Emyr Hughes	NFU Cymru

Three members had not responded to a request to confirm attendance.

1. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests and introducing Trish Fretten, the new Head of Nature Conservation in the Countryside Division. This meeting followed the pattern now adopted by the Partnership - with breakout discussion groups and a plenary session to identify actions to take forward.

2. **Large Scale Habitat Restoration Projects in Wales: Reaching our Habitat Action Plan Targets**

The Chair welcomed the opportunity to address this issue, which had been considered in less depth by the Partnership on previous occasions. She explained that this discussion was timely from the Welsh Assembly Government's viewpoint: the EPT Committee had just concluded its review of local biodiversity action; and the process of European designation of individual sites was almost complete. There was an opportunity now to look at other types and scales of biodiversity intervention.

David Parker and Tim Blackstock from CCW were invited to introduce the topic: David emphasised the limitations of designated sites programmes for achieving biodiversity conservation targets and viability problems for habitats and species arising from fragmentation and degradation. Tim identified HAP targets for habitat restoration and expansion and the long-term commitment required by everyone to deliver them.

Members and guests broke into three discussion groups, aided by facilitators to consider:

- i. Existing projects/ lessons learned.
- ii. Proposed schemes/ mechanisms
- iii. Community benefits of habitat restoration projects

The findings and recommendations from the Groups are listed in Annex 1.

ACTION: June Milligan to Chair a Task/Finish Group comprising Dave Bullock, Derek Moore, Tony Prater and David Parker to identify and agree actions to be taken forward by WBP.

3. **Wales Biodiversity Partnership's Forward Programme and Budget**

Members approved the projects and budget allocations, noting the scope for further commitment. Unanimous support was given for continuing the LBAP Facilitator post for a further three years, after March 2004. The Chair asked CCW to take action to secure this post.

ACTION: David Parker to confirm that the action has been taken to secure the LBAP Facilitator post.

There is provision in the budget to support the costs of Partnership members' attendance at the UK Biodiversity Partnership conference in Scotland.

ACTION: Secretariat to update Programme and Budget to reflect decisions and circulate with papers for July WBP meeting. Allocation of the £9k currently un allocated would be an agenda item for that meeting.

4. REPORTS

i. Local Issues Advisory Group

The report is reproduced at *Annex 2*. David Keast drew attention to a number of challenging issues. National bodies with limited staff struggle to deliver actions identified in local plans but many are developing their own solutions. Local Plans are the product and responsibility of a partnership, with Unitary Authorities playing a vital catalytic role recognised by the Assembly's EPT committee; financial independence is being explored by one LBAP Group in South Wales. These issues will be debated at the Annual LIAG Practitioners' Seminar (July 17/18 in Swansea). An event aimed at gaining increased support for the LBAP process from Chief Officers of Unitary Authorities and national organisations is planned.

ACTION: Julia to bring proposals to July WBP including links to biodiversity awards

Julia circulated copies of the interim 'Community Strategy Advisory note' attractively designed by Gaynor Ainscough, and intended to help those involved in the LBAP process play an effective role in the CS process.

ii. Update on UK matters:

Steve Lucas reported that the first UK Partnership meeting is scheduled for 21/22 May 2003 at Battleby near Perth in Scotland; invitations will be issued by DEFRA to all Country Group members.

ACTION: Members seeking support to contact the Secretariat for guidance once their attendance costs are known.

Meetings of the two UK Partnership Support Groups are imminent. The Research Group, convened and chaired by DEFRA will meet in London on 6 March; Tim Blackstock will be attending for CCW and was asked to represent WBP. JNCC is convening an Information and Actions Group.

ACTION: Steve Lucas to contact UK BAP Policy Unit re dates and invitation for WBP representation.

Joanna Robertson outlined progress with the 2002 BAP reporting round.

This is a modest reporting round, with limited analysis. It trialled a web-based reporting system and brought in LBAPs for the first time. All the data collected will be available to enquirers. The report will be made available at the UK Partnership meeting in May and will reinforce the messages that emerged from the MBR. Key chapters will cover Lead Partners and LBAP relationships, aspects of Sustainable Development, issues affecting progress with plans and constraints to actions.

Biological information for the priority habitats and species will indicate status, trends and progress with targets and can be compared with data collected in 1999. It will be presented for marine, terrestrial and freshwater species and habitat groups. The next full reporting round is scheduled for 2005.

ACTION: Joanna to continue to represent the Partnership at reporting meetings and request further analysis of whether biodiversity was reflected in school curricula.

iii. Assembly matters

Trish Fretten reported on the JNCC's presentation and favourable reception at the Assembly's EPT Committee on 26 February.

The EPT's report from its review of Local Biodiversity Action had been presented at Plenary by the Minister and debated; widespread support was given to the recommendations; copies of the report and record were tabled and can be viewed at: [www.wales.gov.uk/servlet/ChamberSession?area code=380313ACOO 046817000](http://www.wales.gov.uk/servlet/ChamberSession?area%20code=380313ACOO%20046817000)

The Welsh Assembly Govt's publication on S74 Crow Act 2000 was at the final editing stage.

ACTION: CCW to report on progress with the production of action plans for the 12 additional species at the July WBP meeting.

Cymru Byw, a consultation document on strengthening the framework for biodiversity conservation is also at the final draft stage and is scheduled for release in early summer.

The Welsh Assembly Government's consultation on a draft Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan has been issued. This initiative was commended by the Partnership; the consultation document can be found at www.wales.gov.uk/subi-transport/content/consultation/bio-action-plan-e.pdf

iv. Awareness: Web site

Steve Lucas reported that a static web site is being set up for the Partnership on the ukbap.org.uk site. There will be two elements: a static web site for publishing information and, at some time later, JNCC will develop a mechanism to allow interrogation of relevant JNCC datasets arising from reporting rounds. After a development phase the 'prototype' will be moved/ go live under a separate domain name. The CCW's Habitat Guidance document and the Voluntary Sector Species Audit will be completed imminently; both are welcomed and the Partnership wishes to see them accessible through the Web.

Awareness: Support post

Joanna confirmed that recruitment was approved by CCW on 3 March, that the job description would be circulated to Members and that Brian Nelson would be invited to assist with selection, (see *Annex 3*).

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate job description for Awareness post.

Awareness: Natur Cymru

David Parker, as Chair of the project board said that the magazine, now in its sixth issue was an established voice for the environment in Wales and a WBG success story in itself. He paid tribute to the Editor and Assistant Editor and supporting partners. The move to 4 issues a year and a new subscription offer is aimed at encouraging an increase in subscribers from 1500 to 2500, which will help the move towards less reliance on partnership support. Promotion at shows and events is planned for summer 2003.

v. Local Records Centres

The Chair drew attention to the funding which the Assembly had made available through CCW this year to fund the development and establishment phases of LRCs across Wales, and thanked David Parker, Ruth Jenkins, Nigel Ajax Lewis and David Keast for

their efforts.

ACTION: CCW to monitor progress and report back to WBP.

5. Minutes and Action Points from WBG19 November 2002

The minutes were confirmed.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate as *confirmed minutes*.

Patrick Cowdy was invited to report how the actions identified in the Linking Agriculture and Biodiversity workshops were being taken forward (Minute Item 2 recommendations *a* to *m*). Recommendations *a* to *d* inclusive had resulted in contact with LANTRA and EL Wa. LANTRA is receptive to suggestions and is developing an on-line support package for consultants and other advisors. EL Wa is conducting a major review and demonstration farms seem to offer opportunities for promoting messages about biodiversity.

It is clear that much more awareness of the implications for biodiversity of business and developmental advice is required and much more can be done to improve delivery through Farming Connect. The environmental component of Farming Connect awaits confirmation of funding. CCW reported that they were already addressing the simplification of land management prescriptions.

ACTION: Countryside and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Divisions to continue to identify ways of delivering desired outcomes. Patrick to work with LANTRA on environmental training for business consultants. Patrick to work with Brian Pawson of CCW over knowledge transfer to Farming Connect.

6. Arrangements for WBP02 and 03

The next Partnership meeting will be held on 8 July in Mid or North Wales. The theme will be Business and Biodiversity and Brian Nelson had previously offered to help identify an appropriate venue and invitees.

ACTION: Secretariat to consult Brian Nelson as to venue and invitees for next meeting. The date for WBP03 was confirmed as 11 November at a mid Wales venue.

Joanna reported on a Business and Biodiversity 'solution shop' staged at the Wales Environmental Conference held in Cardiff on 27 February. Many helpful messages had emerged. Earlier that week Julia and Joanna had met with Alan Tillotson of Arena Network. He and Brian Nelson would be asked to assist with the workshops at WBP02.

7. Other Business

7.1 Dave Bullock announced that the National Trust's newly appointed nature conservation advisor for Wales, Helen Buckingham will replace him on the Partnership.

7.2 After the meeting Bob Haycock of CCW and Clive Thomas of MoD described the biodiversity of the Army Training Estate at Castlemartin and benefits of the Integrated Management Action Plan. Unfortunately, few members were able to take up the invitation to view the site. Thanks were extended to all involved in the arrangements for the day.



**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT HOYA LENS UK LTD, WREXHAM
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON 8 JULY 2003**

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government Countryside Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government Countryside Division
Steve Lucas	Welsh Assembly Government Countryside Division
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department, Aberystwyth
Joanna Robertson	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
David Keast (Chair LIAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Helen Buckingham	National Trust
Dr Deborah Spillards	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Nick Birula	Environment Agency
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/ Dwr Cymru
Emma Crane	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer

Attending for the Group Discussion, by invitation:

Alison Smith	WDA
Toni Garnett	Arena Network
Emily Milleur	Wrexham LBAP Partnership
David Pugh	Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire
Malcolm Lawer	Tarmac Western Ltd
David Holgate	Sharp Precision
Carl Bruce	BIUK
Steve Gittens	BIUK
Frank Biggs	Hoya Lens UK Ltd
Matthew Ellis	CCW NE Wales Area

Apologies:

Lindsay Roberts	Welsh Assembly Government Planning Division
Philip Coates	S Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Clive Thomas	Ministry of Defence
Mandy McMath	CCW
Dr Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden of Wales
Anne Meikle	BTCV Cymru

3 members had not responded to a request to confirm attendance

1. Trish Fretten, Head of Nature Conservation in the Welsh Assembly Government Countryside Division opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. She warmly thanked Hoya LensUK Ltd for hosting the Partnership meeting and introduced Frank Biggs, their Environmental Coordinator. She explained that this meeting would follow the pattern now adopted by the Partnership – with breakout discussion groups and a plenary session to identify actions to take forward. She invited Toni Garnett, a Regional Coordinator with Arena Network to describe their business and the Green Dragon Environmental Standard.
Frank Biggs gave an illustrated talk about the biodiversity project at Hoya, how it related to wider environmental management activities, the workforce and the Wrexham Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Facilitators from each of the three breakout groups outlined their objectives:

- i. Defining biodiversity and its links with sustainability and corporate social responsibility: indicators of success
- ii. Information and support; what does businesses need?
- iii. Business and biodiversity - who gains what? Ensuring win-win situations

When the Groups reconvened at Plenary they reported back recommendations and suggested actions to increase the mutual understanding of the business and biodiversity communities. (See *Annex 1.*)

WBP Chair, June Milligan thanked the members of the business community for their support.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate recommendations and actions and contact lists.

2. **Demonstration of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)**

Peter Brotherton described the development of a system to improve biodiversity-reporting capabilities. The experience of analysing thousands of text fields for the UK's Millennium Biodiversity Report revealed the complexity of BAP action involving many partners at local, country and UK wide levels, the difficulty of understanding the status and trends for priority species and habitats and tracking action plan progress. This and the need to focus on activities and outcomes had prompted the BARS project which will deliver a free system to LBAPs and Lead Partners in time for the 2005 UK Reporting round. Key features are single data entry serving many different reporting purposes, avoidance of double counting actions by different players, categorisation of activities, constraints and accumulative assessment of trends. To date investment in the UK wide project by the WBP, EN, Scottish Executive and SNH has produced a system with multi lingual capability, an LBAP module released for trialling in 2003 and a Lead Partner module and web based version under development. BARS has the capacity to meet organisations' own internal and external reporting needs. It will have links through to the National Biodiversity Network to access electronically held environmental data and improve information gathering and sharing.

See the 2002 interim UKBAP Report on www.ukbap.org.uk

3. **National Assembly for Wales Review of Local Biodiversity Action**

The Committee which had undertaken this review has been replaced by the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee. The Partnership was asked to advise on how recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 10 might be taken forward.

EPT: Summary of recommendations

3. That the Wales Biodiversity Partnership take steps to increase co-ordination between local and national strategies and partnerships, and place a greater emphasis on local target setting;

Partners in WBG/P have produced guidance for LBAP Partnerships on distribution and conservation needs for terrestrial and freshwater habitats, marine and intertidal species and habitats and for all species in the Wales Species Audit. These resources are helpful to those setting local and regional targets. Following the 2005 UK reporting round, UK targets will be revised. Data entry into BARS by LBAP Partnerships will prompt scrutiny of locally set targets and the actions and resources needed to achieve them.

ACTION: Secretariat to summarise support material available to Local Partnerships to help with target setting and delivery

4. That the Wales Biodiversity Partnership take the lead in developing a strategy and accompanying guidance on monitoring and reporting of local biodiversity actions

WBP has invested in BARS; the Wales LBAP Facilitator is working with Local Partnerships to pilot the LBAP module and ensure its uptake and identify the support and resources needed. It has multi lingual capacity.

ACTION: Secretariat to summarise support available to Local Partnerships to help with monitoring and reporting and what further resources are needed

5. That the Welsh Assembly Government establish a review of financing arrangements to clarify, streamline, and synchronise funding sources available to support local biodiversity action;

ACTION: Secretariat to examine the range of funding sources used by Local Partnerships including those identified in UK LIAG Guidance Note 5 and identify barriers to their uptake and usage

10. That the Wales Biodiversity Partnership establish 'biodiversity awards' to highlight good conservation practice and encourage partnership working.

The Committee had been keen that LBAP work becomes more 'visible' and is 'celebrated'. LIAG advise that a system of accreditation and recognition is best. There is scope to build on existing awards already being offered by partners in local action and to invite senior politicians to 'present' them.

ACTION: Secretariat to prepare 'ideas' list to stimulate further discussion of this subject as a separate agenda item at WBP03.

4. Wales Biodiversity Partnership's Forward Programme and Budget

Members agreed that the 'under-spend' in the Wales Biodiversity Week project, due to the late start of the Awareness Officer post be allocated to other awareness projects; they agreed to allocate up to £9k to developing some of the recommendations for action for Business and Biodiversity.

ACTION: Trish Fretten and Joanna Robertson to examine all projects and programmes to firm up objectives and identify their means of delivery. Secretariat to continue to roll forward the Forward Programme to reflect decisions and circulate with papers for November WBP meeting.

5. REPORTS

i. Local Issues Advisory Group

Julia Korn flagged up a change of name to Local Biodiversity Advisory Group and provided an update on issues:



Local Record Centres (LRCs) in Wales

Welcomed clarification of CCW's position, the model it provides for other partners whose commitment is sought.



Local Issues Advisory Group Seminar

Positive response from local partnerships and support of Carwyn Jones Minister for Environment, Planning and the Countryside welcomed.



Marine Guidance

Would like to badge with WBP logo.



LIAG work programme

Tabled at the meeting on July 3rd – no further comments received.

ii. Update on UK matters:



Steve Lucas reported on the first UK Partnership meeting in Scotland in May. The Welsh delegation was 7 persons strong and included representatives of the Welsh Assembly Govt, 2 LBAP Partnerships, the Wildlife Trusts and National Museums and Galleries. The level of debate was high, with some big UK players present to discuss UK biodiversity in a global context, progress toward UK BAP targets, the ecosystem approach and examine case studies. The Welsh Assembly Government has offered to host the UK Partnership meeting in Wales in 2004.



Meetings of the two new UK Partnership Support Groups are imminent. Terms of Reference and Membership of the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) and the Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) can be found at Annex 2 and on www.ukbap.org.uk/contacts

ACTION: Those individuals representing Wales to report back regularly to WBP.

iii. Assembly matters



June Milligan described the intention of the new Minister for Environment, Planning and the Countryside, Carwyn Jones (AM) to establish a strong profile for the environment in Wales. She asked Members of WBP to inform Trish Fretten when opportunities and requests for action arise, which might support this intention. The Minister is very keen to see good communications and delivery of beneficial action.

iv. Awareness: Web site

Steve Lucas sought WBP views on the way forward.

ACTION: WBP Awareness Officer, Emma Crane to undertake a project to draw together all the background information already gathered and bring back an 'options' paper to WBP03.

Awareness: Wales Biodiversity Week and further awareness raising

Emma Crane reported that the week had encompassed 72 events staged by all but three local partnerships, 2 Wales wide events, 2 LBAP launches and had dovetailed with events over two weekends including the national Backyard Biodiversity Day. A full report will be available in mid August, drawing on evaluations by the public, event organisers and teachers. She recommended that the event be continued for a further year. The Partnership congratulated Emma on

the successful 2003 week. The Partnership approved the recommendation in principle and asked that a full report identifying outcomes, benefits and proposed delivery mechanisms be brought to WBP03.

ACTION: Emma Crane to prepare evaluation report by mid August, and further advice on delivering WBW 2004 by November.

WBP Members views were sought on other Wales-wide awareness projects, which could be progressed in the remaining four months of the post. Suggestions were the website project, linking gardening with implementing Garden HAPs and taking forward some of the actions recommended for Business and Biodiversity.

6. Minutes from WBP01 4 MARCH 2003

The minutes were confirmed.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate as *confirmed minutes*.

ACTION POINTS from WBP01 4 MARCH 2003

Minuted

Item No.

2. Large Scale Habitat Restoration Projects in Wales: Reaching our Habitat Action Plan Targets.

June Milligan reported on the topics covered at the Group's first meeting.

ACTION: Circulate June Milligan's memo prepared following the first meeting of the Task/Finish Group to Members; see Annex 3.

CCW (Tim Blackstock), to bring to a future WBP meeting the results of project work relevant to this topic.

3. David Parker confirmed that the LBAP Facilitator post is secure until March 2007 and that Julia Korn is now a permanent member of CCW staff.

Secretariat had updated the Programme and Budget.

4. (i) Julia to bring proposals for "Executive Seminar" to July WBP including links to Biodiversity Awards.

The action had been discussed at LIAG and was not considered feasible at present; however other options for recognition of good local biodiversity action will be considered at WBP03.

4. (ii) Members seeking support regarding the First UK Partnership Meeting to contact the Secretariat for guidance once their attendance costs are known.

2 WBP Members and 2 LBAP Officers attending this meeting had drawn expenses.

Secretariat circulated a note on how biodiversity and sustainable development are incorporated into school curricula in Wales. See Annex 4.

4. (iii) CCW to report on progress with the production of action plans for the 12 additional S74 species at the July WBP meeting.

Liz Howe reported that all invertebrate and fungi plans were complete and that those for birds and vascular plants would be ready in August.

Information note: the National Assembly published a booklet on S74 listing all species and habitats in May 2003; this can be accessed at

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subienvironment/content/guidance/species-statement>

and

<http://www.cymru.gov.uk/subienvironment/content/guidance/species-statement>

4. (v) *CCW to monitor progress on Local Record Centres and report back to WBP.*
David Parker explained that a CCW target is to support the development of LRCs and it has made public its position and funding strategy. The LRC for Powys and the Brecon Beacons National Park (BIS) was now demonstrating benefits to its partners, providing services and data to promote biodiversity conservation. The SWales partnership led by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and relevant Local Authorities and Wildlife Trusts has a second draft development plan. The partnership in West Wales is led by Pembrokeshire County Council. In North Wales the Wildlife Trust is building a core partnership including the RSPB.

Adam Roe from BIS, funded by WBP is acting in an advisory capacity to developing LRCs and as a Wales wide ambassador emphasising the benefits of a standardised approach across the country.

Marine data is held in a separate database (MARLIN) run by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales; links to the LRCs and NBN will develop, and the issue of access to intertidal data be resolved.

ACTION: David Parker to write to Chief Executives of other ASPBs decribing the approach to LRCs adopted by CCW.

7. **Arrangements for WBP03 and 04**

The Partnership agreed that the next meeting on 11 November 2003 will be a business meeting, with the seminar approach continuing in the February 2004 meeting.

ACTION: Secretariat has booked Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys for WBP03, and WBP04 will be held on 3 or 4 February 2004 at NMGW, Cardiff. This meeting will examine the issue of biodiversity skills and expertise.

8. **Other Business**

At the close of the meeting, thanks were extended to all involved in the arrangements for the day.

Annex 1

**WBP Business & Biodiversity Workshops
Group Recommendations**

<u>Actions</u>	<u>Executors</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make ‘best practice’ examples available to business – describe these from a business perspective and in a language understood by business e.g websites; case studies (good and bad); site tours. Use to dispel media misunderstanding 	WBP / Business providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make comprehensive list of guidance available to businesses – local, strategic and Wales wide; address the different needs of different sectors e.g tourism, manufacturing 	WBP / Business providers/ Sector representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide detailed advice / technical assistance at a local level on for example land management, species identification. 	LBAP coordinators / Arena Network advisors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make clear “what’s in it for you as a business” by being involved in biodiversity action eg: free advice and expanding knowledge; staff involvement; community and customer involvement; higher profile and good publicity and PR; development of further partnerships; recognition through EMS; financial support etc. 	Welsh Assembly Govt Economic Development and Transport Division
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasise importance of the role of Environmental Management Systems in assisting business to deliver biodiversity objectives. Integrate biodiversity into EMS’s. 	Industry Standards bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Champions need to be brought forward 	Business/developers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve links between schools and business, addressing curriculum issues and raising employees and local community groups awareness eg: assistance with biodiversity site actions. 	LBAP Partnerships to initiate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness between the two sectors – business and biodiversity practitioners 	WBP / Business & Industry reps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake ‘ perception’ survey to assess business sector understanding, views and opinions and those of its customers 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce joint WDA, Local Authority guidance for business on biodiversity 	WDA and WLGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain legislation simply 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business to sponsor an award for biodiversity best practice • Make delivering biodiversity ‘competitive’ and reward exemplars 	Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Assembly Government to recognise biodiversity and provide 	Welsh Assembly

leadership

Government

- Link biodiversity to corporate health standards and IIP
- Slant all advice and guidance towards the SMEs which comprise 90-95 % of Welsh businesses

WBP02 Business Contacts:

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Draft Remit for UK BRAG

1. Background

a. Biodiversity Research Working Group (BRWG)

The BRWG was established in 1998 to identify and prioritise 'cross-cutting' research needed to support Government commitments under the UK BAP. A full report on the work of BRWG is available from the UK Biodiversity Website. This report includes a general overview of cross-cutting biodiversity research in the UK organised under 6 major research themes covering:

- i. Science for the conservation of genetic and native species diversity.
- ii. Addressing the impacts of introduced species.
- iii. Understanding the roles of biodiversity in ecosystem function.
- iv. Science-based monitoring of biodiversity and evaluation of actions.
- v. Science-based management of habitats and ecosystems.
- vi. Developing tools to optimise policies to favour biodiversity.

These themes were based on the results of 5 workshops and follow-up activity taken forward by the BRWG covering:

- i. Biodiversity and agriculture: focus on pastoral systems
- ii. Introductions, translocations and genetic conservation
- iii. Marine and coastal issues
- iv. Landscape ecology, habitat fragmentation and land use change scenarios
- v. Biodiversity monitoring and indicators.

b. UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG)

The BRWG recommended that its work be continued under the direction of the proposed UK Biodiversity Partnership and this has been endorsed by the UK Biodiversity Group in its report (Sustaining the Variety of Life) and confirmed by the first meeting of the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee (UKBSC) on 5 September 2002. At this meeting, DEFRA's Director of Science was invited to establish a UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) and develop a plan of work.

c. Defra/JNCC Service Level Agreement (SLA)

BRWG also recommended that Defra and JNCC should support a biodiversity research co-ordination mechanism to follow-on from BRWG. In response to this recommendation DEFRA and JNCC have signed a Service Level Agreement to Co-ordinate Biodiversity Research Activity (CoBRA). This agreement will support the employment of a co-ordination officer and creation of an information exchange mechanism.

2. Overall purpose and aims of the UK BRAG

The overall purpose of the Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) is to provide advice to the community of biodiversity research funding bodies, research users and research institutions about biodiversity research priorities and co-ordination in the UK. UK BRAG aims to:

- a. To promote and facilitate research that seeks to support the delivery of UK BAP objectives, and hence implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including the needs of species and habitat action plans and cross-cutting issues.
- b. To enable effective and efficient UK engagement with European and international biodiversity research initiatives and hence fulfil the role of a national biodiversity research platform.

3. Way of working

a. Accountability

UK BRAG will report through its chairman to the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee.

b. Meetings

UK BRAG will meet at least twice a year alternating between a London and non-London venue. Meetings will be supported by a secretariat service provided by JNCC under the terms of the DEFRA/JNCC Service Level Agreement. Wherever possible BRAG will try to work between meetings electronically or by convening sub-groups but recognises that extra meetings might sometimes be necessary.

c. OST Code of Conduct

The code of conduct for scientific advisory committees was published by the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in December 2001 and can be found in full at the following web address (<http://www.ost.gov.uk/policy/advice/copsac>). Strictly speaking this guidance does not apply to the UK BRAG as UK BRAG reports to the UK Biodiversity Partnership through the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee and the Group provides advice on research co-ordination rather than scientific results. It does however seem sensible to follow the guidance as much as possible but avoid any unnecessary formalities. Consequently, all members of UK BRAG are encouraged to read the relevant sections of the document. The sections on the responsibility of members (paras 25-32), working practices (paras 46-54) and publishing advice (paras 76-89) might be most useful.

4. Membership

The membership of UK BRAG should represent the UK biodiversity research and practitioner community including members from Wildlife Link, statutory conservation agencies, academia, the collections, NERC and government departments. However the Group needs to be limited to a manageable size. Members of BRAG will be expected to represent and promote the work of BRAG within their organisations and wider whenever the opportunity arises. Wider participation will be facilitated through workshops on particular themes and the development of a website. Current membership is listed in Annex A. It is important that membership is regularly reviewed to ensure that sufficient and appropriate expertise is available to implement the work plan.

5. Duration

The UK BRAG will undertake a comprehensive review of its outputs, remit, objectives and membership and report on the findings to the UKBSC in March 2006.

6. Activities

To fulfil its objectives UK BRAG will undertake the following activities:

- a. Advise on the work of the CoBRA SLA (Annex B).
- b. Provide a forum for sharing ideas and information across the biodiversity research and practitioner community and advise on development of associated information systems.
- c. Advise on, and facilitate, the implementation of the six BRWG recommended research themes and identify new themes as necessary.
- d. Advise on appropriate mechanisms for co-ordination and collaboration.
- e. Consider and advise on UK's engagement with European and international biodiversity research issues.
- f. Promote the work of BRAG as widely as possible.

A work plan, including milestones and deliverables, will be prepared following further discussions at the second meeting.

7. Profile and communications

UK BRAG will aim to develop a high profile within the biodiversity research and biodiversity practitioner communities of the UK and Europe. It will do this through wide dissemination of results by websites, newsletters, publication and if appropriate workshops. It is an integral part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) infrastructure and will feature prominently in the work of the UK BAP.

Work will be reported regularly to the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee.

Membership of UK BRAG as at February 2003

Chair: Miles Parker (DEFRA)

Secretariat: Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

Stephen Albon	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
Ian Bainbridge	Scottish Executive
Tim Blackstock	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Richard Brand-Hardy	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Kevin Charman	English Nature
Caroline Fenwick	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Tony Hawkins	Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Andrew Jackson	Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew
Michael Kaiser	University of Bangor
Paul Leonard	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
David MacDonald	University of Oxford
David McCracken	Scottish Agricultural College (SAC)
Scot Mathieson	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Hilary Neal	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Gordon Patterson	Forestry Commission
Howard Platt	Environment and Heritage Service – Northern Ireland
Andrew Pullin	Wildlife Link – University of Birmingham
Geeta Puri	National Assembly for Wales

Paul Rose	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Jane Sears	Wildlife Link – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Pete Robertson	Central Science Laboratory
Martin Sharman	European Commission
Andrew Stott	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Michael Usher	University of Stirling
Johannes Vogel	Natural History Museum
Allan Watt	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) – Banchory
Kevin Watts	Forestry Commission

UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (UK BRIG)

Terms of Reference

1. Aim

- 1.1. UK BRIG will provide technical and scientific advice to the UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee (and Country Groups where appropriate) on the implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

2. Membership

- 2.1. Chair – Deryck Steer Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Secretariat – Biodiversity Information Service (BIS), JNCC
- 2.2. The membership of the group will be constructed to mirror the membership of the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee. It will be the responsibility of each member of the standing committee to ensure their nominated representative to the UK BRIG has expertise and experience appropriate to the work of the group as outlined in sections 5 and 6 of these terms of reference. Attention should also be paid to paragraph 3.1 which suggests that specific issues will be addressed through expert working groups. This suggestion recognises that it will be impossible for UK BRIG to contain all of the expertise necessary to address such a broad work programme within its core membership.

3. Discharging work

- 3.1. UK BRIG will discharge its work through the resources available within its secretariat, through resources available via its members and through ad hoc time limited expert working groups established to address specific issues. To ensure that adequate resources are available for the future work of UK BRIG requires careful long-term planning.
- 3.2. It is recommended that the working group set up by BIG to deal with 2002 reporting is immediately adopted as a working group of UK BRIG and charged with overseeing the process for 2005 reporting as soon as it completes its work for 2002.

4. Accountability

- 4.1. UK BRIG will be accountable to the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee and will be responsible for all working groups it establishes or adopts.

5. Objectives

5.1. UK BRIG will:

- Maintain the relevance of the UK lists of HAPs and SAPs taking account of the developing information and policy and the needs of the Country Biodiversity Groups and in particular develop criteria for and co-ordination of the review of HAPs and SAPs to be carried out in 2005.
- Development and Co-ordination of reporting on the UKBAP, including development of a web based process to integrate information from HAPs, SAPs Local Biodiversity Action Plans and wider policy areas and be accessible to all BAP partners.
- Development and co-ordination of biodiversity monitoring and surveillance to support HAPs and SAPs and wider biodiversity.
- Oversee and guide work of the UK Biodiversity Indicators Forum.
- Oversee development and maintenance of the UK Biodiversity website and ensure it is compatible and complimentary to relevant Country biodiversity websites.
- Maintain liaison with other relevant biodiversity bodies and networks in particular the NBN and UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) and recommend measures for meeting these requirements.
- Undertaking other activities as directed by or agreed with the Standing Committee.

6. Work Programme for 2003/04 and the near future

6.1. Based on the objectives above the following priority activities will form the initial work programme:

- Maintaining an overview of the information requirements of the UK BAP.
- Completing collation, analysis and UK reporting of information collected during the 2002 reporting round by May 2003.
- Planning and designing the process for reporting in 2005 by April 2004.
- Agreeing criteria and a process for the next review of priority species, priority habitats and targets by April 2004.
- Co-ordination and implementation of agreed review process for priority species, priority habitats and targets in 2005.
- Assisting UK BAP implementation through the design and implementation of processes to improve the linkage of local and UK action plans by April 2004.
- Providing advice and guidance on focus and activities of UK Biodiversity Indicators Forum.
- Assisting UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK BRAG) in the identification of research requirements for biodiversity.
- Maintaining and further developing the UK biodiversity website as the main delivery mechanism for UK BRIG activities.

Annex 3

LARGE SCALE HABITAT RESTORATION MEETING: 11 June 2003

Present: June Milligan; Trish Fretten; David Parker; Tony Prater; Tim Blackstock.
Derek Moore was unable to attend.

Background

WBP 01 established a small working group to consider further the usefulness of large-scale habitat restoration as a means of delivery of BAP in Wales.

Those listed above met and discussed as reported here.

Definition

We began by struggling with possible definitions of “large-scale habitat restoration”. After discussion of options, we favoured:

❖ Actions to join up or avoid fragmentation of habitat

We thought clarity about a mechanism was important – whatever it was, it needed to be something specific. We thought that a key element of the concept was that it related to the “bigger picture” – we were talking about something more than sites, but how big? Vision and a future perspective were also part of it – we were looking for sustainability in the face of eg. climate change, rather than eg. restoration for its own sake.

We did not want to define ourselves into a corner. For example, a possible linear approach which added a protected field’s width along the length of a coastal designation should not be ruled out by the framing of the concept.

Pre- requisites

We felt that taking forward the approach would require first:

- ❖ *the identification of natural areas: small, and defined on a biological or geological basis (or both)*
- ❖ *be more than (and other than) a single SAC*
- ❖ *afford the opportunity for habitat expansion as well as restoration*

Partners

Adopting this approach, nationally or locally, would need a range of voluntary, statutory and local partners. Landowners’ involvement was essential. Starting with a potential partnership – with experience in large-scale restoration, or something to bring to a project – would be one way forward.

Linkages

Any approach would need to be complementary to existing designated sites and to the agri-environment schemes in operation; would need to complement locally identified priorities, eg through LBAPs; not overlap with existing projects; and be helpful in respect of obligations under Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

Large scale habitats restriction or ecosystem approach

In the light of the discussion at the UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference in Battleby, we discussed whether there were tensions between what we envisaged and an overall ecosystem approach to biodiversity.

Rather than be diverted into potential tensions, we identified clarity about the value, priority, practicability, and breadth of outcomes in ecosystem terms as important in developing our own approach.

Conclusion

We thought that there was merit in taking this approach further. We did not want it to become project-led. We did want it to be focused on how better to deliver outcomes to which we are already signed up as part of the BAP process. A natural evolution from actions and processes already underway within the partnership, eg CCW's work on natural habitats; and upon the experience of partners with the approach elsewhere, eg RSPB on Futurescapes; seemed to offer the best way forward.

It was agreed that CCW would convene a meeting in the autumn with relevant NGOs to look at the possible options being developed by CCW. This meeting could then help build on them and so inform the report to WBP early in the New Year.

We recommend that CCW report at a future meeting on their natural habitats work.

June Milligan
WBP Chair

Annex 4

**WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH CYMRU
8 July 2003
Information Paper**



Biodiversity Wales

INFORMATION NOTE: IS BIODIVERSITY REFLECTED IN SCHOOL CURRICULA IN WALES?

The National Curriculum guidelines are revised every five years. During the last revision, CCW was successful in lobbying for two "new" terms to be included in the Programme of Study for Science - "**Biodiversity**" and "**Sustainable Development**" (in Personal and Social Education - Environmental Aspect).

"**Biodiversity**" is included in Science Key Stage 3 Theme-5: Living Things and Their Environment sub-section 4. = Page 11 NC Science doc.

"Pupils should be taught: adaptation, competition and conservation
4 about the ways in which living things and the environment of Wales can be protected and the importance of conserving biodiversity"

"**Sustainable development** " is included and delivered in Personal and Social Education - Environmental Aspect at both Key Stage 3 & 4, P15 &17 respectively.

Key Stage 3 "Pupils should understand the key issues of sustainable development, including actions that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future".

Key Stage 4 "Pupils should: Know how to live and act sustainably and how to participate in collective decisions to live and act sustainably"

CCW have also contributed and commented on the content of other courses e.g. a range of NVQ's at all levels, Bangor University post-graduate Countryside Management, Certificate/ Masters and is in discussion with Swansea University (Education Dept), concerning a teachers' two years post graduate course (Masters), which would have sustainable development as one of its six main units. This is separate from the SD unit currently being developed for initial Teacher Training by Bangor University.

These aspects are not included by QCA - the corresponding body to ACCAC in England. They may be included at the next NC review in England, which will start soon.

**Nerys Mullally
CCW
November 2002**



**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT BRONEIRION, LLANDINAM, POWYS
ON 11 NOVEMBER 2003**

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Steve Lucas	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Food and Farming Division, Aberystwyth
Joanna Robertson	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Nick Birula	Environment Agency - Wales
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Emma Crane	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer
Roy Tapping	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator from 01.12.03

Apologies:

Lindsay Roberts	Welsh Assembly Government Planning Division
Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Dr Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden of Wales
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
David Keast (Chair LBAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Helen Buckingham	National Trust
Gabe Wyn	CCW
Malcolm Smith	CCW
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator until 12.11.03

7 members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. June Milligan welcomed members and explained that the prime purpose of this meeting was to determine the Forward Work Programme and Budget. A number of draft and information papers had been prepared to support the discussions and assist members to make decisions.

Partnership members paused for two minutes at 1100hrs to observe Armistice Day.

2. **WBP Forward Programme and Budget 2003-04 + 2 years**
WBP Papers 03/01, 02, 03 and 04 relate

Joanna Robertson introduced the Draft Work Programme referring to the roles of the Partnership post devolution and the publication of the Millennium Biodiversity Report/ WBG Advice to the National Assembly. She emphasised that the focus of the Partnership has always been practical action with a strong emphasis on local delivery. There is more work to be done to support local action, highlighted by the Assembly Environment, Planning and Transport Committee's 2002 report into local biodiversity plans. She asked for the help of the Partnership to identify the relevance of the proposed projects to its roles and their expected outcomes.

Emma Crane introduced the paper on the proposed WBP website, and Trish Fretten the business case for increasing resources available to the Secretariat.

Each project proposal was discussed, confirmed, amended or deleted – *Annex 1* is the new agreed Programme.

ACTION AGREED AGAINST EACH WORK PROGRAMME AREA OR PROJECT:

- I. **MEETING INFORMATION NEEDS**
Secretariat to let contract for centralised entry of local partnerships' data; CCW to convert Tir Gofal BAP information to electronic format and explore linking it to BARS;
Refer interpretation of 2002 reporting round data for Wales to BRIG;
Extend contract to Powys and Brecon Beacons BIS to support development of 3 other LRCs in Wales into 2004-05 with a further £3.5k;
Target setting for LBAPs has been addressed - see item 3;
WBP's roles in the development of biodiversity indicators of sustainable development is marginal.
- II. **WBP WEBSITE**
Awareness Officer to issue contract brief;
Promote website to ensure its establishment as a key information source;
Register domain names '[biodiversitywales](#)' and '[bioamrywiaethcymru](#)'.
- III. **WALES BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2004**
To run as planned – see *Annex 2*;
WBP Awareness Officer to bring full evaluation report of the three successive annual weeks to WBP meeting autumn 2004.
- IV. **BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION**
Identify lead person in Secretariat; links with WBWeek.

LBAP Partnerships; engagement with this sector will help raise awareness and strengthen local delivery of actions.

V. WILDLIFE GARDENING

Run with a time limited series of actions in 2004 i.e. highlight exercise of personal responsibility for biodiversity and links to horticultural industry during WBWeek; make strategic links to action with other partners; run course at Plas Tan y Bwlch in April with generated material put onto website; bring evaluation report to future WBP meeting.

VI. MEETING EPT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS 5 & 6: FUNDING FOR LOCAL ACTION

Secretariat to complete review - outlined in *Annex 3* - and bring to WBP04 February 2004.

VII. BIODIVERSITY AWARDS

Recognise and celebrate outstanding contribution/s to local action at 2004 LBAG Seminar; LBAP Facilitator (Roy Tapping), Trish Fretten and Nigel Ajax Lewis to refine objectives and Roy to work with LBAG to ensure delivery.

VIII. LBAP FACILITATOR WORK PROGRAMME

Bring to WBP04.

Develop guidance on competencies required for LBAP coordinator roles.

The Partnership debated whether any subject had been omitted from the Forward Programme. It was agreed that marine biodiversity action was implicit in all work areas and projects. Although work on the Assembly's Environment Strategy had yet to start, Trish hoped that it would include an approach to biodiversity. It was agreed that the Partnership would have a role in developing a biodiversity theme should the Environment Strategy develop in this way. **Revisit at WBP04.**

BUDGET

The Partnership requested that the 'support' contract with BIS for the three emerging LRCs be extended beyond March 2004. An extension of the Awareness Officer post until 31 March 2005 was agreed as was the establishment of an informal steering group to support the post holder.

David Parker to action post extension within CCW; review Steering Group arrangement at WBP04.

The cost of creating a bilingual BARS system to be addressed at UK level, through referral to BRIG. The revised budget for Yr 2 is at *Annex 4*.

3. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES REVIEW OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION: SEE PAPER WBP03/03/05

Joanna introduced the paper, which listed the Committee's ten recommendations, the action falling to WBP agreed at the meeting in July and contained three related annexes.

The following action was agreed:

Add to the information listing guidance on target setting, monitoring and reporting, provide an introduction and make available to all LBAP Partnerships and on the website.

For action on the funding review see 2/6 above.

For action on Biodiversity Awards see 2/7 above.

Progress with addressing the recommendations to be reviewed at WBP04 in February 2004.

4. Reports

- i. Nigel Ajax Lewis spoke to the LBAG report (see *Annex 5*) and added information about the successful 2003 seminar, revision of TAN5, progress with LRCs, Wildlife Sites and CCW issuing marine biodiversity guidance. It was agreed that organisations represented on LBAG should respond directly to Assembly consultations such as the Wales Spatial Plan and review of the Sustainable Development Scheme: there was no intention that WBG or its sub-committees take on a role of responding to consultations. The Partnership thanked Julia for all her hard work and sent her its best wishes. It welcomed Roy Tapping who will be covering Julia's post between 1 December 2003 and 1 October 2004.
- ii. Trish Fretten reported on the recent meeting of the UK Standing Committee; all UK Biodiversity Group minutes can be accessed on the UKBAP website. This group has a new Chair; the meeting was dominated by information and reporting issues; a sub-group to manage the 2004 Forum in Wales was established and includes Trish Fretten and Steve Lucas.
- iii. Trish and Liz Howe reported on the UK Biodiversity Information and Reporting Group (BRIG); this has established sub groups to tackle 2002/05 Reporting; links to BRAG; review of priorities (Liz Howe and Steve Lucas); targets review.
- iv. Liz Howe reported on the work of the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG).
The Chair thanked all those who contribute to biodiversity activity at a UK Level and stressed that the Welsh dimension should aim to add value. The Secretariat will continue to distribute information about UK activities within the Partnership.
- v. David Parker provided a progress report on Natur Cymru, a product of the Partnership – see *Annex 6* and <http://www.naturcymru.org.uk/>
- vi. Liz Howe reported on action CCW is taking to identify locations for habitat restoration and commission appropriate technical support – see *Annex 7*.

CCW to arrange an event with invited partners to explain the work in more detail, learn what others are doing and report back to WBP during 2004.

5. Minutes from WBP02 8 July 2003

The minutes were confirmed.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate as *confirmed minutes*.

6. Arrangements for WBP04 and 05

The next Partnership meeting is on 3 February 2003 and is hosted in Cardiff by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. The meeting will examine skills and access to biodiversity expertise, matching training needs to delivery of action and draw on the Museum staff taxonomic knowledge and an overview of existing provision. A seminar format with invitees was agreed; include HE/FE, IEEM, LBAP Officer, John Farrar. The programme will include a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Museum.

Secretariat and Museum biodiversity staff to make appropriate detailed arrangements.

The fifth meeting of the Partnership will be hosted by Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru at their Elan Valley site in July 2004. Both the company BAP and the Estate Plan/links with LBAP will be in place by then. We will revisit 'Business and Biodiversity', reviewing progress on actions identified in early July 2003 and incorporate contributions from partners such as Arena Network, Earthwatch .
(See website <http://www.eweu.biz/wales.html>), and FWAG Cymru.

7. Other Business

Papers on the England Exchange Fair and proposed biodiversity indicators of sustainability were circulated.



**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND
GALLERIES OF WALES, CARDIFF ON 03 FEBRUARY 2004**

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Steve Lucas	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Joanna Robertson	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Emma Crane	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer

**Present by invitation for the morning Seminar: Identification Skills and Expertise for
Biodiversity Action**

Deb Spillards	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Mike Wilson	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Dr Dylan Gwynn –Jones	University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Gareth Griffiths	University of Wales, Aberystwyth
Kelly Thomas	Butterfly Conservation
Dr Madeleine Havard	Marine Voluntary Sector
Dr Rob Ogden	Wildlife DNA Services, Bangor
Alistair Taylor	Natural History Museum, London
Adam Rowe	Powys and Brecon Beacons Biodiversity Information Service
David Slade	SE Wales LRC
Mary Tubridy	Private Consultant, Eire

Apologies:

Jeff Phillips	Welsh Assembly Government Planning Division
Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Dr Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden of Wales
David Keast (Chair LBAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Helen Buckingham	National Trust
Mandy McMath	Countryside Council for Wales
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Food and Farming Division, Aberystwyth
Liz Howe/Tim Blackstock	Countryside Council for Wales
Nick Birula	Environment Agency - Wales
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Roy Tapping	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Clive Thomas	Ministry of Defence
Steve Moon	Bridgend CBC

Trevor Dines
Richard Pryce
Angie Polkey
Ivor Rees

Plantlife
Botanical Society of the British Isles
Shared Earth Trust
University of Wales, Bangor

FIVE WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

The morning's seminar on the subject of "**Identification Skills and Expertise for Biodiversity Action**" was led by Dr Graham Oliver after an introduction from June Milligan, WBP Chair. The National Assembly's Review of Local Biodiversity Action asked that *'the Welsh Assembly Government and ELWa consider ways of increasing the availability and take-up of courses in conservation science, taxonomy and practical land management skills by Welsh educational and training institutions; and encouraging the alignment of academic research to UK BAP priorities.'* Five presentations by guest speakers addressed aspects of the subject and informed a 'round table' debate on actions which might be taken in Wales to address the recommendations.

The following actions and executors were identified:

- 1. The NGMW and NHM London (Graham Oliver and Alistair Taylor) to work together to audit the users of Welsh biodiversity information and their needs**
- 2. The NGMW and NHM London (Graham Oliver and Alistair Taylor) to work together to audit the expertise of those with identification skills and expertise**
- 3. The voluntary sector to continue to engage the public in monitoring activities.**

The Powerpoint presentations of the guest speakers are available on request. Please see *Annex 1*.

The WBP Business Meeting commenced at 1400hrs.

1. WBP Forward Programme and Budget

Joanna Robertson was able to confirm that CCW had agreed the Partnership budget for 2004 –05. She highlighted projects where progress has been made. This includes the roll-out of the UK Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) in preparation for the 2005 reporting round, its bilingual functionality and the support which will be offered to the LBAP Partnerships. The post of WBP Awareness Officer will continue with anticipated delivery of the first phase of a WBP website in April 2004; preparations for Wales Biodiversity Week 2004 are well in hand. Joanna brought an interim report on the Review of Funding to support Local Biodiversity Action to the meeting. The Partnership requested further information through the LBAP Partnerships and that these 'streams' be followed through to source.

ACTION: Secretariat to source further financial information and complete next draft of Report by 01 June 2004.

The Chair advised that the Partnership will report directly to the Minister once the action falling to it is complete.

The issue of target setting (Project 1.4), in relation to local and country level achievements was discussed in the context of the planned review of UK Targets, and the 2005 Reporting round, and the scope for national as well as local policy initiatives to deliver outcomes. It was agreed that Wales wishes to work within a UK framework, with Lead Partners and that on occasions meeting country level targets is urgent e.g. securing the future of the Welsh population of the freshwater pearl mussel. It is not known what the Wales sum of all the individual LBAP targets is; many current LBAP targets are difficult to measure.

We agreed to consider the whole issue of target setting and reporting at a future WBP meeting.

ACTION: Place Target Setting and Reporting on the Agenda for WBP05 or 06.

2. Reports

i. Local Biodiversity Advisory Group

Nigel Ajax-Lewis reported that Roy Tapping, the LBAP Facilitator had prepared a considerable amount of detailed material to support the 'headlines' recorded here (see *Annex 2*). David Keast has resigned from his position as the WLGA appointed Chair of the Group; the Partnership recorded its formal thanks to David for his contribution. Early, key findings from the 2003 Questionnaire survey were presented (*Annex 3*), along with a detailed LBAP Facilitator Work Programme; the Partnership endorsed this and it is now annexed to the WBP Programme.

Plans for the LBAG Seminar, to be held on 14/15 September in NE Wales, were approved. The welcome additional guidance on marine LBAP issues by CCW was noted. The Partnership considered the advice on 'awards' to recognise and celebrate outstanding contributions to local action and asked LBAP Facilitator and Awareness Officer to prepare material on nominations for WBP05, when Partnership Members will select 'winners'. The effectiveness of the award will be subject to review before committing to future awards.

ACTION: WBP Chair to write to CX of WLGA requesting that they appoint a new Chair for LBAG.

ACTION: LBAP Facilitator and Awareness Officer to bring material on nomination for Award to WBP05 for final selection and arrange for presentation at the LBAG Seminar in September 2004.

ACTION: Invite Minister to LBAG Seminar

ii. UK matters:

Steve Lucas reported on preparations for the **UK Biodiversity Partnership Forum Conference** being held in Cardiff 21/22 June 2004. The theme is 'People and Biodiversity' and DEFRA are making the detailed arrangements. WBP is financing the Conference venue and the Assembly an evening reception at the Millennium Stadium. The Chair confirmed that WBP are hosts and requests that Welsh organisations participate. There will be no subsidy for attendance by Partners in Wales.

It was agreed that the WBP Awareness Officer will represent the Partnership at the **England Exchange Fair** 2/3 March and publicise Natur Cymru and the NMGW identification training events and materials.

Trish Fretten drew attention to the activities of the **UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group**. Information is posted at:

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Groups/BRIG.htm> on the UK BAP website.

David Parker spoke to notes prepared by Liz Howe, CCW after the latest meeting of the **UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group**; view minutes at:

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Groups/BRAG.htm>

David reported that he would be taking the Wales Country agency position on the **UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee** when Malcolm Smith retires from CCW. He confirmed that CCW and WBP had organised a **Seminar on Landscape Scale Projects** for Friday 13 February in Cardiff; all WBP members and guests involved in the WBP themed meeting in March 2003 had been invited to attend.

Annex 1

The following Powerpoint presentations and Speakers' notes are available by request from:
Gaynor Ainscough E-mail: g.ainscough@ccw.gov.uk Tel: 01248 385 743

Speaker	Title	Format	File Size
Dr Graham Oliver, NMGW	Why Taxonomy Matters	MS PowerPoint	70.5 Kb
Alistair Taylor, NBN	Education and Outreach	MS PowerPoint	369 Kb
Alistair Taylor, NBN	NBN Education Programme proposition	MS Word	77 Kb
Dr Rob Odgen, Wildlife DNA Services, University of Wales Bangor	Identification – Taxonomy – Molecular Systematics	MS Word	40 Kb
Dr Rob Odgen, Wildlife DNA Services, University of Wales Bangor	Identification – Taxonomy – Molecular Systematics	MS PowerPoint	1.71MB
Adam Rowe, BIS	Biodiversity Training Needs in Wales	MS PowerPoint	17 Mb

LBAP Facilitator's report to WBP04 (3rd February 2004)

- Prepared by Roy Tapping, WBP LBAP Facilitator
- Presented by Nigel Ajax-Lewis, Wildlife & Countryside Link

Roy Tapping would like to apologise for not attending today's meeting as he is representing the Welsh LBAP Community at the UK Grassland Seminar in Lancaster.

Report from LBAG

LBAG last met on 15th January 2004. David Keast was due to chair the meeting. He was unable to attend and Matthew Ellis (CCW) stood in at the last minute. David tendered his resignation as chair by fax at the end of the meeting. LBAG is therefore currently without a chair. Joanna Robertson has replied to David thanking him for his work. She is also taking forward the procedures required to appoint a new chair.

This was Roy Tapping's first LBAG meeting and he led the meeting with a presentation summarising the **2003 LBAP questionnaire**.

Refer to the "Report to WBP04 – Some key findings from 2003 LBAP questionnaire"

Other issues from the questionnaire that that were raised at LBAG were:

- **In order to generate more accurate funding information future questionnaires must attempt to put in place checks to assure that there is no duplication in information supplied. For example, ask for a total figure and then a breakdown. The breakdown must always equal the total to be correct.**
- **LBAP actions are often too many for a single LBAP Officer to chase -Partners must be encouraged to adopt actions and take them forward.**
- Environment Agency Wales are reluctant to carry out implementation on local projects as they tend to be operating more at a regional level i.e. Wales.
- Concern was raised that LBAPs are not sufficiently involved in Community Strategies (CS). This is often because they are being sidelined through the CS process. More guidance is required at all levels on how biodiversity sits within the Community Planning process.
- Concern was raised that Tir Gofal fails to adequately support the action/reporting function of LBAPs.

LBAP Facilitators work programme

The work programme was agreed by LBAG, with the following issues to be considered:

- **Making Tir Gofal data available should be added to the Work Programme.**
- **Policy work should concentrate on Community Strategies and producing guidance to get LBAPs published as Supplementary Planning Guidance.**

LBAG Seminar

Venue: **NEWI Wrexham**

Dates: **14-15th September 2004**

Possible Theme: "Mobilising Support"

Possible Topics:

- Seeking and keeping volunteers
- Ensuring partner participation
- Gaining new partner's help (aimed primarily towards business and farming)

- Influencing those in power (Local, regional and national)
- Getting community support
- Funding to support Action (available grants, predicting the future)
- Regional Action to support LBAPs (to look at the merits of GLAMBAG etc. and the NE Wales species Forums)
- Related session on reporting - in the run up to 2005 reporting round.

Additional topics raised at LBAG:

- LBAPs and their adoption as SPG
- Setting realistic targets

Preparations for the Seminar are ongoing. Once the themes and topics have been agreed, speakers will then be sought. Any suggestions for the theme, topics and possible speakers are welcome from WBP.

Training

A list of biodiversity related courses and events were circulated for LBAG members to add to. Concern was raised that demand for the Species ID courses run by the National Museum, far outstripped demand. This means that some people who really need the courses were unable to attend. Furthermore it highlighted the need for further courses in the future.

Progress with LBAPs

A chart showing the current progress with LBAPs was circulated. Roy Tapping raised concerns about the lack of information on exactly when LBAPs were published, and how and when they were updated and reviewed. To solve this Nigel and Roy plan to collate this sort of information. It may then be a feature of the WBP website, giving the public an up-to-date view into the progress of LBAPs.

CCW's Marine Biodiversity Awareness Officer (Emily Dicks) gave an update on progress, including release of the "Guidance for the production of local marine habitat and species action plans". Further information and awareness raising publications will follow this year. CCW has now completed 90% of its inter-tidal survey of Wales.

Important issues arising from the "Any Other Business"

- **EIA Regulations for uncultivated land and semi-natural areas.** Concern was raised that the Regulations are failing to protect important habitats and species. LBAG wishes to draw WBP's attention to the following issues:
 - There is still a lack of clarity on how the Regulations are being employed, particularly concerning interpretation of the definition of uncultivated areas and semi-natural land.
 - There are concerns over the administration of the Regulations by ARAD, especially concerning who to contact etc.
 - There seems to be a lack of transparency and reporting on those cases already dealt with.
- **"Going Wild in Wales"**

Receipt of the recently revised publication "Going Wild in Wales" stimulated discussion on the list of "Section 74" species and habitats. Concern was raised that there is still a lack of statutory backing for the list, although the Foreword to the publication has helped to give some ministerial backing. To make the list effective at a local level they must be integrated with the LBAPs and possibly the T&C Planning System, through reference in UDPs or SPGs.

WBP04: Information Paper
3 February 2004

REPORT TO WBP04 – SOME KEY FINDINGS FROM 2003 LBAP QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was sent out September 2003. The final response was received December 2003. There was 100% response from all LBAP Areas but the quality of answers was variable.

The questionnaire was split into 7 sections. The key findings for each section are summarised as follows:

1. The Biodiversity Team

- 17 officers have “biodiversity” in job their title – 9 of these are permanent
- Of those involved with LBAPs 80% of their time was spent on LBAP work - 87% for those with “biodiversity” in their job title.
- The key roles and responsibilities of LBAP officers:
 - Coordinating and implementing actions
 - Servicing their LBAP partnership
 - Raising biodiversity awareness
 - Development Control - which is of concern!!

2. The LBAP Partnership

- 22 out of 24 have established partnerships
- There is still an expectation that LBAP Officer implements actions

3. Funding

- Main funding still coming from CCW, LAs and National Parks;
- Objective 1 is the other main implementation funding source.

4. LBAP effect upon other policies

- There is a good spread of biodiversity related policies in UDPs;
- 3 LBAPs are adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – 7 more are planned in coming year (at least 1 of these has already been adopted as SPG);
- Only 7 LBAP Partnerships were consulted during Community Strategy consultation and only 7 Community Strategies mention biodiversity (Note: some areas haven’t completed their Community Strategy yet).

5. LBAP Implementation

- 22 out of 24 LBAP are implementing new action – mainly on species, habitats and awareness;
- Notable new partners are landowners. Noticeable omissions are business partners.

6. LBAP Reporting

- Very few are collecting records, only those piloting BARS are fully reporting;
- 23 out of 24 LBAP Areas are interested in BARS.

7. WBP Staff

- There is strong support for both the role of the LBAP Facilitator and Awareness Officer;
- Raising awareness at a national level, is the notable increased activity asked for by respondents, for both the LBAP Facilitator and Awareness Officer.

A further, more detailed summary of the results can be presented to WBP if required.



CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD IN THE EDUCATION CENTRE ON DWR CYMRU WELSH WATER'S ELAN ESTATE, POWYS ON 01 JULY 2004

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Joanna Robertson	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Emily Dicks	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales
Nick Birula	Environment Agency - Wales
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru
Roy Tapping	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Lisa Payne	Ministry of Defence

For the morning session: Business and Biodiversity

Alison Smith	WDA
Glenda Thomas	FWAG
Rachael Wilson	Sainsbury's
Toni Garnett	ARENA Network
Pete Jennings	Elan Valley Trust & Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Helen Buckingham	National Trust
Mandy McMath	Countryside Council for Wales
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Food and Farming Division, Aberystwyth
Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Deb Spillards	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Anne Meikle	BTCV Cymru

SIX WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

The Chair opened the meeting with introductions and warmly thanked the day's host Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. She then invited guests for the special Business and Biodiversity session to make their presentations. She explained that WBP was revisiting the subject after one year; in July 03 representatives of the business and biodiversity communities met and came up with recommendations for action, (see *Annex 1*).

The three presentations provided examples of:

- a) How an enlightened business cares for biodiversity;
 - b) What an advisor to the business sector found out during a CCW sponsored project, and how they have set up a biodiversity category for awards to business;
 - c) A well-established link between a supermarket and farm advisory business
- a) Brian Nelson described the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water makeup as a not-for-profit organisation, whose philosophy is to re invest to bring benefits to the environment and customers; they own a large estate covering some 35000ha and attract over 10000 primary school child visits annually. In partnership, they have invested £1.5 million in other conservation projects nationwide.

He introduced the *DRAFT 2004 BIODIVERSITY OVERVIEW*. Some 60% of the Estate is land of national conservation and biodiversity importance; BAPs have been prepared for all major sites and management work is in hand; long-term priorities include action to:

- Better understand the nature conservation value of holdings
- Implement individual site HAPs to enhance the value of key habitats
- Encourage tenant farmers to protect and enhance nature conservation on holdings
- Consult with key environmental and heritage organisations
- Implement scheme specific habitat enhancements through Conservation Best Practice Group
- Provide habitat data from surveys to LRCs, so as to share information
- Undertake partnership projects to optimise resources and coordinate initiatives
- Investigate the feasibility of using reed beds as soft tank sustainable alternatives to concrete structures for storm water at specific sites.

Their immediate priorities for action are to:

- Finalise BAPs for individual major reservoirs
- Implement land management regime at operation sites
- Consult with key organisations on their business plan 2005-10

Peter Jennings of the Elan Valley Trust provided an overview of the biodiversity interests of the Estate and priorities for action, links to the Powys LBAP, the involvement of volunteers and aspirations for BAP reporting in 2005 and establishing an electronic database which links with the local LRC. He cited the challenge for businesses of the volume and ever changing nature of environmental legislation.

- b) Toni Garnett, Regional Manager for Arena Network in NE Wales described how the organisation comprises 650 members Wales wide, offers free advice to any business, has put a coordinator into every county except Cardiff and has helped 272 businesses into the Green Dragon environmental management system and in partnership with CCW established a biodiversity category for their prestigious Environment Awards in 2003. She then described the main findings from an Arena/CCW funded three-month project, which aimed to:

- Investigate and research the level of information and support currently available to businesses
- Identify the existing structures, systems and support mechanisms in place to help businesses understand biodiversity issues in the UK and assess their relevance in Wales
- Assess the feasibility of using an Environmental Management Systems approach (EMS) to address biodiversity issues by business;
- Identify gaps and make recommendations for actions, which will need to be taken forward by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and in the Business and Environment Action Plan and other agencies/partners in Wales to deliver biodiversity outcomes involving business.

The recommendations for action are at *Annex 2*.

- c) Rachel Wilson, Senior Integrity Officer at Sainsbury's plc explained their role in supporting the production of BAPs for the land occupied by suppliers of their Premium Range products and developing story lines such as 'linking lettuces and bumblebees'; these suppliers farm 1% of UK farmland. The initiative started in 1997 and the target is to deliver 1000 farm BAPs in Partnership with FWAG. Sainsbury's has 9 stores in Wales.

Glenda Thomas, Manager of FWAG Cymru described the partnership with Sainsbury's and their progress with delivering farm BAPs. She mentioned that they had found keen interest amongst commercial farmers, who feel neglected by the environmentalists. She highlighted the importance of cattle for managing habitats and how CCW's Species Challenge Fund is helping FWAG target action for key species. She described FWAG's Silver lapwing Award.

The three presentations generated much interest and many questions. It was suggested that a target group for the biodiversity community to reach is investors. The Chair proposed that the level of interest merited more time being devoted to identifying actions to take forward the Business and Biodiversity agenda.

Action: Secretariat to schedule a meeting during September 2004, hosted by Welsh Assembly Government, to consider the recommendations from both WBP02 July 2003 and the Arena project and to identify further action.

Those who indicated a wish to participate are Brian Nelson, Arena Network, Environment Agency, Welsh Assembly Govt, WDA.

The Chair closed the morning's session and invited Members and Guests to enjoy a locally sourced largely organic lunch prepared by the staff at the Visitor Centre.

The WBP Business Meeting commenced after lunch.

1. Wales Biodiversity Award – Choosing the Winner/s

Roy Tapping reminded Members of the origin of the Award, the Guidance issued, the way that nominations had been put forward and the assessment process developed for WBP Members. He acknowledged the huge amount of work undertaken by Gaynor Ainscough to produce the illustrated portfolio of nominations. All these will be

showcased on the WBP website and at the LBAG Seminar, when the Minister will present the Award.

14 nominations had been made, representing individuals and projects; all nominations had come from Partnerships with dedicated biodiversity staff.

A decision on the winner/s was based on the results derived from 12 completed scoring sheets; the results will remain confidential until the Award presentation date.

Action: Roy to handle press coverage, communicate with LBAP Partnerships and invite feedback on the Award and supporting processes from applicants, non-applying Partnerships and WBP members. An Evaluation Report to be prepared for WBP06 in Nov 2004, when a decision will be made about running an Award in 2005.

REPORTS:

1.1 Welsh Assembly Government

Trish Fretten reported that Wales/Welsh Assembly Government had hosted the UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference in Cardiff on 21/22 June; that the study on marine issues by Jill Thomas is progressing; that amendments to Habitat Regulations had been withdrawn for 'legal' reasons and the preparations to produce a Wales Environment Strategy (WES).

The WES Team has been assembled with seconded staff from EA and CCW and officer time from FC and local govt/ WLGA; NGO involvement will be welcomed. The first meeting of the WES 'Reference Group' will take place on 7 July to be followed by 'participation' workshops.

1.2 Local Biodiversity Advisory Group

June Milligan announced that Deb Hill has been nominated by WLGA to lead the LBAG. Roy Tapping then outlined future action planned and issues identified as critical to successful delivery of biodiversity outcomes by the local Partnerships.

The residential Seminar in September will be extended to offer BARS training and include a 'Partnership' Fair'. The title/theme is '*Delivering Biodiversity Gains by 2010 – Targets and Actions*'. Booking forms for the Seminar will be available from mid July.

The results from the L BAG questionnaire 2003 have been summarised and will be distributed; there will be no questionnaire in 2004, as ALGE will be conducting a survey into local government 'performance'. ALGE plan to write to WBP enquiring about progress with action to address EPT Committee recommendations.

Local Partnerships require further guidance on UK BAP Targets Review, Reporting 2005 and had expressed ongoing concerns about implementation of EIA on uncultivated land regulations.

Action: Roy to 'facilitate' WAG FFD making their presentation on EIA to a wider audience

Three Partnerships have yet to publish LBAPs though implementation occurs throughout Wales. Some Partnerships lack the support of staff whilst others are finding that LBAP staff are doubling as local authority ecologists.

Action: Joanna to address these issues in Local Action Funding Review

1.3 WBP Awareness work

Emily Dicks, who has been in post for three and a half months reported briefly on the participation in events during Wales Biodiversity Week; 130 public events were held and reached 85000 people; 47 schools participated. The week gets more successful each year. The aim of the week should be to reach people new to biodiversity issues and provide them with a simple message and the ideas and motivation for personal action, hence the attraction of 'wildlife gardening'.

1.4 UK Standing Committee

June Milligan suggested that the impact of devolution on the former 'centralised' UK process should be considered by WBP in relation to its role

Action: WBP to agree its role at the November meeting; Secretariat in consultation with Chair to draw up draft list of functions.

1.5 BRIG and BRAG

Liz Howe provided information on work undertaken by the two UK Standing Committee Support Groups.

Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG)

Three Sub-Groups have been established to work on

- i. Review of Targets;
- ii. Priority Species and Habitats Review; and
- iii. 2005 Reporting.

The Targets Review will ensure that reporting in the future is made easier and that better analysis will be possible. Timelines for the three processes are in *Annex 3*.

Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG)

The full BRAG has met three times and has established sub groups on socio-economic research needs and non-native species. Wildlife Link have reported to BRAG showing how research, survey and information are key constraints to biodiversity action and have suggested the need for a framework for research needs. A joint sub-group with members of BRIG will be convened to address this. A review of recent habitat management studies is out for consultation; this will identify for BRAG those fields requiring more focussed work.

Liz also reported on the launch of APIS (Air Pollution Information System), a web site that provides information on the impacts of various pollutants on habitats and species and specific localities. See www.apis.ac.uk

Please note that minutes and papers from all UK Groups can be found at:

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=3>

2. WBP Forward Programme

Joanna referred to the updated Forward Programme sent out with the agenda. Limited time precluded discussion on any projects other than the paper on Funding for Local Biodiversity Action and Phase 3 of the WBP Website.

Action: WBP Chair to clear draft version of Funding paper for circulation round wider partnership.

2.1 WBP Website: Phase 3 proposal

Emily described the work completed and in progress and the favourable feedback on the site to date. Members felt that the paper prepared for the meeting, requesting WBP's

approval to move into Phase 3 and approve the funding, did not adequately address some of the risks.

Action: Emily/Roy to prepare a supplementary paper and circulate it for responses by 9th July and, if favourable, draw up specification and tender for delivery of Phase 3. See Annex 4.

3. Minutes of the 4th WBP Meeting held on 3 February 2004

With one minor amendment, their accuracy was confirmed.

ACTION: Secretariat to issue as Confirmed minutes

4. Any Other Business

Joanna drew attention to the following documents:

- i. Copies of the address by Carwyn Jones AM to the UK Conference in Cardiff
- ii. The Joint Links manifesto on “*Sustaining Biodiversity: Revitalising the Biodiversity Action Plan process*”
- iii. An invitation from ADAS at Pwllpeiran to a scoping meeting for the “*Flying Flocks for Conservation Grazing in Wales*” Project. See Annex 5.
- iv. The dates for the next two WBP meetings have been agreed as follows:
WBP06 to be held on 16th November 2004 at Broneirion, Powys, and WBP07 to be held on 1st February 2005 in Cardiff.

The meeting closed with afternoon tea and departure for a tour of the Elan Valley Trust land, led by Peter Jennings.

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT BRONEIRION, LLANDINAM, POWYS ON 16 NOVEMBER 2004

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Joanna Robertson	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Emily Fleur Dicks	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales
Nick Birula	Environment Agency - Wales
Michelle Bromley	Forestry Commission Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Lisa Payne	Ministry of Defence
Rachael Fickweiller	The National Trust
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Food and Farming Division, Aberystwyth
Dr Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Nick Somerfield	Farmers' Union of Wales
Catherine Duigan	Countryside Council for Wales (Head of Marine and Freshwater Support Group)
Deb Hill	Welsh Local Government Association

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
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FIVE WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. The Chair opened the meeting with introductions and a welcome to new members. Time had been set-aside at this meeting for WBP to examine its remit and consider where its priorities lie. The meeting would begin with the representatives from WBP and UK groups/sub-groups reporting back on recent meetings and developments so that this would inform later discussion.

2. **REPORTS BACK and DISCUSSION**

2.1 **WBP Local Biodiversity Advisory Group**

Deb Hill, LBAG's new Chair presented the report – see *Annex 1*.

The following Actions were agreed:

Lack of progress with TAN5: **Trish Fretten** to contact Neil Hemmington of WAG Planning Division and encourage him to participate and provide information.

EPT Committee Recommendations: **Trish Fretten** to ask the EPC Committee clerk to find time for the Committee to consider the update (see *Annex 2*) and the Funding paper: see Item 5.

2.2 **UK Standing Committee**

June Milligan and David Parker had attended the last meeting on 13 October 2004.

June reported that the Committee's focus tends to be process orientated, not strategic and that is a matter of concern to some members (including Welsh representatives) who are pressing for a more strategic approach. Much of the agenda had focussed on 2005 Reporting and associated issues. A discussion on the application of the concept of Favourable Conservation Status to the UKBAP had concluded that it was inappropriate and that its use should not be extended to the UKBAP.

Arrangements for the 2005 UK Conference in Bristol, focussing on the 2010 Target (to halt biodiversity loss in Europe and reduce biodiversity loss across the world), were assigned to a sub-group: **Joanna Robertson** had agreed to be the Welsh Representative in the first instance. Invitations will be extended to other sectors.

See minutes at: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?id=5>

2.3 **UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG)**

Liz Howe reported on the activities of the very active support groups covering 2005 reporting, the existing targets review and the priority habitats and species review. See *Annex 3* for timeline. Progress with reporting is highly dependent on the roll out of BARS (see note at *Annex 4*).

Guidance for the target review had been issued and Welsh lead partners/contact points will be selecting new targets that are SMART and relevant.

See <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=98>

The review of priorities will be a three-stage process; stage 1 considers scientific criteria; stage 2 looks at what can be done to conserve the species and habitats and stage 3 at the best way to achieve this.

BRIG has run into workload problems, as progress with all three inter-related topics depends on the same people. Concern was expressed about how marine targets would be set and how specialist groups will contribute; the review of Marine Nature Conservation (RMNO) report recommends the combination of the RMNO priority features work with the UKBAP, using identification criteria and methods tested and refined during the Irish

Sea Pilot. This work will list marine priority features to be fed into the current UKBAP review.

WBP welcomed the opportunity to influence the procedures and outcomes, and **agreed** to set up a WBP Targets Task and Finish Group, convened by Liz Howe (see item 4.3 of minutes).

2.4 UK Biodiversity and Research Advisory Group

Their work is informed by four sub-groups covering; see

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/BAPGroupPage.aspx?GroupID=2>

- a) Socio-economic issues
- b) Management of habitats and ecosystems
- c) Monitoring and
- d) Non-native species

Sub-group a) had received a report examining the links between socio-economics and biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. See full report at

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brag/SocioEconomicResearch.pdf>

Group b) are working on the need for research information to implement HAPs and SAPs, particularly information on cross-cutting issues, synergies and conflicts that could occur at landscape scale, when implementing individual plans. A series of workshops to address the question ‘ can the information come from a re-analysis of existing data or is new research needed?’ will be held in March 2005 in York. (*Decision for all: Is it important that someone from Wales attends these workshops?*)

Richard Evans invited WBP members to feed him ideas to put to DEFRA re biodiversity research no later than 10 December 2004.

Group c) covers indicators and measuring change and links to environmental factors such as climate change. A workshop in September in Bangor on a strategic approach to baseline environmental monitoring in Wales highlighted the need for policy changes to meet targets for biodiversity. It also recognised the sense in funders working together to maximise benefits from investment.

2.5 Welsh Assembly Government

Trish reported that:

- i. The scoping study on marine issues had gone to the Minister and that a marine bill is being considered by DEFRA;
- ii. The bill to set up the new integrated agency in England might contain clauses to close the loophole on third party damage to SSSIs and extend the S74 duty to all public bodies;
- iii. The Minister had attended the Wildlife Crime Conference, where he had confirmed the Assembly’s commitment to protect the environment.
- iv. Her Team has a vacancy for a dedicated biodiversity officer.

The Chair invited Michelle Bromley to report on progress with the Wales Environment Strategy.

The three workshops had identified biodiversity action as a priority. The drafting group were now working towards a January 2005 deadline, covering Quality of Life, climate change, resource issues, diversity including biodiversity and education and processes. A

consultation draft will be produced in the Spring, with structured public consultation over the summer and a final Strategy released later in the year. The Strategy will be implemented through an Action Plan. Follow progress at <http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=529&n2=558>

2.6 Reports from Partnership Members

The National Trust is preparing a nature conservation strategy and regional frameworks; the draft for Wales should be ready in December 2004, supported by an internal group and strengthened ability to contribute to WBP business.

The RSPB reported their involvement in Common Land management legislation.

The Forestry Commission is now a devolved body in Wales and is preparing a biodiversity strategy for both its public and private estates.

David Archer covered the recently completed Review of National Parks in Wales and Action Plan; he drew attention to recommendation 13 about improving partnership working in support of the Section 62(1) duty.

Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water commented on the crucial role of WAG in relation to promoting biodiversity within the business agenda through existing legislation and delivery mechanisms, providing a structure within which others, eg Arena Network, can then facilitate action.

3. WBP: REAFFIRMING ITS PURPOSE

The Chair provided an agenda for this item and facilitated an open discussion. The Questions and Views of individual Members of the Partnership are tabulated in *Annex 5*.

The consensus in discussion recognised three levels at which biodiversity action was focused: the local, all-Wales and the UKBAP, which provided an umbrella over the other activity. Wales Biodiversity Partnership were felt to be the “biodiversity trustees” for Wales. Through examination of the questions What, Why, How and Who in respect of WBP’s role, seven immediate priorities were identified:

- Being a biodiversity community
- Offering strategic direction for biodiversity in Wales
- Providing a focal point for HAP, SAP and LBAPs in Wales
- Owning and monitoring targets for Wales, a Task and Finish activity
- Awareness raising, chiefly through LBAP activity and Natur Cymru
- Reviewing S74 priorities for Wales
- Making decisions on the WBP work programme

Action: Trish Fretten to use the material to revise the 2003 Terms of Reference and provide a framework for WBP07 in February 2005. After endorsement at this meeting, the reaffirmed purpose will be reported to the Minister.

4. Species and Habitat Issues

- 4.1 Draft action plans for 12 Wales specific S74 species, prepared by Butterfly Conservation, RSPB, and Plantlife has been circulated in advance. It was agreed that **Liz Howe** would ask them to subject the targets to scrutiny with latest UK guidance to make them 'SMART' and that all WBP Members suggest names against Lead Partners and actions. The use of photos to illustrate the plans was approved.
- 4.2 Draft Action Plans for UK Priority Woodland Habitats, one of which is relevant to Wales have been forwarded to the **Secretariat**. It was agreed that these would be circulated to Members and comments invited before recommending WBP approval. **Action: Secretariat**
- 4.3 It was agreed that WBP would approach 'setting targets for Wales' through a Task and Finish subgroup convened by **Liz Howe**. The Group will cover the marine environment and undertake consultation with LBAP Partnerships.

5. Review of WBP work during 2004-05

Papers and summaries had been provided for all major work areas.

Awareness: Website and Wales Biodiversity Week

The Partnership acknowledged that dedicated resources are needed to maintain the standards of the excellent start made in this area.

LBAP Funding

With minor amendments and the addition of information about external funding sources and issues, it was agreed that this paper should be taken to the EPC Committee as a factual report. The Partnership recognised the continuing need for core funds to enable local Partnerships to operate. **Action: Trish Fretten and Joanna Robertson.**

EPT Committee recommendations: Update on Actions

It was agreed that this paper should be part of the package provided for EPC Committee. An updated version is at *Annex 2*.

Action Trish Fretten.

Wales Biodiversity Award

Setting up and running the award had been very time consuming and there had been limited publicity. The Partnership agreed that an award scheme should run in 2005 on condition that bureaucracy was minimal and that publicity maximised.

Action Trish Fretten to convene a sub-group to consider the evaluation report and recommendations.

6. WBP Forward Programme

Joanna had tabled a draft Forward Programme and budget but it was agreed that decisions on continuing and new work areas must be informed by the revised Terms of Reference (see action under Item 3). However, as the WBP Secretariat resources derive from CCW, **David Parker and Joanna Robertson** were asked to ensure that relevant information is provided in time to meet CCW resource allocation deadlines.

The Partnership was asked to consider the business case for two further years' funding for an Awareness Officer; the Partnership was supportive but signalled that a short-term approach is not ideal and that an exit strategy for this work area is required.

ACTION: Joanna to check if BARS development requires more investment from either WBP or CCW. (Note £10k bid included in WBP budget for 2005-06)

7. Minutes of the 5th WBP Meeting held on 1 July 2004 were confirmed as accurate.
ACTION: Secretariat to issue as confirmed minutes

8. Any Other Business

8.1 The dates for the next two WBP meetings have been agreed as follows: WBP07 to be held on 1 February 2005 at a venue in South Wales, yet to be identified and WBP08 on 21 June 2005.

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT Tŷ CAMBRIA, HQ OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WALES IN CARDIFF ON 01 FEBRUARY 2005**

Present:

June Milligan (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Wendy Twell	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Jill Thomas	Welsh Assembly Government Environment Division
Joanna Robertson (Minuting)	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Jannifer Dack	Environment Agency - Wales
Michelle Bromley	Forestry Commission Wales
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
Lisa Payne	Ministry of Defence
Helen Buckingham	The National Trust
Dr Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Mandy McMath	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine and Freshwater Support Group)
Deb Hill	Welsh Local Government Association
Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden Wales
Steve Moon	LBAG Member and Chair Association of Local Government Ecologists

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Dr David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales (Unable to attend due to transport difficulties)
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales (Unable to attend due to transport difficulties)
Emily Fleur Dicks	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Food and Farming Division, Aberystwyth
Nick Somerfield	Farmers' Union of Wales

FIVE WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. The Chair opened the meeting with introductions and a welcome to new members.
2. **Wales Environment Strategy**
June Milligan introduced Claire Bennett, who is leading on the preparation of the Assembly's Environment Strategy and explained the background to and progress with it. She and Claire then invited WBP members to consider the principles embodied in the draft strategy relating to biodiversity, and provide ideas as to outcomes and actions for inclusion.

This was achieved through a series of individual responses and structured discussions based on the questions:

- What is biodiversity in Wales like?
- How is it threatened?
- What must we do about this?
- How can we best express the current state of Welsh biodiversity?
- What are we doing to protect it?
- How should we supplement those actions?

A compilation of the input to the discussion can be found at *Annex 1*; this will also appear on the Strategy website at:

<http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fe/master.asp?n1=366&n2=529>

Claire thanked WBP for their input and invited the submission of any further thoughts.

ACTION: All to email any further thoughts to Claire at:

Claire.Bennett@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

3. **WBP Revised Terms of Reference**
These had been re-drafted by Trish Fretten and David Parker. There was debate about Clauses 1 and 5, which Trish will amend as follows:
Clause 1: Focus on the implementation of Species and Habitat Action Plans and Welsh biodiversity targets
Clause 5: Delete
ACTION: Trish Fretten to send amended ToR to Secretariat for translation and then to report to the Minister

4. **WBP Forward Programme and Budget 2005-06**
As WBP had not approved the programme and budget at its last meeting, it was asked to do so now in the light of the agreed revised Terms of Reference. Joanna confirmed that a bid had been made to CCW for resources to support the programme prepared for the November meeting but these would not be confirmed until later in the month. Approval was given for a subsidy for the LBAG Seminar, 2005 Award costs, Website and Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW).

The Partnership approved a one-year extension to the Awareness Officer post, whilst acknowledging that this did not address the proposal put to WBP06 for a further two-year post. WBP requested that a strategy be prepared for the June meeting, WBP08 addressing the direction of and priorities for awareness work from 21 June, (date of next WBP meeting) until 31 March 2007 and an exit strategy for WBW.

ACTION: Secretariat to prepare for WBP08:

- **A Strategy to address how biodiversity awareness work will be taken forward from 21 June 2005 to 31 March 2007**
- **An exit strategy for Wales Biodiversity Week; and a**
- **Paper on how the WBP budget is funded and the role of CCW**

The Chair requested that, in future budget papers be circulated for consideration ahead of WBP Meetings and that cover sheets identifying decisions required are attached to the Forward Programme and budget.

5. REPORTS BACK and DISCUSSION

5.1 WBP Local Biodiversity Advisory Group

Deb Hill presented the report, (see *Annex 2*).

ACTION: Julia to work with Trish to secure Ministerial support for the LBAG Seminar in Aberystwyth on 6/7 September. Julia to put a planning issue on the Agenda for next LBAG meeting 9 June.

5.2 UK Standing Committee

June Milligan reported that there had not been a meeting since WBP06.

5.3 UK Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG)

There was no verbal report as Liz Howe had been delayed with transport difficulties.

Liz has submitted a written report – *Annex 3*.

Wendy Twell, Welsh Assembly Government will attend the next BRIG meeting on 8 February.

5.4 UK Biodiversity and Research Advisory Group

No verbal report at the meeting but see *Annex 3*, written report prepared by Liz Howe.

Ruth Jenkins proposed that much better links should be forged between these two UK Groups and the Partnership.

ACTION: Members to send Trish Fretten suggestions as to how Wales might inform the UK process better.

Representatives on UK Groups to improve the way they report back to WBP; David Parker and June Milligan to advise WBP08 on this.

5.5 Welsh Assembly Government

Trish Fretten explained that after internal restructuring Wendy Twell and Jill Thomas are now able to help cover biodiversity issues. She confirmed that a possible Marine Bill is still in the very early stages of development. She also confirmed that the Draft Bill to set up the new integrated agency in England will be out for consultation shortly and will contain clauses to close the loophole on third party damage to SSSIs and extend the S74 duty to all public bodies; if they survive the parliamentary process, they will apply in Wales.

5.6 Reports from Partnership Members

The **National Trust** will launch its nature conservation strategy at the Royal Welsh Show 2005.

The **RSPB** has recently published the State of Welsh Birds 2003.

The **Forestry Commission** as Lead Partner for UK woodland HAPs is engaged in reviewing targets and intends consulting LBAPs in Wales before UK deadlines. FC is taking a lead in trying to define 'secure status' of habitats and is proposing a methodology and model based on habitat networks. It has embarked on a review of all its Guidelines including those for biodiversity.

The **Environment Agency** has drawn up and will cost area biodiversity action plans; these will be fronted with a regional overview.

CCW will continue to offer grants for work on priority BAP species through its Species Challenge Fund.

WDA submitted a report on relevant issues see *Annex 4*.

National Botanic Garden Wales now has 6 new Trustees and support from the National Assembly and will recommence its development as a national institution.

National Museum and Galleries Wales has delivered extra CROW Act species identification training and produced a loose leaved manual.

ACTION: Make manual available on a website; Secretariat to assess feasibility of WBP site being the host.

A preliminary report on training needs in Wales was inconclusive but had identified a need for improved local data availability. Work on the Outer Bristol Channel is being extended through a public awareness programme.

Wildlife Trusts Wales

Nigel confirmed that the post of Development Officer for the West Wales LRC is about to be filled. The Trusts, as Lead Partners are engaged in target reviews for 10 UK SAPs.

Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) described the outcomes from a project to improve the ability of local government to contribute to biodiversity action and targets.

ACTION: ALGE to bring further information and results of the Wales survey for 'Measuring the Momentum' to WBP08

6. Species and Habitat Issues

Liz Howe was not able to attend the meeting due to transport difficulties.

Her paper on Setting Targets for Wales was welcomed although doubt was expressed about achieving the outcomes in the timescale indicated. Tony, Nigel and a local government representative agreed to form the Task and Finish Group to support Liz. It was agreed that the issue of 'secure status' for habitats must be addressed.

Liz provided the following information following the meeting:

English Nature are running a massive spreadsheet operation to capture all the newly suggested targets (this is done for each country and then added to give a UK target). We will be able to access this to see how the Welsh contribution is going. At first this will mostly be the texts of the targets, with numerical data being added more slowly as Lead Partners receive input from the reporting process currently underway.

S74 Species Action Plan update

Liz provided the following information after the meeting:

The RSPB, Plantlife and Butterfly Conservation had confirmed that they will act as Lead Partners for their respective action plans. The National Trust are happy to be named against actions for various species, but no other body has responded. The few specific textual comments can be addressed during the changes to the targets. The targets are currently being updated still and completion is likely by the end March.

The Partnership endorsed the adoption of two new UK priority woodland HAPs. The FC will be Lead Partner; Upland Birchwoods occur only in Scotland and the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Plan fills a gap in BAP coverage.

ACTION: Trish Fretten to recommend adoption to Minister and DEFRA.

7. **Minutes of the 6th WBP Meeting held on 16 November 2004** were confirmed as accurate after two amendments.

ACTION: Secretariat to issue as confirmed minutes

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 The Partnership confirmed that WBP08 on 21 June 2005 should focus on progress with reporting issues. This meeting will follow the UK BAP conference on 14/15 June and Wales Biodiversity Week 11-19 June.

ACTION: Secretariat to arrange venue in NE Wales and identify participants.

A date for WBP 09 was not confirmed.

Annexes

- 1 Wales Environment Strategy: contributions from WBP
- 2 Report from LBAG
- 3 Notes on BRIG and BRAG
- 4 Report from WDA

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT THE RHYDYMWYN VALLEY SITE
CENTRE, NEAR MOLD, FLINTSHIRE ON TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2005.**

Present:

Michael Dunn (Chair WBP)	Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Trish Fretten	Welsh Assembly Government - Environment CM Division
Joanna Robertson (Minuting)	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Eden Hannam	Environment Agency - Wales
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Parker	Director Science, CCW
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales (Terrestrial Science Support Group)
Mandy McMath	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine and Freshwater Support Group)
Aisling Carrick	Welsh Assembly Government Technical Services Division

By invitation:

Steve Moon	LBAG Member and Chair Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)
Greg Carson	Ecologist, Flintshire County Council, ALGE and L BAG Member
Matthew Ellis	Biodiversity Officer, North Region CCW
Ant Maddock	JNCC
Helen Wilkinson	Biodiversity Information Team CCW

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Emily Fleur Dicks	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Technical Services Division, Aberystwyth
Nick Somerfield	Farmers' Union of Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Lisa Payne	Ministry of Defence
Helen Buckingham	The National Trust
Dr Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Deb Hill (Chair L BAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden Wales
Anne Meikle	BTCV Cymru
Jennifer Dack	Environment Agency - Wales

THREE WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. Joanna Robertson welcomed Members and Guests to the WBP's eighth meeting, and introduced Dr Michael Dunn as the Partnership's new Chair. He formally opened the meeting with thanks to DEFRA and CITEK for use of the site and Visitor Centre. He explained that **this meeting afforded us with an opportunity to see biodiversity action in the field, then look at how biodiversity action is reported locally and nationally and identify the reporting needs for Wales.** Grant Webberley, DEFRA gave an overview of the site history and management before asking Ken Parkes to provide more detail. Pip Perry and Jacinta Williams from the Deeside Urban Wildlife Group led a field visit, showing us buildings with bat roosts, amphibian sites, grassland restoration and how the local community is involved through the Friends of Rhydymwyn Valley Site. Dave Williams and Sando Citra, local managers added colourful stories about the site's former use.

2. Ant Maddock, JNCC and UK BRIG **explained the current reviews of BAP priority habitat and species and targets and 2005 Reporting.** He explained that WBP will need to agree to the targets derived from the UK review and consider the implications of meeting them including resources for LBAPs, surveillance and monitoring. Each UK country will be able to identify their most appropriate delivery mechanisms.

He outlined the stages in the 2005 Reporting round, identified how BARS and other information can be accessed to answer Wales specific questions and how questions had been devised to assess the effectiveness of L BAPs. He pointed out that Wales leads in the uptake and use of BARS and commended the target set for 100% involvement in the current reporting round. He posed questions on the format of the Report, which will be ready for June 2006 and how it can be used to reach politicians and decision makers; BRIG is considering engaging an expert to help with this.

ACTION: All to identify any gaps in the analysis and advise on how we can work more efficiently together. Contact Ant Maddock via UKBAP website www.ukbap.org.uk or directly at JNCC. Tel: 07818 097 360 or E-mail: Ant.Maddock@jncc.gov.uk

3. Helen Wilkinson from CCW's Biodiversity Information Team **provided a Case Study on the roll out and use of BARS in an Assembly Sponsored Public Body.** She described the varying roles of CCW staff including acting as UK Lead Partners for 8 Habitat Action Plans and 18 Species Action Plans and how BARS is being developed as a management tool. Training has been provided for staff and there are now 71 registered users in CCW. BARS is a unique system as it has been developed to meet the needs of the end user and has a public interface and can be interrogated very easily. As it is a live web based system, information entered is available immediately to all partners at a local, country and UK level in a range of formats. Some LBAPS are using the system to maintain and monitor their plans and to provide data for a range of standard reports required by Partners. Progress with implementing the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is being measured on BARS.

CCW sees the value of BARS for planning work, measuring progress, generating good case studies and helping it respond to queries and regular biodiversity reporting commitments.

ACTION: Any WBP Member requiring an introduction to 'using BARS' as an organisation should contact the Secretariat; Helen has offered one Wales wide session to interested Partners.

4. The Chair then moved the meeting into an **OPEN DISCUSSION**, requesting that we focus on outcomes, analysis of the data and its presentational style and how we can support increased use of BARS. In answer to a question about UK and country priorities, Ant Maddock pointed to the power of country specific solutions to deliver outcomes for local priorities and how those delivery mechanisms which offer solutions to wider ecological problems can meet the needs of a suite of local as well as UK priority habitats and species.

Link questioned whether the Wales Environment Strategy can deliver the biodiversity outcomes WBP desires and the role of Wales- specific lists of habitats and species under S74 of the 2000 CROW Act. David Parker asked if the data in BARS will be used to assist target revision and how frequently they are reviewed; targets are set for 2010, 2015 and 2020.

There was discussion about how WBP will sign off any revised UK priorities and targets and ensure involvement of the L BAPs; due to late release of revised targets information, there is a very short window concluding in September. WBP suggested adding an extra session to the LBAG Seminar, involving WBP Targets/Priorities Task and Finish Group members and LBAPs.

ACTION: L BAP Facilitators to consult on this and make arrangements if agreed.

ACTION: WBP Secretariat to advise JNCC on how and when WBP will respond to UK level consultations.

In conclusion, WBP confirmed that its tasks in the next eighteen months are making decisions on priorities and targets for UK and Wales, identifying gaps in delivery, identifying the appropriate way to take action, to provide a structure for the biodiversity process in Wales and to encourage the collection of data on action using BARS and to promote more work to identify outcomes.

Guests were thanked for their contributions.

After lunch the Partnership held its **BUSINESS MEETING**.

5. Trish Fretten introduced Paper 2 on the WBP Budget & Strategy for Awareness Work

WBP noted and agreed the current arrangement whereby WAG funds CCW to provide the Secretariat until March 2007. Members agreed to identify priorities for the work programme and actions for the work streams and make decisions about these at its meeting in November 2005 (WBP09). It was agreed that it would be appropriate to look at the future of the Awareness Officer post, Wales Biodiversity Week and the Biodiversity Awards in this context.

ACTION: Secretariat to prepare template for WBP and Secretariat Forward Programme to assist the Partnership to identify the action required to deliver the biodiversity outcomes for Wales and allocate the money available for 2006-07.

6. Joanna Robertson explained that the Secretariat Forward Work Programme had been circulated for information

ACTION: Revise format to take on board the action of Partners and Task and Finish Groups.

7. David Parker introduced Paper 5 on Natur Cymru.

This WBP 'product' has been successful due to the investment of Partners' resources and expertise and now needs the security provided by a more formal status as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Wales Cooperative Centre has been advising the Board; Natur Cymru's establishment as a co-op and with the status of a Company Limited by Guarantee will increase financial probity and governance and protect both staff and customers.

The Partnership endorsed the recommendations in the paper which were to:

- i.** Change the status to a Company Limited by Guarantee;
- ii.** Continue the marketing campaign with the aim of reaching 2,000 subscribers;

- iii. Welcome changes to the magazine, and support its development into the future as a means to raise the profile of biodiversity in Wales.

There was a discussion about the cooperative membership of Natur Cymru when it becomes a Company Limited by Guarantee; this would be open to all WBP members. Directors could then be selected from this membership - although WAG had already advised that it would not be able to take Director or Trustee status and FC thought it might be in the same position. .

8. Reports back

i. **Local Biodiversity Advisory Group**

Julia Korn spoke to the Report; see *Annex 1*.

ii. **ALGE survey of LA performance and biodiversity**

Greg Carson presented an analysis of Wales data derived from the national survey in 2004 on local government performance in relation to biodiversity; see *Annex 2*

It was noted that 6 local authorities in Wales had not responded. The Partnership asked for further work to correlate performance with the presence of staff with biodiversity and ecological competence.

ACTION: ALGE WALES

iii. **UK Standing Committee (UKSC)**

David Parker had attended the last meeting on 9 March where the focus was the commitment to the 2010 target to ‘reduce the rate of biodiversity loss’ worldwide and to ‘halt biodiversity loss’ across the EU. The Committee considered a paper on indicators, to help us assess what progress the UK is making. They had agreed to rely on existing monitoring information to determine progress with processes and the less easy task of determining outcomes.

Several WBP Members had attended the UK BAP Conference in Bristol and heard the excellent address by Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN on the 2010 Target and the UK’s role. The UK Government, during its Presidency hopes to assist the European Commission to move forward the ‘Message from Malahide’, recommendations from the 2004 Biodiversity Stakeholders’ Conference.

The next UKSC meeting is on 22 September in Bristol; WBP Chair and David Parker will attend.

iv. **BRIG and BRAG**

Liz Howe had prepared an Information Paper; see *Annex 3*. The information will be used by the WBP Task and Finish Group to determine priorities and targets for Wales. BRAG has provided welcome guidance on UK research priorities.

v. **Welsh Assembly Government**

Trish Fretten reported that branches within ECM Division had been subject to further reorganisation and a marine branch created. She will provide representation for this Branch at WBP for the foreseeable future unless the focus is on marine issues in which case Jill Thomas is likely to attend. The WBP Paper reporting action against the 2003 EPT Committee

recommendations on local biodiversity will be noted by the EPC Committee in June, and the WBP Paper on Funding Local Action will be on the Agenda at a future meeting. She confirmed that the Minister has seen and noted the revised WBP Terms of Reference. He had spoken to local authority Environment Cabinet Councillors about the Assembly's commitment to biodiversity and the proposed extension of the biodiversity duty to all public bodies. ALGE added that WLGA had adopted 'Increasing Momentum' a vision for local government and biodiversity and would be informing all relevant staff in authorities.

ACTION: Trish to forward speech to Secretariat for distribution to WBP and LBAG Members. *See Annex 4*

vi. Reports from Partners

The Forestry Commission reported on their involvement in the DEFRA led costings exercise to support the introduction of new targets for habitat and species action plans. Link (RSPB) drew attention to the start of the three month consultation phase on 6 July for the Wales Environment Strategy and regional workshops. The Environment Agency requested that WBP Members share information in preparing responses to the Wales Environment Strategy. Link (Wildlife Trusts) reported that a development manager had been appointed for the West Wales LRC and that SeWBREC is due to become operational on 1 August.

9. Minutes of the 7th WBP Meeting held on 1 February 2005 were confirmed as accurate.

ACTION: Secretariat to arrange for translation and posting on the website

All Action Points had been discharge other than:

5.6 National Museum and Galleries Wales has delivered extra CROW Act species identification training and produced a loose leaved manual. **ACTION: Make manual available on a website; Secretariat to assess feasibility of WBP site being the host.**

6. The Partnership endorsed the adoption of two new UK priority woodland HAPs. **ACTION: Trish Fretten to recommend adoption to Minister and DEFRA.**

10. Dates and arrangements for WBP09 and WBP10:

WBP09 will be held on Tuesday 8 November 2005; the Forestry Commission kindly offered a venue;

WBP10 will be held on Tuesday 14 February 2006; Secretariat to arrange venue.

ACTION: Members to note these dates in their diaries.

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to all contributors and our hosts.

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT THE AFAN ARGOED VISITOR CENTRE, CYNONVILLE, PORT TALBOT ON TUESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2005.

Present:

Diana Reynolds	(Deputy Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Joanna Robertson (Minuting)	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Jennifer Dack	Environment Agency – Wales
Alistair Driver	Environment Agency National Conservation Policy Manager
Anne Butler	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Parker	Director Science, CCW
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales (Terrestrial Science Group)
Aethne Cooke	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine LBAP Support Officer)
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Food and Farming Division
Steve Moon	Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Helen Buckingham	The National Trust
Dr Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden Wales
Cllr Robin Woodyatt	WLGA Member

By invitation: morning only

Emily Fleur Dicks	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Awareness Officer
Paul Manners	BBC Bristol
Non Richards	BBC Learning Project Manager - Wales
Ian Danby	BASC
Peter Fabian	BASC

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Nick Somerfield	Farmers' Union of Wales
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Deb Hill (Chair L BAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Anne Meikle	BTCV Cymru
Michael Dunn	(Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales

THREE WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. **Joanna Robertson** opened the meeting with a warm welcome to **Diana Reynolds**, Head of the Welsh Assembly Government branch with responsibility for nature conservation and biodiversity. She offered the apologies of Mike Dunn, WBP Chair who was on a sustainable development training course.

Diana had agreed to chair this meeting. She welcomed Members and Guests and set the context for the day's business. She referred to a leadership role for WBP to take forward action deriving from the forthcoming Wales Environment Strategy. The morning's business focussed on Programmes for Biodiversity Awareness and Involvement.

Firstly Paul Manners and Non Richards from the BBC were invited to outline the background to and plans for their Breathing Space Campaign.

2. **BBC Breathing Space**

Paul Manners explained that his reason for coming to WBP was to reach a conclusion about how WBP and BBC can work together, possibly through a small steering group, over a 2-3 year period to achieve the campaign's objective to encourage people to take practical action to safeguard biodiversity. Paul complimented WBP on its pioneering and successful awareness raising work such as the events database on the website, LBAP delivery of local events during Wales Biodiversity Week and understanding of target audience needs. He hoped that by working together, we could build on these foundations.

The BBC has data from research, which suggests that the most receptive audiences to be encouraged to take action are those who are child led, already nature enthusiasts, 'passive preservationists' and 'helpless backyarders'. The child led respond to 'pester power', the second group can offer expertise, the third focus on their locality and the fourth group 'need practical help'.

The campaign will target children and 'localness' and build on the fact that what is seen on TV inspires people to 'take a first step' towards action. The campaign will be supported by a database accessible through the internet, phone-lines and libraries and three support networks for schools, business and neighbourhoods. Paul himself will lead the delivery team, steered by a four person strong group including Chris Baines and a Big Lottery Fund representative.

A copy of Paul Manner's PowerPoint presentation is available from the WBP Secretariat: contact Gaynor Ainscough.

Non Richards elaborated on her role in Wales and how she would be the main contact for WBP; she expressed the view that the BBC and WBP share common aims and hoped that by working together, biodiversity would benefit. She listed existing resources available, such as the 5 'where I live websites', two national radio channels, the BBC buses, the resources of Education/ Learning Wales headed by Eleri Wyn Lewis. She suggested using TV and radio to launch Wales Biodiversity Week 2006 and linking the Breathing Space 'events local to you' web page with the WBP events calendar.

Finally the BBC set out what it wants to achieve by working in partnership with WBP, highlighting the work that is currently being accomplished in Wales through various media platforms including radio and television programming and online. The Plan of Action for Delivering Breathing Space in Wales is to:

- Meet in January 2006 and embed ideas and form a working plan for May/ June 2006;
- Identify themes and activity to link to and compliment Springwatch II on BBC2;
- Consider and agree an action plan to work together throughout the duration of the campaign;

- Identify a possible project to be filmed for an 8 part series to be broadcast in 2007;
- Connect with communities and engage participation in activities.

3. **BASC Green Shoots: pilot project in North Wales**

Ian Danby, Biodiversity Officer for the British Association for Shooting and Conservation reminded Members of their ‘ private sector’ Biodiversity Action Plan Green Shoots, produced in 2000 and its implementation through pioneering projects in Cheshire and on the Somerset Levels.

A pilot project across North Wales, working with FWAG Cymru, the L BAP Partnerships and CCW had commenced in 2004 with the aim of delivering biodiversity gain on land owned and managed by BASC Members. Ian outlined the results of Phase 1 of the project and invited WBP Members views on taking forward and funding Phase 2.

A copy of Ian Danby’s PowerPoint presentation is available from the WBP Secretariat: contact Gaynor Ainscough, e-mail: g.Ainscough@ccw.gov.uk

4. **Progress with Large Scale Habitat Restoration Projects**

Liz Howe, described the CCW led programme to restore and link damaged and declining habitats for the benefit of wildlife and people in Wales. She charted progress and highlighted some examples and then described how partners can become involved by working with CCW local teams.

A copy of Liz Howe’s PowerPoint presentation is available from the WBP Secretariat: contact Gaynor Ainscough at g.Ainscough@ccw.gov.uk

5. **The morning session concluded with questions and answers and warm appreciation for those who had made presentations.**

- 5.1 The EA described their development of a ‘wetland vision’ and how flood- risk management money would be used to fund habitat restoration.
- 5.2 Link asked the BBC how more specialist support can be provided for biodiversity action. The response was to think and plan well ahead to capitalise on expertise. Initially however, the message has to be very simple, concentrating on action and localness and then on sustaining projects.
- 5.3 A Local Government duty for biodiversity in the current NERC Bill will provide opportunities for further sectoral engagement.

Guests departed after lunch and the WBP Business Meeting started.

6. **WBP operation January 2006 to March 2007: Forward Programme and Budget**

Diana reminded Members of the WBP Terms of Reference, then invited Joanna Robertson to outline the background to the proposals in the Programme for 2006-07. Joanna referred to clarification at WBP08 of funding arrangements for the Secretariat and CCW’s offer to continue until March 2007, which will be confirmed by the Welsh Assembly Government. She described what has been done to simplify the presentation of options for WBP projects and budget spend and efforts to capture information about the contribution of WBP Partners to the Wales- wide biodiversity programme. Only two WBP members had completed the Proforma which highlights their current action and priorities, ready to link into the Wales Environment Strategy Action Plan.

Members responded with the following suggestions:

- 6.1 That WBP ‘positively structures’ the Wales Biodiversity Action Plan and then examines its current make- up to ensure that it can help deliver the Wales BAP;

- 6.2 Wales will require more resources to meet its information needs;
- 6.3 WBP must examine its 'executive role' and not lose its unique ability to look holistically at terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity issues;
- 6.4 WBP should develop its strength as a 'robust advisory body' and provide a strategic lead for action under the WES, in line with its role as a UK BAP 'country' group;
- 6.4 That WBP delivers in accordance with the WAG vision for 'the centre having less and local delivery more';
- 6.5 Non-participation by key sectors in WBP business is an issue;
- 6.6 WBP would invite the Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership to join it at a future WBP meeting;

WBP agreed to revisit, its structure and membership during development of the Wales Environment Strategy Action Plan. The WES Reference Group meets on 13th February 2006, and WBP on 14th February 2006.

ACTION: at WBP10 identify the action in WES falling to WBP, **appoint a Task and Finish Group** to examine WBP ToR and structure, bring that advice to WBP11 and put new arrangements in place for April 2007.

ACTION: invite the Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership to attend **WBP10**

ACTION: Secretariat will re-circulate the proforma to capture information about the key contribution of WBP Partners to the Wales-wide biodiversity programme, for completion by **All WBP Partners** by end November 2005.

WBP discussion then centred on awareness work and proposed actions 2006-07. Papers WBP03/ 05/ 03 and 04 and recommendations from LBAG (Annex 1) had been prepared to inform discussions.

WBP agreed:

- i. That we continue to carry out awareness raising work, including all the projects listed in the Draft Forward Programme;
- ii. That all WBP Partners work with the BBC under the banner of Breathing Space and co-brand their events and initiatives;
- iii. That awareness raising work, carried out by WBP partners throughout the year is welcomed as a contribution to awareness and involvement goals;
- iv. That Wales Biodiversity Week continues to be supported, not as the only event but as an annual focus for awareness raising activities, with fixed dates and the purpose of increasing interest in biodiversity;
- v. That Local BAP Partnerships will be invited to make a contribution to the Wales wide programme of awareness raising events; the local government sector was anxious that LBAP officers are not put under undue pressure but emphasised the value of local events in attracting political support.
- vi. That WBP produces a 'case studies' celebration document instead of a Wales Biodiversity Award and delegates responsibility for overseeing its production to LBAG.

ACTION: Secretariat to secure the staff and programme costs to set in motion the awareness raising projects listed in the Forward Programme 2006-07; action beyond March 2007 will need to be agreed by WBP in November 2006.

ACTION: Secretariat/Awareness Officer will work closely with Non Richards to integrate WBP and Breathing Space campaigns involving WBP members as and when appropriate

ACTION: All WBP partners will put relevant communications staff in touch with Non or Emily, e-mail: e.dicks@ccw.gov.uk to ensure that relevant events and campaigns are co-branded as WBP and Breathing Space.

In conclusion, WBP agreed to the Draft Project and Budget proposals for 2006-07.

7. **S74 Species Action Plans for Wales**

Liz Howe described how additional species of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales had been identified and progress with producing action plans. The final versions will be delivered to WAG by 30 November 2005.

WBP agreed that the S74 list will need revision following the results of the UK priorities review and the introduction of the extended biodiversity duty under NERC. There was discussion about how UK priorities are identified and strong support for these embracing country priority species and habitats.

UK Links have produced a document covering BAP development and devolved issues.

ACTION: CCW to deliver final versions of 12 x S74 SAPs to WAG by 30 November 2005.

WAG to approve, publicise and ask for these plans to sit on the WBP website.

Tony Prater, Chair Wales Link to circulate UK Links document to WBP members via Secretariat.

8. **Reports**

8.1 **Natur Cymru**

David Parker exhibited the second full colour edition. He reported that Natur Cymru will become a Company Limited by Guarantee from 01 April 2006. The move to CLG status was agreed at WBP08.

8.2 **WBP Local Biodiversity Advisory Group**

Anne Butler, L BAP Facilitator presented the Report highlighting the following issues and recommendations from the meeting on 06 October 2005. Ref Annex 1.

Seminar 2006: WBP agreed to the requested budget of £4k

WBP Awareness role: see WBP09 minutes under item 6.

Case Studies: see WBP 09 minutes under item 6.

BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System): WBP endorsed the recommendation that time and resources are allocated to officers in organisations to maximise benefits from BARS and that specific responsibility is given to individual officers, as has been done by the Environment Agency. EA offered funds to support further training of WBP partners. WBP Partners WAG EPC Technical Services requested further training opportunities.

UK review of marine priority species: Aethne Cook reported that DEFRA will fund a short-term post to complete the work by March 2006.

Regulation 33 of the Habitats Regulations: LBAG reported to WBP that BAP species and habitats appear to be inadequately protected under current proposals for setting conservation objectives.

ACTION: David Parker, CCW agreed that he will work with those authoring Reg 33 packages to overcome these problems and provide a mechanism for delivering protection for species and habitats listed under S 74 of the CROW Act 2000.

EA enquired about a programme of action in Wales to restore designated sites, as only 40% are considered to be in favourable condition. It was noted how helpful the establishment of PSA targets in England had been in encouraging progress towards achieving favourable condition. David Parker responded, saying that he expects WES to provide a focus for action, also that the Water Framework Directive and 'top of the pyramid' agri-environment schemes offer opportunities to improve SSSI condition. WBP recommends that the rationale for and delivery of action to achieve conservation objectives for all sites designated under law for nature conservation should be examined.

TAN5: WBP noted slow progress towards its production but felt unable to take action.

8.3 UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee

David Parker and Mike Dunn had attended this meeting on 22 September 2005. David reported progress with agreeing a set of biodiversity indicators for the UK, which nest with those for the EU and CBD. A climate change subgroup will produce a publication covering climate change and terrestrial biodiversity by the end of 2005 and begin work on a sister marine publication. The UK Partnership's 2006 Conference will have a maritime theme and be held in N Ireland 20 and 21 June 2006. JNCC had presented a paper on the future of the UK BAP.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate JNCC paper; see Annex 2.

8.4 UK BRIG (Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group) and BRAG (Biodiversity Research Advisory Group)

Liz Howe drew attention to the information in the pre-circulated papers 03/05/05 and 06. Nigel Ajax Lewis, Link had done further work on paper 06 and copies were tabled; see Annex 3.

ACTION: Liz Howe to incorporate this information in future work.

All WBP partners whose organisations are involved in the UK reviews to encourage early completion of the work.

ACTION: WBP to note that it must approve new targets for priority species and habitats by the end of March 2006.

9. Minutes of WBP08 were confirmed as accurate.

ACTION: Secretariat to distribute as 'confirmed', translate and post on website.

All Action Points had been discharged or were in hand.

10. Any Other Business

Joanna Robertson drew attention to the contents of the two Information Papers pre – circulated. She requested that WBP partners who have a website make links with UKBAP, WBP and BARS websites.

ACTION: All WBP Partners to arrange for links with UKBAP, WBP and BARS websites from their home pages by end November 2005.

Joanna reported that the long awaited communication on biodiversity from the European Commission to the Council and European Parliament was now making progress and is expected to be adopted in April 2006. See Annex 4.

11. Dates and venues for future WBP Meetings

WBP10 will be held on 14 February 2006 at Broneirion, Powys.

WBP11 will be held on 13 July 2006 at the Wildlife Trusts' centre on the Teifi Marshes, subject to confirmation

WBP12 will be held on 8 November 2006 in North Wales.

The Chair closed the meeting with thanks to all participants and our hosts, the Forestry Commission whose national and local staff had been most helpful.

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE WALES BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT BRONEIRION, POWYS ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2006

Present:

Michael Dunn	(Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Diana Reynolds	(Deputy Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Joanna Robertson (Minuting)	Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tony Prater	Wales Environment Link
Jennifer Dack	Environment Agency – Wales
Anne Butler	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Parker	Director Science, CCW
Kathryn Birch	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine LBAP Support Officer)
Steve Moon	Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)
David Bullock	The National Trust
Cllr Robin Woodyatt	WLGA Member
Ruth Jenkins	Forestry Commission Wales
Michelle Bromely	Forestry Commission Wales
Nick Somerfield	Farmers' Union of Wales
Deb Hill (Chair L BAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Jan Sherry	Countryside Council for Wales (Terrestrial Science Group)

By invitation: morning only

Dr Havard Prosser

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Anne Meikle	BTCV Cymru
Alistair Driver	Environment Agency National Conservation Policy Manager
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales (Terrestrial Science Group)
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Technical Services Division
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden Wales
Dr Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Dr Mandy McMath	Countryside Council for Wales (Freshwater and Marine Science Group)

FOUR WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. Mike Dunn welcomed everyone, with special mention of Dr David Bullock, returning to WBP to represent the National Trust and Kathryn Birch and Jan Sherry of CCW. He then extended a warm welcome to Dr Havard Prosser, Environmental Science Advisor for the Welsh Assembly Government who made a presentation on *Climate Change and Biodiversity impacts*.

2. **Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts: Powerpoint Presentation**

Dr Prosser presented his key points under three headings:

- i. Predictions of climate change
- ii. Biodiversity impacts
- iii. Developing resilience

In Wales, many terrestrial and freshwater communities will be affected by climate change. Species, such as the nightingale, will migrate north; some arctic-alpines may be lost. Raised bogs may dry out without irrigation. Low river flows in summer will mean higher concentrations of agrochemicals.

Welsh climate predictions suggest that, by 2080, it may be warmer by 1.5 – 4.0 °C, wetter in winter by 10-30%, drier in summer by 5-25% with more extremes, more variable from year to year (e.g. more drought years), more rain in frequent and violent storms, more severe gales, sea level may rise by 9-69 cm and the growing season will be 30-60 days longer. These trends WILL continue so we will need to adapt.

Solutions may include such action as prioritising what needs protection, not fighting the inevitable, moving from designated sites to broader countryside protection, concentrating on fewer, larger designated sites, protecting habitats and creating migration corridors. We do know that currently we have insufficient data about the natural environment to help us quantify many of the changes accurately.

In terms of resilience, because substantial impacts are expected from an increase in global average temperature as well as the rate of increase, simple wildlife corridors may not help. We may need to increase the area of semi-natural habitat, restore ecological links between these areas by complementary agri-environment schemes and manage designated sites for change – species presence and absence, community composition, boundary changes. We need to cater for dynamism and help people to face up to challenges which will require them to change their behaviour.

Key points made in the subsequent discussion were:

- i. The timely review of agri environment schemes in 2007-08 and introduction of new ones in 2009 under the Wales Rural Development Plan;
- ii. The good sense of sharing information collected by all government departments;
- iii. Putting a positive spin on what can be gained from integrated countryside management;
- iv. Agri - environment schemes will contribute most when targeted;
- v. Species will be driven to extinction and some of these may be current BAP priorities;
- vi. Opportunities for new crops, so long as we conserve genetic resources;
- vii. How economic signals, particularly in the uplands, can determine the ability of the environment to adapt;
- viii. The need to engage with the wider population on this issue.

The Secretariat tabled the EEAC statement on Biodiversity Conservation and Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change; see also <http://www.tcp-events.co.uk/eeac2/index.html>

A copy of Havard Prosser's PowerPoint presentation is available from the WBP Secretariat as is a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Dr Ruth Mitchell of CEH, to complement the England Biodiversity Strategy; contact Gaynor Ainscough at g.ainscough@ccw.gov.uk

3. Group Exercise

Diana Reynolds ran the 'pyramid' exercise with the intention of helping WBP Members determine how WBP will respond to the challenges in the forthcoming Wales Environment Strategy. The actions relevant to WBP, as proposed to the Cabinet as at 14 February 2006, were:

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership will be reconfigured to provide a leadership role and expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales. By Oct 06 - WBP reconfigured. Lead: WBP

We will develop a Biodiversity Framework for Wales explaining the roles, remits and processes essential to biodiversity protection and enhancement in Wales. By Feb 07 - Biodiversity Framework completed. Lead: WBP

*We will bring together standardised guidance for the development of local wildlife sites. Guidance for designation in place by 2007 Lead: WBP
Partners: WBP, Local authorities, Wildlife Trusts, ALGE, CCW*

The ultimate aim of the exercise was to determine three changes WBP can make; there was agreement that these are:

- Provide a strategic guidance document in the form of a Biodiversity Framework for Wales explaining the roles, remit and processes in Wales
- Devise a new way of working for WBP and related groups, focused on delivering results
- Take the lead on monitoring our progress (based on WES indicators) by using existing data to identify a baseline, targets and progress to inform further action and awareness raising

A 'Biodiversity Framework 'Task and Finish Group' was established comprising Michelle Bromley, Steve Moon, Deb Hill, Jennifer Dack and Diana Reynolds. This group will draft the required document for approval by WBP. The work of the group will be completed once the WBP have agreed the framework document.

All suggestions made by Members working in pairs, four- and eight- some were captured and will be used to inform the work of the task and finish group.

The WBP Business Meeting commenced at 1400hrs

3. Reports back

3.1 Natur Cymru

David Parker, Chair of the Board reported that the next issue, No 18, marks Natur Cymru's fifth anniversary. A new company, limited by guarantee, takes over the operation of the magazine on 01 April 2006; this will offer fresh opportunities for increasing income generation and subscriber loyalty. The magazine also has a new title *Natur Cymru – The Nature of Wales*.

As with all major developments, this is a critical phase in the life of the magazine. New Directors are needed and the relationship with the Editor will be formalised. David asked that WBP members support it in every way possible, especially by helping to spread the word and

encourage friends, colleagues and contacts to take out subscriptions. As a result of an energetic leafleting campaign, about 80 new subscribers have joined in the last two weeks. Renewal rates run at 75%.

ACTION: All to promote Natur Cymru: visit <http://www.naturcymru.org.uk/contents.htm>

3.2 Local Biodiversity Advisory Group

Steve Moon spoke to the report, circulated in advance as Information Paper no 1.

The Chair agreed that the proposed letter on **L BAP Officers: staff resources** could be sent round under his name. Further guidance, on the role of L BAP Officers was suggested.

ACTION: Drafting group (Anne, Deb, Rod and Diana) to circulate letter to WBP Members; judge best timing for release of letter and link its contents to delivery of the Wales Environment Strategy.

L BAP Officer attendance at UK BAP Conference, Belfast; WBP agreed to contribute towards the attendance costs of up to three officers.

ACTION: Secretariat to issue guidance and earmark funds.

WBP agreed that training in facilitation skills should be available to L BAP Officers.

ACTION: Secretariat to investigate training opportunities on offer in Wales, by WBP Members, as well as the cost of commissioning bespoke training.

As Anne Butler is leaving her post in March, Steve thanked her most warmly for her contribution to the L BAP agenda in Wales, praising her organisational skills and efficiency.

The gap between L BAP Facilitators will be covered by a temporary contract offered at a lower grade for approximately four months.

ACTION: Secretariat and CCW recruiting. Send copy of job description to Deb, Steve and Diana.

3.3 WBP Awareness work

Information had been circulated in Papers 2 and 3. Joanna commended the paper timetabling the 9 categories of awareness work underway in Wales, key dates and the consequences of slippage. Progress with the ‘ L BAP celebration/ case studies document’ was on track.

She expressed disappointment that only three WBP Members had responded to the request to nominate media contacts to work on the awareness programme.

ACTION: All to respond immediately by sending contact details for their communications colleagues to Emily.

Mike Dunn reported that he had attended a meeting with the BBC and other Government Departments on Breathing Places, where the support action in Wales was praised. He suggested that we prepare an exit strategy as BBC funding runs out in 2009.

ACTION: WBP to build into 2007-08 work programme exit strategy from Breathing Places.

3.4 UK Standing Committee

The Committee had not met since the last WBP and its next meeting will be on 05 April 2006;

ACTION: Mike Dunn and David Parker will attend and take forward concerns identified at 3.5 and bilingual issues raised by the working practices of UK government funded organisations e.g. BBC.

3.5 BRIG and BRAG

Liz Howe, who was unable to be present, had prepared Information Paper no 4 in advance of the meeting.

Kathryn Birch reported on progress with the UK marine review, part funded by WBP and CCW.

Jan Sherry clarified expected outcomes from UK H/SAP and priority reviews. WBP expressed concerns about timetable slippage and how the government’s research agenda should be seen to reflect the priorities identified by BRAG.

ACTION: Mike and David to raise these concerns to UKSC; link to 3.4.

3.6 S74 Species Action Plans

Diana explained that final draft plans had arrived in the Assembly before Christmas but that WBP needs to endorse them before WAG asks the Minister to accept them. It was agreed that the plans should be sent to WBP Members.

ACTION: Secretariat to send out plans to WBP immediately, asking for endorsement before 31 March; circulate plans to L BAP Partnerships for information and so that they can consider implications for implementation; WAG to seek Ministerial endorsement and prepare briefing/ publicity; make the plans available on the WBP website and via links from the Assembly website.

3.7 NERC Bill biodiversity duty

Whilst the exact wording of the Bill was not yet finalised, enough of the intention behind the extension of the duty was known for DEFRA to have begun to scope the guidance required. Steve Moon, Anne Butler and Joanna Robertson had attended a meeting called by DEFRA in Bristol in January.

In discussion, it was agreed that guidance would need to extend to other sectors as well as local government.

It was also acknowledged that the implications of the duty could be different in Wales, from those in England; WAG had commissioned a legal interpretation.

ACTION: WAG will identify a member of staff to contribute to a DEFRA England and Wales Working Group; Steve Moon will contact DEFRA (Kathrina Mannion) for an update on the scoping exercise; ALGE/ WLGA will also contribute to the Working Group; once the text of the Bill/ Act is finalised WAG/ WBP will set up a Task and Finish Group to scope the guidance required in Wales and report back to WBP11 in July 2006.

4. Minutes of WBP09

With two amendments, the minutes **were confirmed as accurate.**

ACTION: Secretariat to distribute as 'confirmed', translate and post on website.

5. Action Points from WBP09

5.1 Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership: both Diana and Tony had spoken to its Chair, Dr Madeleine Harvard, who confirmed that WCMP role is strategic with the aim of encouraging cooperation. They are happy to defer any biodiversity issues to WBP. It was agreed that there is a need for interaction.

ACTION: Diana Reynolds and Jill Thomas, who sits on the WCMP will maintain regular contact and identify those WES actions which are appropriate for each Partnership; Diana will report back at each WBP meeting; Diana, Jill and Madeleine to consider future interaction between WCMP and WBP .

5.2 Link document on Halting Biodiversity Loss by 2010: Tony Prater tabled copies; see also www.wcl.org.uk

5.3 UK Reviews: as yet, no end date can be identified;

ACTION: David and Mike will express WBP concerns at UKSC 05 April 2006.

5.4 WBP Partners' weblinks: only two organisations had actioned this; others were urged to make progress with linking their websites to those for WBP, UKBAP and BARS.

WBP Website: www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

BARS Website: <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

UKBAP Website: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>

ACTION: All WBP members to arrange for links from their organisations' websites to those for WBP, UKBAP and BARS by 31 March at the latest.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 TAN 5

The publication of the draft was welcomed; comments are required by 21 April; ALGE will advise that the NERC biodiversity duty should be included.

6.2 BSI PAS

Joanna reported on the development of a publicly available specification by BSI and ALGE for performance in biodiversity by the forward planning and development control sectors of local government. This was welcomed as a good precedent and model for other sectors.

6.3 Business and Biodiversity

Joanna reported on a joint project between Arena Network and CCW covering business and biodiversity and reminded WBP of the pioneering work it had done on this topic back in 2003. See <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/english/resources/Business.asp>

6.4 UK BAP 2005 Reporting

CCW and L BAP Facilitator reported full responses, other than the Powys L BAP Partnership where there was no local coordinator at the time. The full report will be made available at the UK Conference in Belfast on 20-21 June 2006. Discussion on the outcomes for Wales will be programmed for the L BAG Seminar in September.

6.5 BARS

Those WBP Members who had attended training sessions were urged to respond to the follow-up questionnaire about usage and uptake within their organisations.

The WBP Secretariat has struck a deal with the Society of Chief Librarians to roll out some pilot projects to encourage competence in BARS usage by librarians and access to BARS in public libraries.

ACTION: All to visit the public part of BARS and use the database search at <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/search/default.asp>

There was discussion about the perceived needs of the Welsh L BAP Partnerships for support and training to use BARS; the 're-configuration' of the WBP may provide scope for offering more local support; meanwhile the L BAP Facilitator will document issues and seek to have these discussed at the next UK BARS Advisory Group.

ACTION: WBP Secretariat to report back at WBP11.

6.6 Wales Link Rep on WBP

Tony Prater will be retiring in April and leaves a vacancy on WBP for a Link representative. Tony was thanked by the Chair for his frank and robust contributions to the work of both WBG and WBP and offered very best wishes.

ACTION: Tony to notify Secretariat of the name of new Link rep.

7. Dates and venues for future WBP Meetings

Nigel Ajax Lewis confirmed that **WBP11** will be hosted by the Wildlife Trusts at their centre on the Teifi Marshes on 13 July 2006.

WBP12 will be held on 8 November 2006 at Maes y Ffynnon, Bangor in North Wales. The theme will be marine and freshwater with contributions from CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group.

The Chair closed the meeting at 1500hrs with thanks to all participants.

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT THE WELSH WILDLIFE CENTRE
CILGERRAN, PEMBROKESHIRE ON THURSDAY 13 JULY 2006**

Present:

Michael Dunn	(Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Diana Reynolds	(Deputy Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government- Environment Conservation and Management Division
Joanna Robertson (Minuting)	Secretariat Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tim Stowe	Wales Environment Link
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership LBAP Facilitator
David Parker	Director Science, CCW
Kathryn Birch	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine LBAP Support Officer)
Cllr Robin Woodyatt	WLGA Member
Nick Somerfield	Farmers' Union of Wales
Deb Hill (Chair LBAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Dr Deborah Spillards	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Nick Bialynicki-Birula	Environment Agency- Wales
Jennifer Dack	Environment Agency - Wales
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales (Terrestrial Science Group)
Rod Gritten	Welsh National Parks
Ant Maddock	JNCC

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Alistair Driver	Environment Agency National Conservation Policy Manager
Richard Evans	Welsh Assembly Government Technical Services Division
Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden Wales
Steve Moon	Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)
David Bullock	The National Trust
Vicky West	Forestry Commission Wales

FOUR WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

1. Mike Dunn welcomed everyone and thanked the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales for hosting the meeting. He explained that the morning's focus was the Draft Wales Biodiversity Framework (WBF) and that the first two items provided a context for the discussion.
2. **UK BAP A NEW LOOK**
Joanna Robertson spoke to a PowerPoint presentation, setting the WBF within the global, EU and UK context, stressing the linkages at all levels between biological health and human wellbeing.
A copy of the presentation is available from Gaynor Ainscough at: g.ainscough@ccw.gov.uk
3. **UK BAP – NEW TARGETS, HABITATS AND SPECIES PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS TO MEET THEM**
Liz Howe, CCW thanked all those who had commented on the new draft targets, to feedback to the UK Targets Group. Making targets SMART had thrown up many issues. Wales is able to set more ambitious targets for habitats and wants to address action for species at meta - population scale by linking up habitats and providing better ecological connectivity. Liz provided an updated table; see *Annex 1*.

To date targets had been set for 34 habitats and 326 species, with some outstanding and some no-returns. Marine targets will be produced to a different timetable. Targets will need to be signed off by Country Groups in Autumn 06. The Welsh Assembly Government and JNCC will meet in Autumn 2006, to discuss monitoring of progress towards targets.

ACTION: Welsh Assembly Government to report to WBP12 on outcome of discussions with JNCC about monitoring progress with targets.

DEFRA had completed a costing exercise on delivery. Further discussion is needed to review and agree the costings. Work is planned to devise delivery mechanisms for the new targets. Problems arising from under-grazing were acknowledged.

ACTION: WBP to establish a mechanism to 'talk to' LBAP Partnerships and Secretariat to schedule discussion time at WBP12.

Ant Maddock JNCC described the programme for agreeing new priorities for habitats and species; this exercise will conclude in November 2006. Some 1200 plus species and 60 plus habitats are proposed; delivery of action through single species action plans (SAPs) is clearly no longer a viable option so other options are being considered. Initial thinking addresses conservation action needed not only at the individual species and habitat levels, but across the 'wider countryside'; options include grouping species with similar ecological requirements, area grazing plans, 'whole ecosystem' approach etc. The aim is to slow any decline and achieve healthy, resilient ecosystems. The new approach will address 'threat categories'; JNCC will provide examples in August 06. Ant gave assurances that the new priorities will be published, along with initial 'signposting' guidance in November 2006 and further detailed advice will go to UK Standing Committee in March 2007. This links closely with the proposals for a new 'UK BAP', with wide consultation of Partnerships at all levels.

The Country strategies and frameworks will be the vehicles for taking forward action, addressing the desired outcomes and effective action and communication to achieve them. This new approach has big implications for L BAPs, as identifying the priorities, targets and actions affecting their areas will require improved support from UK and Country Groups and reliance on BARS as a communication tool.

Ant mentioned the work by DEFRA on 'invasive aliens'; see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/index.htm>

4. DRAFT WALES BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK **Three members of the Task and Finish Group spoke:**

Diana Reynolds recapped on the action at WBP10 to identify elements essential to the Framework and confirmed that all of them had been addressed in the Draft document. She thanked the Task and Finish Group and the Secretariat for their hard work and support. She stressed that the recently published Wales Environment Strategy provides the context for the Framework and initiates many actions that have the potential to deliver biodiversity outcomes. As she would be taking the Framework to the Minister during the week beginning 17 July, she asked everyone to voice their views. All organisations will be expected to play a role in delivery against some very challenging targets. The Framework will be published in February 2007; the WBP meeting in February 2007 will be the first meeting under a new format.

Deb Hill, Chair LBAG, using a PowerPoint presentation, described the structures and working methods proposed by the Framework. Everyone agreed that the wider network would continue to be known as the 'Wales Biodiversity Partnership', with the core group being renamed 'The WBP Steering Group'. A central aim of the new structure is to involve as many partners as possible in decision making. The offer by the Wildlife Trusts Wales to provide the Secretariat was noted. Deb called for views on the different structural options offered and whether functional or geographical splits of responsibility were best.

General discussion provided the following views:

FUW: Called for greater Assembly support for the management of designated sites and for biodiversity delivery generally;

WBP Chair stressed that wider use by WBP of Task and Finish Groups would broaden the base for involvement;

National Parks cautioned against a regional approach as an 'all Wales' picture is essential;

WBP LBAP Facilitator requested that the views of LBAPs and LRCs be sought immediately; also how important it is that someone attends all geographical meetings to provide the 'all Wales' picture;

Secretariat stressed the importance of providing an incentive for involvement in the Partnership;

Liz Howe, CCW called for functional groups to tackle the themed approach to delivery;

WLGA reminded the Partnership that Task and Finish Groups very often comprise only the committed people and fail to involve wider interests;

National Parks welcomed the commitment to an Annual Seminar appealing to a wider audience;

Link Member Tim Stowe observed that any new arrangements must aim to deliver more biodiversity gain and address how to evaluate this; he advocated an ambassadorial role for Partnership members, reaching into other sectors;

Diana Reynolds reported that she would be meeting with Cynnal Cymru to look at the SD context for biodiversity action.

Nick Birula listed the decisions required to ensure that more action and better communication achieve identifiable biodiversity outcomes.

The following actions were agreed:

- i. To share the Draft Framework immediately with LBAP Partnerships, LRCs and Wales Environment Link Members and Chief Officers of WBP member organisations;**
- ii. To put the Draft Framework onto the WBP website;**

- iii. **That the current Draft Framework is broadly acceptable;**
- iv. **That the offer by the Wildlife Trusts Wales to provide the WBP Secretariat is welcomed;**
- v. **That vigorous effort is made to get ‘buy in’ from a wide range of partners;**
- vi. **That there would be a presumption in favour of ‘all Wales’ posts in any structure;**
- vii. **That recruitment to posts will begin in December 2006;**
- viii. **That informal sharing of the Draft Framework would carry on over the summer and that formal consultation will occur in Autumn 06 if necessary;**
- ix. **That any organisation is able to submit written comments on the Framework.**

5. **BIODIVERSITY DUTY**

Diana Reynolds reported that she had received a legal interpretation of the ‘duty’; see *Annex 2*. England and Wales guidance is in preparation and will be issued in Autumn 2006. Amy Harilial has been employed by the Welsh Assembly Government to follow up the Chair’s letter to all local and national park authorities with a personal visit; she will meet the Chief Executives and biodiversity champions and identify key issues for each area; her first visit is to Newport on 14 July. Diana will follow up any authorities omitted from Amy’s programme. Diana welcomed a project by CCW to identify the ownership of designated land as this will reveal local authority ownership.

6. **2005 UK BAP REPORTING/ WALES REPORT**

The summary report had been issued at the UK BAP Conference in Belfast in June; the main UK Report will be on the UKBAP website in August. WBP paper 02/05/01 outlined the contents and timescale for the production of a Wales report, a project led by CCW. Discussion identified the audiences for the longer and summary, pocket style reports, and the ideal timescale. It was agreed that the Wales report should address trends, reasons for them and constraints to action to ensure maximum impact of messages.

ACTION: Secretariat was asked to clarify the ‘added value’ to the UK data, in the Wales report and the timescales of contributors; see *Annex 3*.

7. **WILDLIFE SITES GUIDANCE FOR WALES**

Nigel Ajax Lewis confirmed that the timescale for production of the Guidance during 2007 was feasible and agreed to bring a draft to WBP12. WBP asked that sites of geodiversity interest are incorporated, that the concepts voiced by the SNPA about biodiversity interest of the ‘entire wider countryside’ are addressed as well as working up options for a support package to protect and manage sites. Nigel described the opportunities offered by the LDP process and how the Wildlife Trusts in South Wales are working with RTPI to deliver training for planners on biodiversity conservation in forward planning and development control. The imminent publication of the BSI Specification PAS 2010, ‘*Biodiversity Conservation Standards for Planning in the United Kingdom*’ will be used in the training.

ACTION: Nigel to bring draft Guidance to WBP12 incorporating the issues identified.

8. **REPORTS BACK**

8.1 **Natur Cymru**

David Parker, Board Chair reported that issue No 19, marks Natur Cymru’s fifth anniversary. A new company, limited by guarantee, took over managing the magazine on 01 April 2006; this has brought ‘new blood’ to the Board and invigorated efforts to generate income and increase subscriber numbers. The magazine is now entitled *Natur Cymru – The Nature of Wales*. He complimented the Wales Cooperative Centre, who have supported the Board with guidance and training.

He stressed that this is a critical phase in the life of the magazine and called on all WBP members to support it in every way possible, especially by helping to spread the word and encourage friends, colleagues and contacts to take out subscriptions. A recent energetic leafleting campaign had brought 80 new subscribers in two weeks. NC will have a presence at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. Renewal rates run at 75% and the new direct debit facilities will aid retention of subscribers.

A Task and Finish Group will look afresh at audiences for the magazine with a view to raising subscriber numbers to 2000. This will bring funds for marketing and to pay for editing.

ACTION: All to promote Natur Cymru: visit www.naturecymru.org.uk/contents.htm or request leaflets from Mandy Marsh at m.marsh@ccw.gov.uk

ACTION: David Parker to provide an insert on Natur Cymru for the Wales Biodiversity Framework to ensure that it is incorporated into the WBP communication strategy.

ACTION: David to bring a full paper on NC to WBP12.

8.2 Local Biodiversity Advisory Group

Deb Hill spoke to the report, circulated in advance as Paper 02/06/06. She welcomed back Julia Korn, WBP LBAP Facilitator, from maternity leave. She described the proposed discussion paper, which LBAP Officers will draft with support from Julia. The paper will look at specific issues that need clarification regarding LBAPs and LBAP partnerships and will provide increased help and support for LBAP partnerships through the Biodiversity Framework. Julia will bring a draft to WBP12.

ACTION: LBAG/Julia to bring a Draft discussion paper on L BAPs to WBP12.

The final closing date for booking forms for the LBAG seminar in September 2006 is August 20th. The North East Wales Institute (NEWI) in Wrexham has been booked for the 2007 Partnership Seminar (Sept 12th and 13th). An expression of interest has been made for booking the University of Wales, Aberystwyth for the same week in 2008.

ACTION: All to get their booking forms for this year's LBAG seminar to Gaynor as soon as possible (and before August 20th)

8.3 WBP Awareness Work

WBP complimented Emily on her recent achievements identified in paper 02/06/07. Concern was expressed about the BBC's failure to link its website to the WBP events database; the BBC has ambitious plans for an enhanced Breathing Places website. Good practice in Wales, linking LBAPs to the National Campaign has been praised by the BBC who have requested descriptions of the process for use elsewhere in the UK.

Joanna reported that Biodiversity will form a centre page spread in a special SD edition of the Western Mail due out on 19 July 2006.

Gwynedd's excellent record on schools biodiversity work was noted; in both Gwynedd and the Snowdonia National Park teams of biodiversity staff are mobilised to do this work, linked to the National Curriculum.

8.4 UK Standing Committee

The Committee had met on 05 April 2006; as neither Mike Dunn nor David Parker had been able to attend, Joanna Robertson had represented Wales. She reported on key matters which were discussed, the new Chair and the sub-group set up to consider the performance and role of UK BRAG. The next Standing Committee meeting will be in Bristol on 25th October 2006.

UK Conference Belfast June 06

Several WBP Members attended the Conference as well as an L BAP Officer; highlights had included the launch of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group's Bio awareness campaign, a report back from the Convention of the Parties and a reception hosted by the City of Belfast Council in their magnificent Town Hall.

8.5 BRIG and BRAG

Liz Howe had provided a report on their activities; see Paper 02/06/08.

9. Minutes of WBP10

The minutes **were confirmed as accurate.**

ACTION: Secretariat to distribute as 'confirmed', translate and post on website.

10. ACTION POINTS FROM WBP10

10.1 Species Action Plans

These are currently with the Translators; before posting on the website, a form of words needs to be found to cover the transfer of the biodiversity duty from CROW to NERC Act.

ACTION: Secretariat and WAG

10.2.1 Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership: Diana re-assured the Partnership that all relevant marine interests from the Assembly, EC Commission and WCMP would be involved in WBP12. Meanwhile she, Jill Thomas and Madeleine Havard liaise regularly over biodiversity and marine issues. Joanna will meet Diana Reynolds on 13 September to work on the programme for WBP12.

ACTION: Diana Reynolds to secure contributions to WBP 12 from Assembly, EC, WCMP and other relevant parties.

10.2.2 PSMW (Public Sector Management Wales) will be at the LBAG Seminar and help to address LBAP Officer training and development needs including facilitation skills.

10.2.3 Exit strategy from BBC Breathing Places campaign; Diana Reynolds is meeting Non Richards and will bring a report to WBP12.

ACTION: Diana Reynolds to report to WBP12 on agreed outcomes from her meeting with BBC.

10.5 Dates and venues for future WBP Meetings

WBP12 will be held on 8th November 2006 at Maes y Ffynnon, Bangor in North Wales. The theme will be marine and freshwater.

WBP13 will be held at Broneirion on 8th February 2007.

ACTION: Secretariat to book venue for WBP13.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Local Records Centres – CCW's draft service level agreement.

CCW proposes that one public sector partner agreement is considered; this would reduce the administrative burden and help meet the aims of 'Making the Connections'.

Everyone agreed that they would like to see the template; see *Annex 4*.

Any WBP public sector members with comments are invited to send them to Helen Wilkinson CCW at: h.wilkinson@ccw.gov.uk

The Chair closed the meeting with thanks to all participants and invited everyone to visit the Cilgerran Reserve.

WBP12
08 NOVEMBER 2006

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE WALES
BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HELD AT MAES Y FFYNNON, BANGOR ON
WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 2006**

Present:

Michael Dunn	(Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division
Diana Reynolds	(Deputy Chair WBP) Welsh Assembly Government- Environment Conservation and Management Division
Joanna Robertson (Minuting)	Secretariat Wales Biodiversity Partnership/CCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Wales Environment Link
Tim Stowe	Wales Environment Link
Jennifer Dack	Environment Agency – Wales
Julia Korn	Wales Biodiversity Partnership’s LBAP Facilitator
David Parker	Director Science, CCW
Kathryn Birch	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine Biodiversity Liaison Officer)
Liz Morris	Countryside Council for Wales (Marine Biodiversity Liaison Officer)
Cllr Robin Woodyatt	WLGA Member
Nick Somerfield	Farmers’ Union of Wales
Jennifer Dack	Environment Agency
Liz Howe	Countryside Council for Wales (Terrestrial Science Group)
David Archer	Welsh National Parks
David Bullock	National Trust
Emily Fleur Dicks	Wales Biodiversity Partnership’s Awareness Officer
Dr Graham Oliver	National Museums and Galleries of Wales
Michelle Bromley	Forestry Commission Wales
David Cowley	Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) Wales
Dr Glenda Thomas	FWAG Cymru
Hywel Matthews	Welsh Assembly Government - Environment Conservation and Management Division

Apologies:

Philip Coates	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Brian Nelson	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru
Alistair Driver	Environment Agency National Conservation Policy Manager
Quentin Kay	National Botanic Garden Wales
Steve Moon	Association of Local Government Ecologists
Deb Hill (Chair LBAG)	Welsh Local Government Association
Nick Bialynicki-Birula	Environment Agency
Dr Mandy McMath	CCW Marine and Freshwater Science Group
Neil Hemmington	Welsh Assembly Government Planning Division

FOUR WBP members had not responded to requests to confirm attendance.

BY INVITATION FOR THE MORNING SESSION

Damian Phillips
Catherine Duigan

Welsh Assembly Government EEA Division
CCW, Head of Marine and Freshwater Science Group

The entire membership of the Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership had been invited to attend; seven members sent their apologies.

1. Mike Dunn welcomed everyone and explained that the morning's focus was on marine and freshwater biodiversity conservation issues. He introduced Damian Phillips, who covers marine and sustainable development matters in the Welsh Assembly Government's Brussels' office and Dr Catherine Duigan, Head of CCW's Marine and Freshwater Science Group.
2. Damian described the purpose, establishment and make-up of the Assembly's presence in Brussels and how the officers are part of the official UK representation to the EC.

He then elaborated on the EU Biodiversity Communication 2006(1), the Maritime Policy Green Paper (2) and the Marine Strategy Directive (3).

(1) The **Communication** was released in May 2006;

See http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0216en01.pdf

It has been followed up rapidly by the 'conclusions process' and is currently under discussion before submission for approval and the added political weight of the full Council of the EU in December 2006 under the Finnish Presidency.

(2) On 7 June 2006, the European Commission launched the much anticipated **Maritime Policy Green Paper** 'Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas' (COM(2006)275).

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/pdf/COMM_NATIVE_COM_2006_0275_5_EN_AC TE2%20.pdf

The underlying rationale is the EU's sustainable development objectives (Council document 10917/06). Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy, June 2006:

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/renewed_eu_sds_en.pdf

These are referred to as being 'at the heart of the EU agenda', with the Green Paper seeking to 'strike the right balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development'.

The Green Paper appears to be geared towards the Lisbon Agenda for competitiveness, jobs and growth. The environment is not neglected, as the Green Paper seeks to 'stimulate growth and jobs under the Lisbon agenda in a sustainable manner that ensures the protection of the marine environment'. The Lisbon Agenda is presented as the basis for one of the pillars of a future maritime policy, with the second pillar being the eco-system approach outlined in the Thematic Strategy for the Marine Environment (COM(2005)504).

The Green Paper may present both opportunities and threats to the marine environment, both in the EU and beyond. Its launch marked the beginning of a one-year consultation,

until 30th June 2007. The Commission will then come forward with a Communication at the end of 2007, summarising the results of the consultation process and proposing the way forward.

Structure of the Maritime Green Paper

1. Introduction
2. Retaining Europe's Leadership in Sustainable Maritime Development
3. Maximising Quality of Life in Coastal Regions
4. Providing the Tools to Manage Our Relations with the Oceans
5. Maritime Governance
6. Reclaiming Europe's Maritime Heritage and Reaffirming Europe's Maritime Identity
7. The Way Forward – the Consultation Process

The Green Paper is effectively an initiative of José Barroso (Commission President) and Borg (Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs). It has no legal roots, as such, and is being taken forward under the direction of a hand picked group of Commissioners. Any legislative outcomes nonetheless will still have to go through the usual legislative processes.

(3) Marine Strategy Directive

The Thematic Strategy, on the other hand, is a process that has its roots in the legislative base of the Sixth Environmental Action Programme (6EAP), which establishes a broad programme for Community action on the environment. The European Parliament and Council adopted the 6EAP as Decision 1600/2002, thereby setting down in legislative form actions to be undertaken. These include developing seven Thematic Strategies, each intended to tackle a key environmental issue in one holistic document, one being the protection and conservation of the marine environment. A preparatory 'Towards a Marine Strategy Communication' (COM(2002)539) was published in October 2002. This was followed more recently by the proposed Marine Strategy Directive and an accompanying impact assessment. As with all of the Strategies, stakeholder consultations are key to the development of the Marine Thematic Strategy and the proposed Directive.

The Commission proposed a Marine Strategy Directive (COM(2005)505) in October 2005. This is the legislative part of the Marine Thematic Strategy (COM(2005)504). It is currently before the Parliament for its first reading and will have to be agreed by the Parliament and the Council under the co-decision procedure.

The overall objective of the proposed Directive is to achieve '*good environmental status*' in the marine environment by the year 2021, at the latest and to ensure the continued protection of this environment. A regional approach is proposed to ensure international collaboration on marine protection. Member States would be required to develop strategies for their respective waters within each Marine Region, aiming to reach the Directive's objective. The definition '*good environmental status*' would be formulated by Member States for each Marine Region, based on generic criteria and standards which would be adopted by the Commission via a comitology procedure.

The Directive is a significant development in marine environmental legislation. Since the announcement of the Green Paper there had been fears amongst some environmental interests that the Green Paper could delay the adoption of the Marine Strategy Directive.

The relationship between the proposed Directive and the Green Paper is clearly important in determining where to focus efforts in inputting to the two processes.

Key Dates and Parallel Processes

Key Dates

Green Paper launched 7 June 2006
One-year consultation deadline 30 June 2007
Outcome of consultations: Communication end of 2007
Legislative proposals 2008+

Parallel Processes

ICZM Commission report end 2006
Marine Strategy Directive: adoption expected not before late 2007
CFP review end of 2012
Structural funds review end 2013
According to the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution, the Commission ‘intends to consider’ a proposal to tighten NOx standards for shipping end 2006

Damian took questions about the implications of the Lisbon agenda for biodiversity conservation and suggested that Commissioner Dimas was driving an effective process to raise the political profile of both biodiversity and the implications of climate change. The whole process, which began with ‘The Message from Malahide’ in 2004, will be reviewed fully in 2010 and annually until then.

Catherine Duigian then gave a very comprehensive account of the ‘Challenges of Working in the Aquatic Environment’ using a PowerPoint presentation; this is available from the WBP website Library page at:
<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/english/Wales%20Biodiversity%20Partnership/library.asp>

Catherine was supported by members of her CCW team, and there were static displays around the room. The presentation to WBP12 was one of the activities in CCW’s Marine and Freshwater Science Week.

3. The Chair thanked both contributors and then updated the Group on progress with the **UK Marine Bill**. He summarised responses to consultation on the Bill and the Wales views, under five headings: Marine Spatial Planning, Licensing, Marine Management, Nature Conservation and Fisheries.

Most favoured a ‘binding system’ for marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management. The Minister wants a Welsh marine spatial plan and all want early action to introduce a simplified, fully integrated and transparent licensing system.

There are calls for an independent ‘marine management organisation’ but not in Wales. There is strong support for marine protected areas and extra legislation to protect species and for its enforcement. Wales wants to extend its fisheries zone and take a stance different to that for England.

It is hoped that a Draft Bill will be introduced in 2007 after one or two further rounds of consultation. For progress report see:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/policy/marine-bill/pdf/newsletter-061018.pdf>

4. He then handed over to Catherine Duigan and Diana Reynolds to run a ‘discussion session’ on marine and freshwater biodiversity issues. The following points were made:
- That the knowledge base for freshwater and marine science lags by about 10 years behind that for terrestrial science;
 - Cllr Woodyatt described a collaborative river-monitoring project he is involved with which uses volunteers; this is due to be launched nationwide in March 2007; this bottom up approach is much valued;
 - River trusts are being formed across the country;
 - Calls for an ‘oligotrophic lakes HAP’;
 - A reminder that the results of ‘a rapid review’ of the *condition* of freshwater does not indicate the *conservation status* of the resource;
 - A call for more collaboration over filling the knowledge gap in the marine and freshwater environments, better use of funding and addressing the H/SAP gaps identified by BRIG; CCW is undertaking a scoping study on collaboration and accessing funding; the BRAG strategy should influence research spend in the UK and this has representatives on most research boards; there was a call for the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee to influence the deployment of resources;
 - How the implementation of the UK marine bill and EU Water Framework Directive should deliver the ‘big wins’;
 - Several people mentioned the experimental catchment management exercise around Lyn Tegid, how it is early days to show results but that the response from the farming community is very positive; Mike Dunn suggested that the new Rural Development Plan will enable such issues to be tackled.

Referring to the Wales Environment Strategy chapter ‘Distinctive biodiversity, landscapes and seascapes’, Diana then asked the questions ‘*who do we want to involve in the new WBP- and how and what do we want them to do?*’

A range of Answers came back:

- The Assembly’s EPC committee will scrutinise the EU Biodiversity Communication; Diana will share the preparatory material with WBP;
- It is imperative that radical policy change is needed to address marine issues and heightened public and organisational awareness of the issues;
- That all conservation objectives for the freshwater and marine environments need ‘climate change proofing’; this is an acknowledged deficiency in the WES which will be addressed in an adaptation and mitigation plan;
- That the implementation of EC Directives and the EU communication will provide opportunities for scrutiny of Member States’ action – or lack of it;
- National Museum has assisted local government with freshwater surveys and proposed ‘habitat’ focus groups to identify knowledge needs and action;
- That information about metadata must be made available through the NBN; that LRCs are used and help given to MDIP (marine data information partnership) to develop;
- That a WBP member appoints a ‘freshwater LBAP liaison post’ to help local Partnerships plan their actions and access funds; CCW has positive experience of this approach in the marine field; LBAPs need better recognition by all WBP member organisations and improved resources;

- There is wide support for improving the links between ‘national’ and ‘local’ and for regional working;

In conclusion, the Group agreed that the tasks and the projects to achieve the WES outcomes must be clearly identified and responsibility for action assigned. It was suggested that a list of the top 20 actions be drawn up.

Four actions were clearly identified:

- i. Put data sets into LRCs, MDIP and NBN;
- ii. Target awareness raising towards those who can take action, using models already developed;
- iii. WBP to actively engage with relevant sectors;
- iv. Build capacity and reorganise resources, as is being done to address WES action 32.

ACTION :

- **Diana and Catherine to generate the list: “top 20 on the ground actions for marine and freshwater”**
- **WBP to scrutinise outcomes from the newly established ‘river basin liaison panels’;**
- **EA/CCW to progress appointment of an LBAP Freshwater Liaison Officer.**

At the conclusion of the morning’s business, Members and guests were invited to lunch and to view the many marine and freshwater display panels.

WBP’s Business Session commenced after lunch.

The Chair set the context for the ‘new style’ papers introduced alongside the many other changes in the Partnership and its way of working.

5. Biodiversity Duty under NERC Act 2006

Diana updated the Group on the work of the Assembly’s Biodiversity Implementation Manager over 8 weeks in the summer; she will follow up the 6 Local Authorities, which had not been visited. All authorities are encouraged to designate ‘Biodiversity Champions’ and collaborate over an annual review of progress with action to demonstrate their commitments.

After discussion, WBP welcomed the Local Authority and Public Bodies workshop in Wales on 14 November to inform the preparation of the guidance on implementing the duty.

ACTION:

- **WBP to build on the Biodiversity Implementation Manager's work and collaborate with CCW to undertake a combined annual review of progress with Biodiversity Champions;**
- **WBP to support the proposed half-day seminar for Biodiversity Champions and LBAP Officers, explaining the role of Cofnod, North Wales’ Local Record Centre; WBP called for a similar event in South Wales.**
- **Cllr Woodyatt to arrange for WLGA Council to meet WBP.**

6. **Wildlife sites Guidance**

Nigel Ajax Lewis introduced the paper and suggested that the time is right for LBAPs to take ownership of 'wildlife sites'.

As at WBP11, there was a cautious welcome for the proposals and a call to make quite clear, in any guidance that such sites are another tool to achieve favourable conservation status of habitats and species, called for under the EU 'Nature Directives'. WBP recognise their potential contribution as 'nodes' to bring about ecological connectivity, provided support for their management can be secured.

David Parker pointed out that WBP had not formally adopted the 'wildlife sites' approach and suggested that there is discussion about their role as a tool for planners rather than a designation. In recognition of the widely differing range of environmental attributes and situations across Wales, WBP agreed that the subject be brought to WBP SG1 in February 2007 to consider 'in a wider spatial context'.

WBP acknowledged that a great deal of work had been done to generate lists of sites and that guidance was needed. It **agreed** that:

The production of guidelines and criteria for the selection of Wildlife Sites within a given LPA/LBAP area (incorporating new Welsh S42 BAP habitats and species) was sensible; The involvement of landowners and occupiers in developing the system and the management of land for the benefit of nature conservation is essential as is the networking of organisations offering nature conservation advice and financial support.

ACTION:

- **Secretariat to put Wildlife Sites on the Agenda for WBP SG1 Feb 07 when a decision will be taken about using a Task and Finish Group approach to achieve WES Action 38.**
- **Nigel Ajax Lewis to make contact with Stewart Campbell, CCW about incorporating guidance on geo- diversity and RIGGS sites.**

7. **Species and Habitat Targets and 'new lists'**

Liz Howe's paper was welcomed. She reported that the 'priority review' Group met for the first time recently and is developing a new terminology to match the new approach to delivering actions. The role of LBAPs in delivery is now recognised; ALGE and the National Parks welcomed the promised support for determining local targets and supporting local delivery. Diana **confirmed** that the proposals for the Wales targets are currently with the Minister. WBP:

Confirmed that a simple disaggregation exercise for Welsh habitat targets, made available through BARS, is the preferred solution to meet LBAP needs.

Agreed that an indication of the priority habitats for each LBAP area would be useful.

Agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group at WBP SG1; amongst its tasks will be revisiting the All Wales Species Audit when the new list is announced and examine the new Section 40 list. Work on marine priorities will be carried out later.

Agreed that all products should be made available **via BARS**.

WBP Members discussed the proposed 'connectivity trial', recognising that maps can be very persuasive and that the current concepts may be too simplistic. Species needs may not be met by some of the measures proposed and existing opportunities need to be

considered. There was **agreement** that a small-scale ecological connectivity trial would be useful and the reasons for it occurring in SE Wales were heard.

ACTION:

- **CCW to proceed with a simple disaggregation exercise for Welsh habitat targets, made available through BARS, as the preferred solution to meet LBAP needs; consider including an indication of the priority habitats for each LBAP area;**
- **CCW to present first pass to LBAP officers for further honing before being placed on BARS;**
- **CCW to establish a small-scale ecological connectivity trial in SE Wales**
- **Secretariat to put establishment of Targets Task and Finish Group onto WBP SG1 Agenda.**

8. Natur Cymru

David Parker reminded the board of the origins of Natur Cymru, namely an initiative of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership, with the emphasis on Partnership, which in turn is Assembly-led. The newly formed Board of Natur Cymru believe that there can be a lack of understanding amongst some WBP members about the magazine's role and WBP's involvement with it: the magazine's primary aim is to get across the biodiversity message which is at the heart of WBP work. It is a magazine to both record and promote biodiversity in Wales, and to act as a vehicle for workers in the environmental field to publish their findings. It should not be afraid to discuss controversial issues nor the spiritual, 'non-profit' aspect of nature. It has no single organisational focus, and therefore is not a promotional vehicle with the intention of making money. The format and content of the magazine give it a collectable rather than transient value.

He asked for comments on the ethos of the magazine and its strengths and weaknesses. Questions were asked about its financial viability; David confirmed that it needs more funds to pay a 'proper rate for the job' and by aiming for 2000 subscribers should achieve this. A direct debit facility is now available.

WBP **endorsed** the ethos of the magazine as expressed.

Each WBP Partner **acknowledged** their responsibility towards the success of *Natur Cymru*, whether or not they are members on the board and will **volunteer** help to promote the magazine. For example:

- Running articles in newsletters, membership magazines etc; a standard 'insert' text was requested;
- Taking promotional flyers at no/subsidised cost;
- Promoting at shows, conferences;
- Providing website links;
- Providing articles for publication; editorial help is available.

ACTION:

- **ALL WBP members to act on at least one of above with immediate effect.**

9. LBAG Report to WBP

Presented by Nigel Ajax Lewis with support from Julia Korn. WBP **noted** that the last ever LBAG had met on 17 October 2006; those who had worked so hard to build the local BAP Partnerships and support for them were acknowledged.

WBP **agreed** that the guidance on L BAP should be incorporated into the Wales Biodiversity Framework and noted that all other proposals had been addressed.

ACTION:

- **Julia to send update on WBP changes to LBAPs by 15 December**
- **Julia to prepare hand-over report, outlining any outstanding LBAG recommendations/actions**

10. WBP Awareness Work

Emily summarised the information in the paper confirming that work to support Wales Biodiversity Week 2007 had commenced; that collaboration with the BBC had enabled contact with local action and projects, though the LBAPs and will feature in future broadcasts. She welcomed the continuing collaboration with the BBC in Wales under the Breathing Places banner and appointments to posts in the Wildlife Trusts Wales, BTCV and RSPB. She urged that the momentum and standards for biodiversity awareness work in Wales are maintained. For many years it had been a ‘Cinderella’ subject but two and a half year’s hard work had won it UK wide recognition.

ACTION:

- **Secretariat to put Awareness Work on Agenda for WBP SG1.**

11. Report on UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee and Support Groups

Mike Dunn and David Parker had attended the last meeting of the UK SC on 25 October 2006. Mike reported that the emergence of a new way of working to deliver targets is eagerly anticipated; on the work to generate UK indicators for use in 2010; that the UK Conference will continue and that Wales is likely to be asked to host it in 2008; on the agreement to produce a ‘strategic statement’ on UK biodiversity; this will be published at the same time as the new priority lists and the ‘signposting’ guidance on target delivery in May/ June 2007; that the BRAG revised terms of reference had been accepted.

12. Wales Biodiversity Framework

The latest version had been pasted onto the WBP website to inform this meeting; it was agreed that there should be further focussed consultation with target groups after correction of factual errors. After that the document will be subject to a through edit. At this stage it is essential to ensure engagement with and the commitment of those with a role in biodiversity action in Wales.

ACTION:

- **Diana and Julia to lead on further focussed consultation with target groups.**
- **ALL to email corrections to factual errors to Joanna Robertson no later than 24th November.**

Diana reported that the Minister will agree WBP and WBP Steering Group memberships ‘by Christmas’; that she, Nigel Ajax Lewis and Nick Somerfield will interview for the two new posts in WTW on 14 December and that the new Secretariat will begin to function ‘early in the New Year’.

An immediate priority for the new team will be the identification of actions for Members to take forward and to secure project funding.

WBP **agreed** to the establishment of a Climate Change Task and Finish Group to assist with action under WES Actions 3 and 4. The Group will draw personnel from CCW, EA, RSPB, ALGE and National Parks Wales and report to WBP SG 1 and 2.

David Parker asked WBP to provide a steering group to help achieve the outcomes for WES Action 32; he reported on a meeting on 02 November 06 with partners from the landowning and policy making sectors to raise awareness of the shared target to *bring designated sites into favourable and recovering condition*.

He asked that the responsibility for site condition by local government be linked to the NERC Act biodiversity duty; he reported that CCW will be meeting representatives of the farming community on 10 November and those with marine interests at a later date. Action to date will be reviewed in January 2007.

WBP **agreed** that it should be the WES Action 32 Delivery Group and to bring in additional representatives as needed.

ACTION:

- **Climate Change Task and Finish Group to correspond by email as climate change adaptation plan develops**
- **WBP to act as WES Action 32 Delivery Group and bring in additional representatives as needed.**

13. **Minutes of WBP11 on 13 July 2006** were confirmed as accurate after one minor amendment.

ACTION:

- **Secretariat to distribute as ‘confirmed’, translate and post on website.**

14. **Action Points from WBP 11**

The first two were reported as being ‘work in progress’; these are:

- Welsh Assembly Government to report to WBP12 on outcome of discussions with JNCC about monitoring progress with targets, and*
- WBP to establish a mechanism to ‘talk to’ LBAP Partnerships and Secretariat to schedule discussion time at WBP12*

All other Action Points had been discharged.

An additional action was added under WBP11 Agenda item 4 – *Diana Reynolds to report back on her meeting with Cynnal Cymru at WBPSG1.*

15. **Any Other Business**

WBP SG 1 will be held at Broneirion on 14 February 2007.

Joanna Robertson explained that WBP12 is the last meeting under the current arrangements and is the last meeting she will minute. She had arranged and minuted 23 Wales Biodiversity Group and Partnership meetings since June 1999. Joanna drew attention to the place-mat montage that had been provided for the meeting, celebrating some biodiversity achievements in Wales over the past 8 years; since 1999 24 robust LBAP Partnerships had been established; the Biodiversity Action Reporting System developed and rolled out with WBG/P as the second UK investor; CCW had set up the Species Challenge Fund; other major national partners had become engaged such as BBC and Arena Network; *Natur Cymru – The Nature of Wales* had celebrated its fifth birthday. She suggested that the Partnership should feel proud of its role in Wales and promote the good news.

Joanna then made special mention of members of the Secretariat Team; Gaynor Ainscough for her high quality ‘behind the scenes’ support; Julia Korn and her fellow LBAP Facilitators (Roy Tapping and Anne Butler), for their work with LBAP Partnerships and Emily Dicks for imaginative and high quality awareness events and the WBP website. She thanked David Parker in CCW for his unfailing support for the work of the Secretariat and wished the new team much success. She called on all WBP partners to become part of the IUCN’s Countdown 2010 campaign and take away the copy of the ‘declaration’ provided; visit <http://www.countdown2010.net/>

Mike Dunn responded by saying that the Welsh Assembly Government recognises Joanna’s contribution to the achievements of the Partnership, thanked her warmly and presented a gift.

He thanked CCW for hosting WBP12 and closed the meeting.