

Wales Coastal Ecosystem Group – draft notes of fourth meeting, 7th Jul 2010, CCW Aberystwyth

Present: Peter Rhind Chair of CEG (CCW), Sean McHugh (WBP), Richard Ellis (NT), Chris Wynne North Wales Wildlife Trust –WTW), Mike Howe (CCW); Matty Murphy (CCW); Duncan Ludlow (CCW)

Apologies: Mark Winder (City and County of Swansea); Alec Taylor (CCW), Nicola Rimington (CCW); Kerry Seaton (CCW); Quentin Grimley (CCW); Steve Moon (Bridgend CBC); Hilary Foster (EA); Kate Williamson (NPA); Alec Taylor (CCW); Rod Jones (CCW).

<i>Action / discussion point</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Immediate action</i>	<i>Additional notes</i>
1. Introductions	<p>Peter Rhind gave a brief update of the BAP workshop held on the 13th May in Swansea which had EG/species representation including coastal. Summary: prioritisation is key; better connections to SMP required; Coastal EG action framework needs updating; BARS will become the common language & be spatially aware which will help with opportunity mapping. WAG has officially recognised ecosystems & species groups as independent consultees. Protocols will be developed to define CCW & WBP role in consultation events. Other points raised: do we need a logo/identity for CEG? Key CEG messages</p>	<p>1) Peter will clarify how CEG responds in the light that many members of the CEG are from CCW.</p> <p>2) Sean to circulate CEG key messages to LBAPs</p>	<p>Link to BAP workshop outputs: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/sg_meetings-130.aspx ; scroll down to SG11 paper 2</p>

	need to be circulated to LBAPs		
2. Minutes of last meeting	Sean McHugh will append these to the final minutes	3) Sean McHugh will append actions update for CEG Meeting 3 in the final minutes	
3. Coastal Policy drivers & NEF	<p>Alec Taylor has circulated legislation affection coastal habitats to the CEG.</p> <p>A discussion on the NEF narrative took place. The ecosystem approach was welcomed as was the mainstreaming of ecosystems in this approach. Tensions could exist between special sites (intrinsic value) and ecosystems service provision, we don't want to undermine what's worked before. Evidence base needs working on. Potential conflict as EG's could be asked to sign up to a NEF plan they don't agree with.</p>	<p>4) Peter will update Alec's policy document & circulate to the group before submitting to the WBP Policy Group</p> <p>5) CEG to respond to NEF. Send comments to Sean to collate.</p>	
4. CEG Action plan spreadsheet			
	<p>The actions spreadsheet function is to prioritise actions and suggesting actions/areas of habitat that and BAP partners including LBAPs could focus on.</p> <p>As noted, the actions spreadsheet needs updating & priorities set. It</p>	<p>6) All-review high level coastal projects/opportunities and send to Peter Rhind for collation</p> <p>7) Peter Rhind to distil down original list contained in the action framework & circulate to CEG</p>	

	<p>would be extremely useful if the group agreed on project(s) to take forward to act as a catalyst to the work of the CEG. Selecting 4-6 key projects over a good spread of projects is the target.</p> <p>Note: Mike Howe has compiled GIS coastal layers & these have been circulated.</p> <p>Funding recognised as a major issue to take projects forward. National Trust can assist & will move this forward with CCW & National Trust external funding officers</p>	<p>8) Richard Ellis to contact external funding staff to discuss potential coastal projects</p> <p>9) Sean McHugh to make contact with EA re: managed realignment officer & potential Wales coastal realignment project</p>	<p>Link to managed realignment UK hub: http://www.abpmer.net/omreg/</p>
<p>5 & 6. Sand Dunes mobilisation & Forestry</p>			
	<p>Peter Rhind has contacted Chris Tucker (Forestry Commission) about the issue of forestry on sand dunes e.g Newborough, Pembrey, Morfah Harlech but requires FCW to issue policy position re: forestry stance on sand dunes. A Newborough forest plan is currently</p>	<p>10) Peter Rhind contact Christ Tucker for FCW policy position re: forestry on sand dunes & circulate to the group</p> <p>11) Peter Rhind to circulate sand dune re-mobilisation report</p>	<p>Link to WBP coastal EG resource page: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/bap_in_wales-27.aspx (scroll down to coastal section)</p>

	undergoing development. A re-mobilisation of sand dunes workshop will take place in Spring 2011 & there is an accompanying report.		
7. Saltmarsh targets	These will be taken forward by the marine group with input from CEG. Coastal realignment projects will be important. EA now have water level management plans which have to take into account nature conservation & this has resulted in realignment work. Fairborne in the Mawddach Estuary is a candidate for managed realignment.	12) All: CEG to monitor managed realignment programmes and input as appropriate.	Link to managed realignment UK hub: http://www.abpmer.net/omreg/
8. Non-statutory sites & SINCS	Peter received feedback for Dan Guest & Dave Allen (both CCW) re: the conservation value of habitats outside designated sites & their value in a UK & Welsh context. Article 10 of the Habs Regs covers the 'wider countryside' approach. Most sand dunes are within SACs but other habitats lie outside e.g. coastal heath. The onus is on monitoring site condition. Concerns raised over will SINC monitoring take resources away from designated sites monitoring. CCW will produce a surveillance strategy to address this and this will require digital SINC info	13) Peter Rhind to circulate SINC update from CCW 14) Sean McHugh to invite Dan Guest to next CEG meeting (in person or by V/C)	

9. GIS Layers	Covered earlier		
10. Shoreline Management Plans	Covered earlier		
11. LBAP perspective			
	Unfortunately no LBAP rep was able to attend the meeting	15) Sean McHugh to circulate Swansea BAP seminar Report to the CEG Sean McHugh to circulate key points from the meeting (covered in Action 2)	
12. Coastal access & conservation			
	CCW strategy “Enjoying the Outdoors’ has been released. In the Arfon & Conwy area the coastal access issue has taken into account how coastal change will affect the route –so called ‘climate proofing’ which is a good model for other areas. Update: The Pembrokeshire Coast path was voted the best in Britain.	16) Peter Rhind to circulate “Enjoying the Outdoors’ to the CEG	
13. AOB			
	It was noted that the turnout for the meeting was low & WAG were not able to attend. Peter Rhind informed the CEG that the Coastal Action Framework will be the highest priority in the next 6 weeks.	17) Sean McHugh to investigate WAG attendance at CEG meetings	
Date of next meeting – Apr/May 2011 in Pembrokeshire. Date & venue to be confirmed.	Possible overnight stay & field visit.	18) Peter Rhind to confirm meeting date and venue to CEG	