

## WBP Species Expert Group Meeting 14

Newtown, 21st<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Attendees:** Liz Howe, co-Chair (NRW); Stephen Bladwell, co-Chair (RSPB Cymru T/C); Sean McHugh, Secretariat (WBP); Steve Lucas (BCT); Adrian Fowles (NRW); Lizzie Wilberforce (WTW/WTSWW); Clare Dinham (Buglife); Colin Cheesman (Plantlife Cymru); Sam Bosanquet (NRW/BBS); Russel Hobson (BC); Rachel Taylor (BTO); Claire Install (British Dragonfly Society); Sian Whitehead (NRW)

**Apologies:** Sinead Lynch (BBCT); Dan Foreman (Swansea University); Dave Lamacraft (Plantlife Cymru); Liz Halliwell (NRW); Jean Matthews (NRW); Andy Jones (NRW); Reg Thorpe (RSPB Cymru); Gareth Griffith (Aberystwyth University); Sarah Bird (Chester Zoo); Mark Barber (ARC); Mike Wilson (NMW); Ray Woods (British Lichen Society)

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as accurate.

No.	Update/Action	Who by/when	Additional comments
1	<p><b>Buglife Presentation</b></p> <p>Clare Dinham (Buglife) gave a presentation and is now based in Cardiff (at RSPB Cymru) Buglife will focus on two main themes: Pollinators; and Freshwater species Highlights: West Glamorgan Brownfield Project; Wrexham Industrial Estate Project- key site for Grizzled skipper; Development of south Wales B-line Project (pollinators) and Welsh Bees report; White clawed Crayfish projects including 'crayfish champions'; Oil Beetle Survey launch planned in 2016</p> <p>Record of Blue Ground Beetle (<i>Carabus intricatus</i>) in Neath Port Talbot. Rare beetle, previously known from Devon &amp; Cornwall. Buglife will be surveying in spring for the beetle. A Wormwood moonshiner beetle (<i>Amara fusca</i>) has been found in Newport Docks feeding on Mugwort though it's not known if a colony exists there.</p>		<p>B-Lines <a href="https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/habitat-projects/b-lines">https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/habitat-projects/b-lines</a></p> <p>Oil Beetle survey <a href="https://www.buglife.org.uk/oil-beetle-survey">https://www.buglife.org.uk/oil-beetle-survey</a></p>

2	Partner updates	All to send in brief update to Sean McHugh ( <a href="mailto:smchugh@wtwales.org">smchugh@wtwales.org</a> ) for posting on WBP website	
3	<p>WBP Chairs Meeting. Stephen Bladwell gave an update. Arwel Jones gave a presentation on the Lyn Landscape Project. Ecosystem Groups and SEG will be asked how they can contribute to the developing Llŷn Landscape Management Plan.</p> <p>Stephen mentioned the UK State of Nature Response survey. There will be a specific section for Wales. Gap analysis and looking at delivery mechanisms. The survey will go to all the Ecosystem chairs. Responses required by mid-December. The findings will be compiled into a State of Nature report 2016.</p> <p>RSPB Cymru has also released a campaign in response to the NRP consultation.</p> <p>Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board (SB) update (Steve Lucas). Matthew Quinn is looking for input to the Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) from members of the Strategy Board. A workshop session will take place in February/March to build actions</p>	<p>Stephen Bladwell to circulate notes around the Llŷn Landscape Management Plan &amp; contact details of project staff</p> <p>Stephen to circulate details of the Nature Response survey</p> <p>Steve Lucas to send NGO Strategy Board notes</p> <p>All- update SEG general response to NRP consultation with comments from your organisations perspective</p>	<p>RSPB Nature Recovery Plan consultation campaign</p> <p><a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/getinvolved/wales/blog/archive/2014/11/12/nature-needs-your-help.aspx">http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/getinvolved/wales/blog/archive/2014/11/12/nature-needs-your-help.aspx</a></p> <p>Nature Recovery Plan consultation link: <a href="http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/nature-recovery-plan/?lang=en">http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/nature-recovery-plan/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Closing date: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014</p>

	<p>for the 'Nature Recovery Plan delivery. SEG will take part in the workshop but members stressed supporting information required in advance of the workshop. SEG Members highlighted the need to 'species proof' the Plan with an emphasis on species role and function and support for NGO's to deliver species actions. The launch of the Plan is not fixed-potentially in the spring or the Royal Welsh Show.</p> <p>The NRP consultation closes on 3<sup>rd</sup> December</p> <p>Environment Minister Carl Sargeant will attend the next SB meeting in January 2015-the minister is likely to request poverty reduction measures are included in consultation responses</p> <p>Nature Fund- RSPB, Amphibian &amp; Reptile Conservation; and Wildlife Trust have been notified of success in funding award. Project delivery needs to be completed by June 2015.</p> <p>NRW Competitive Fund &amp; Strategic Partnership Funds-outcomes will announced by Christmas and organisations notified if they have been successful or if their funding is reduced/stopped in the case of Strategic Partnership funding</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>All- send in your own organisations response to the NRP consultation</p> <p>Liz Howe to enquire if there is an NRW appeals process re: NRW funding awards</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Evidence Gaps Project The group had a substantial</p>	<p>Liz Howe to speak with Tracey Lovering and</p>	

	discussion around the aims and the research uptake of the project. SEG have identified evidence gaps and worked up research proposals. Liz will speak with Tracey Lovering to map out next steps for SEG	feedback to the group	
5	SEG workplan/membership review. SEG went through actions and the membership list during the meeting	Sean to update the plan and post on the WBP website	
6	Species habitat integration update- Gareth Thomas (RSPB Cymru) is updating the habitat integration spread sheet for bird species. Stephen will pick up the work for the outstanding species-habitat integration work	Stephen to update species-habitat integration tables (woodland and wetlands) for sign off	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>S42 species advice sheets/links. This is feasible but not for all species. SEG members are asked to collate species habitat guidance and/or update the spread sheet. It was noted in the discussion the role of Lead partners. This was not formally adopted by WG but there is guidance from the WBP Future of BAP review. An accompanying spread sheet indicated which agency/organisation nominally responsible for delivering species action for a particular species. Could be done informally as some NGO's may not wish to sign up to a list of multiple species with limited resources to deliver action.</p> <p>Liz Howe mentioned the 6<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Review of schedule 5 and scheduled 8 species of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The review will look at the</p>	<p>All- send in Species links/management guides to Sean and update the S42 species ID spread sheet where possible</p> <p>Sean to circulate Lead Partner note.</p> <p>Russel/Adrian to send Sean lead partner species mapping spread sheet.</p> <p>Sean to ask Holly re: BARS enquiries</p>	<p>Quinquennial Review: <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6048">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6048</a></p>

	<p>way criteria are interpreted. Schedule 9 (invasive non-native species may also be affected. A new Infrastructure Bill is proposing landowners deal with INNS species on their land holdings to prevent spread.</p> <p>BARS- some issues with 'old data' and deleting actions.</p>		
<b>Standing Items</b>			
<b>8</b>	<p>SEG work programme. Covered in item 5</p> <p>Actions from Chairs meeting largely covered in items 3 &amp; 4</p> <p>Agenda items for next Meeting- suggested SEG spend a meeting focusing on a national overview of priority species.</p>	<p>Russel to check with Stephen re: feasibility &amp; objectives of species overview</p>	
	<p><b>Date of next Meeting</b> Weeks commencing 4th and 11th of May 2015. Field visit to RSPB Ynys Hir suggested</p>	<p>Sean to check with Stephen on availability of Ynys Hir</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 of December 2014</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>