

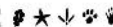
## WBP Species Expert Group Meeting 15

Newtown, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Attendees:** Liz Howe, co-Chair (NRW); Stephen Bladwell, co-Chair (RSPB Cymru); Sean McHugh, Secretariat (WBP); Steve Lucas (BCT); Lizzie Wilberforce (WTW/WTSWW); Clare Dinham (Buglife); Colin Cheesman (Plantlife Cymru); Genevieve Dalley (British Dragonfly Society); Ray Woods (BSBI/British Lichen Society); Hannah Shaw (Freshwater Habitats Trust); Pascale Nicolet (Freshwater Habitats Trust)

**Apologies:** Liz Halliwell (NRW); Jean Matthews (NRW); Andy Jones (NRW); Sam Bosanquet (NRW/BBS); Russel Hobson (BC); Rachel Taylor (BTO); Sian Whitehead (NRW); Geoff Hobbs (Bridgend CBC); Tom Henderson (Welsh Government);

No.	Update/Action	Who by/when	Additional comments
1	<p>Species Habitat Integration update (Stephen Bladwell)</p> <p>Progress to date:                      Lowland heathland – completed                      Upland heath- completed                      Grazing marsh – draft                      Upland heath – draft                      Lowland raised bog – draft                      Broadleaf woodland – draft                      Lowland fen – draft                      Conifer woodland – draft                      Reedbed – draft</p>	<p>Stephen to circulate a summary of species associated with ecosystem group/ Section 42 priority habitats</p>	



<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Partner updates SEG welcomed two new members to the group – Genevieve Dalley (British Dragonfly Society) and Hannah Shaw (Freshwater Habitats Trust). Hannah was accompanied by her colleague Pascale Nicolet.</p> <p>Plantlife- did not receive NRW funding. Will be another person in post part-time</p> <p>BDS- southern damselfly project work is coming to an end. Vice County recorders &amp; Volunteers are continuing with the work in the Preseli's. Genevieve will meet with Mike Howe to discuss the project and next steps</p> <p>Buglife- received core funding from WG to cover next 2 1/2 years. Buglife developing an Invertebrate strategy for Wales and will have a stand at the WBP Conference. Also working on the 'Bugs on your Doorstep' project and the pollinator B-Lines Project</p> <p>FHT- Ponds project for creating high quality ponds (S42) on-going; Working in Anglesey &amp; Pems. A review of habitat creation work is on-going to establish species colonisation and to derive lessons learnt. Bala Lake- glutinous snail monitoring work and small-scale captive breeding programme on-going. Possible reintroductions may follow. Volunteers recruited to survey 150 ponds for a range of</p>		

	<p>species, potentially some resources for specialist surveys</p> <p>BCT- Carmarthenshire work with the community on-going involving loan of bat detectors followed by interpretation- brings the local connection. NRW funds secured for 3years funding, match funding is being sought</p> <p>BSBI- did not receive funding from NRW; Updates to Welsh Lichen website could potentially be covered by the new part time post</p> <p>Buglife- had an offer of NRW competitive funding but were unable to take up the offer (match funding related)</p> <p>WT- the 6 WT's received varying amounts of competitive and Joint Working Partnership Funds. JWP largely focused on land management. Environment Wales Red Squirrel Project required funding as Environment Wales fund (WG sponsored) which is no longer available</p> <p>RSPB- NRW JWP funds received but not competitive funding. Funding will deliver practical delivery of Chough in the uplands and twite work in the Nant Ffrancon Valley. WG funding received to work with landowners in the uplands. Working with NRW on Important Wetland areas to carry out structural surveys for bird requirements.</p>		
--	--	--	--

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>WBP Chairs Meeting. Stephen Bladwell gave an update.</p> <p>The group chairs met in July Ecosystem groups are continuing to meet but are in 'holding mode' until the WBP governance and the Natural Resource Management framework is in place. Species and habitats will be an important element of the NRW framework discussion. Discussions are continuing on how to measure progress, one idea is to measure progress based around thresholds.</p> <p>Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board (SB) update (Steve Lucas).</p> <p>Met in July, The meeting was an update of progress to date. A series of task &amp; finish groups are active. Evidence &amp; monitoring met in May; Engagement group met 17<sup>th</sup> August; RDP will meet on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept; Governance group are yet to meet.</p> <p><i>NGO representatives at WBSB meetings (BCT; BC; WT; RSPB)- influencing role &amp; advisory role to WG on biodiversity issues.</i></p>		
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Section 42 Species List &amp; S42 Freshwater Biodiversity conference workshop</p> <p>The forthcoming Environment Bill (due April 2016) will probably include a provision (Section 7) to move the current S42 species and habitats contained in the NERC act to the Future Environment Act. This will be a requirement of NRW as WG advisors and SEG may or may not be directly involved.</p>	<p>Sean to circulate introduction to species Audit</p> <p>Stephen/Liz to dig out the CD-ROM with the full report</p> <p>Steve Lucas to send round IUCN criteria Done</p>	

	<p>This is a useful time to review s42, SEG were due to look at the trends/status of S42 species as suggested by Russel Hobson and this could feed in to SONNAR reporting (1<sup>st</sup> report due spring 2016) and the NRM. If not feasible for all S42, could carry out an assessment of trends for a subset of S42 species with accompanying evidence</p> <p>As an historical note, CCW carried out a species audit in 2003 on behalf of WBP.</p> <p>Discussion took place around the original UK BAP list; IUCN lists and the criteria for scoring SSSI's; noted that Red Lists exist for vascular and lower plants but may not work so well for Lepidoptera and birds. We need to come up with options that refer to the IUCN list and the existing S42 list. Work is on-going at CEH to develop a tool to bring species records together at UK level &amp; can then pull out key surveys information and Wales-specific data.</p> <p>WBP conference workshop Liz Howe and Hannah Shaw will work up a series of questions for the WBP Conference workshop (10<sup>th</sup> Sept) and circulate. An introduction and context, current proposals; existing lists; what it means in terms of priority freshwater species; how it fits to the Resilience agenda. Liz will speak with Sam Bosanquet and Andy Jones for his input re: bryophytes and higher plants</p>		
5	<p>Evidence Gaps Project Tracey Lovering has sent out an update on the Evidence Gaps and Liz Howe will study this over the</p>	<p>Liz Howe to speak with Tracey Lovering and feedback to the group All- to review the latest</p>	<p>Evidence Gaps Project <a href="http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/WBP-Evidence-Gaps-Project">http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/WBP-Evidence-Gaps-Project</a></p>

	<p>next few weeks and meet with Tracey at the WBP conference to discuss. A series of road shows in Wales to highlight the project have also taken place. Noted that some bat related projects have been picked up from the project and this would be useful to include in a summary of successful/completed projects</p>	<p>and send details to Tracey.</p>	
6	<p>SEG work plan/membership review.</p>	<p>Sean to include in Nov 2015 meeting agenda</p>	<p>On hold until the November 2015 meeting</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>Liz Howe mentioned that NRW are required to plan for a cut in monitoring costs (5-20% scenarios). Legacy agency EA took the bulk of monitoring costs so possible the cuts to species and habitat monitoring will be marginal</p> <p>Plantlife Lost and Found Project (Esmee Fairburn funded) seeks to find fungi not reported over the last 50 years</p> <p>State of Nature Response is due to be launch in June 2016</p> <p>Ray Woods- Conservation Committee for Wales Fungi met- 40 people turned up to the preliminary meeting at the National Botanic Gardens Wales. Progress on species actions for Lichens &amp; around 70% have actions assigned. This aligns with Plantlife's Lowe Plant initiative. The Lichen of Wales' website run by Alan Hale is hoping to get some assistance to help update the site. British Lichen Society is taking over the British Lichens website and will be responsible for updates. British Mycological</p>	<p>Stephen to send SEG further information relating to SON</p> <p>Liz Howe to discuss with planning colleagues re: axiophyte list</p>	<p>Lost and Found Project <a href="http://fungi.myspecies.info/content/lost-found-fungi-project">http://fungi.myspecies.info/content/lost-found-fungi-project</a></p>

	<p>society will launch a new database of fungi in the coming months,</p> <p>Axiophytes (lists of non-threatened species forming a 'species suite') are receiving coverage in some planning evaluations (Anglesey &amp; Powys, Ceredigion, and LRC's are involved in producing the species GIS layers</p> <p>BARS- a proposal outlining of structure for lower plants on BARS sent to Sam Bosanquet for review</p>		
<b>Standing Items</b>			
<b>8</b>	<p>Actions from Chairs meeting largely covered in items 3 &amp; 5</p> <p>Work plan and membership will be covered in November meeting</p>		
	<p><b>Date of next Meeting</b> SEG will aim to meet in November</p>		
<b>On-going actions and items</b>			
i	<p>All partners to send Sean a brief update of projects they are involved in for circulation to SEG. A rolling update can also be included on the WBP website under the SEG section</p>	<p>All/end December 2015 for inclusion in an end of year update</p>	<p>WBP website SEG link: <a href="http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Species">http://biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Species</a></p>
ii	<p>BARS <a href="#">BARS 2</a> is now live - user friendly, spatial representation of actions, priority mapping from ecosystem groups is available on BARS</p>	<p>All are encouraged to Visit new BARS &amp; look for opportunities to input/comment</p>	<p>BARS link &amp; further information: <a href="http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Biodiversity-Action-Reporting-System-BARS">http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Biodiversity-Action-Reporting-System-BARS</a></p> <p>WBP Priority mapping link: <a href="http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystems--Species-Expert-Groups">http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystems--Species-Expert-Groups</a></p>