

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM BAP GROUP

Draft Meeting Agenda for Tuesday 17th February

1. Introductions
2. Terms of reference
3. Review of group remit
4. Review of Welsh coastal targets
5. Species signposting exercise
6. Review of policy actions and whether we need to generate any new policies
7. LBAP perspectives
8. Developing a potential work programme
9. Possible events for world biodiversity week (June)
10. AoB

Wales Coastal Ecosystem Group – draft notes of first meeting, 17 Feb 2009, CCW Aberystwyth

Present: Kate Collins (EAW); Kate Williamson (SNPA / LBAPs); Matthew Murphy (CCW); Mike Howe (CCW – stand in Chair); Nia Jones (WTW); Richard Ellis (NT); Sean McHugh (WBP); Steve Chambers (WAG).

Apologies: Mark Winder (Swansea County Council); Peter Rhind (Chair of group / CCW); Sarah Perry (Ceredigion Bay Marine Wildlife Centre); Steve Moon (Bridgend Borough Council); Tim Hall (WTW – Nia will represent WTW at future meetings).

Table 1. Actions points from meeting of 17 Feb 2009.

<i>Action / discussion point</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Immediate action</i>	<i>Progress by 2nd meeting</i>
1. Group membership / relationship to other groups			
Look at gaps in membership profile. Assess relationship with other ecosystem groups and other stakeholders	<p>Stephen Chambers indicated he was standing in for Julie Bowes (WAG)</p> <p>Kate Williamson was representing Snowdonia National Park Authority & could feed issues to the North Wales LBAPs.</p> <p>Representation from Pembrokeshire Coastal National Park Authority and South Wales LBAP would be useful.</p> <p>The SMP process seen as vital to the viability of coastal habitats. Coastal access and forestry plantation on sand dunes recognised as having impacts.</p> <p>Grassland & heathland ecosystem Group also recognised as a key partner as there are habitat overlaps. RSPB presence also discussed, they sit on the SPEG but are overstretched.</p> <p>CCW coastal access project seen as a key driver. Tir Gofal cross compliance issues noted for species packages.</p> <p>The input of coastal land management</p>	<p>Invite Bethan Cox/Jane Hodges from Pembs SM</p> <p>Collate contact details for SMP Groups (RE in the south SM will do the same for the rest of Wales via WCMP) Decide on way forward & terms of engagement between SMP process & the group (All -PR to lead)</p> <p>Liaise with FCW (Chris Tucker) on forestry issues PR</p> <p>Liaise with chair of Grassland & heathland ecosystem Group (NT led) & instigate meeting if required RE/PR</p> <p>Work with other Ecosystem Groups & SPEG as appropriate PR</p> <p>Liaise with Coastal access project & what issues are cropping up (Quentin Grimley is the contact) MH</p> <p>Lucy Oliver (CCW/EA hosted) offered as a contact for WFD / pollution monitoring</p>	



	representatives & AONB staff may be useful, CCW & Kenfig staff mentioned. WFD may influence coastal processes but mainly water quality & pollution issues.		
2. Review of Group remit / terms of reference	4 habitats involved: Maritime cliffs; Saltmarsh; Sand dunes; Vegetated shingle. The group broadly agreed with the terms of reference & 'will do what we can' to enhance coastal habitats & species. A definition of 'Coastal habitats' would be useful, particularly the landward extent of Maritime Cliffs. KW noted that the group was not expected to set species targets; this would be carried out by the Species Expert Group (SPEG). The coastal group would deliver habitat action for species; the group could act as a rallying point & advocate for coastal habitats & species.	Check if broad definition of coastal habitats exist PR	
3. Objectives / targets review			
National (UK) objectives and targets for habitat plans regarded as broadly suitable,	No loss action principle accepted & with the caveat that many coastal habitats are mobile & subject to coastal squeeze. It was questioned if some targets are applicable to Wales (e.g. Create Atlantic woodland on 5 sites)	Checked the revised UK targets (2006) after the meeting. It mentions 'create 2 Atlantic dune woodland habitats by 2015' (applicable to Wales) Needs to be checked with Jan Sherry PR (Circulate link to UK BAP 2006 revised targets SM)	
Hectare targets for LBAPs issued and regarded as generally helpful	Targets broadly agreed in that they are flexible. Disaggregated targets for each LBAP area based on best estimate and not set in stone. Identifying key sites will be critical. Note comment on species targets in Box 2.	Audit Local authority projects on BARS & contact LBAPs for site information SM/KW (SM can run all Wales BARS Reports & contact S Wales Officers/ Kate can contact N Wales LBAP's) Richard will contact Sarah Mellor for NT BARS information RE	



Mapping of species to habitats and action required (signposting) Collation of species lists for each habitat	Vital to guide detailed formulation of actions from WBP signposting exercise. Seen as useful for all species, not just S42 species	WBP Task & finish group is working on this. Jan Sherry will update Chairs of ecosystems groups on 17th March. PR to keep group informed.	
Identifying Sites, gaps & opportunities for restoration & expansion	Noted that most coastal sites would fall under SAC/ SSSI designation & CCW would need to lead on this. However, other partners would be able to contribute. EA produced a list of opportunities' for Saltmarsh (N Wales). National Trust properties coastal risk assessment contains shoreline geomorphology category. Outcome 21 (O21) actions database will influence coastal management. Need to guard against purely 'unitised' management decisions & look at whole systems.	Ask Peter if he holds a list of coastal projects (either underway or planned) MH Produce & circulate a GIS layer of coastal habitats MM Circulate EA Saltmarsh opportunities studies & enquire about work in the south. (Nicola Rimmington mentioned as a possible contact) KC Audit WTW sites/action NJ Audit NT sites/action RE Circulate NT Coastal Risk Assessment RE Check synchronicity with O21 project aims PR	
	Some coastal studies exits e.g. NT 'Shifting Sands'; CCW Sand Dune Framework; EA Saltmarsh study	Send links to Peter Rhind who will compile a bibliography All	
4. Funding			
	Funding projects seen as critical. CCW LIFE bid in progress "Mobilising Sand dunes". Engagement of stakeholders, particularly local seen as a key element. Snowdonia NPA have money available which could potential be used for coastal habitats. Potential funding/influence arising out of Axis II review	Check LIFE bid progress with Peter MH Contact Kate Williamson for SNPA potential coastal project bids All Axis II consultation complete, report due in near future. Strong focus on 'carbon reduction & capture. Check if we can still influence & next steps once published. SC	
5. Information exchange / communication			



WBP to development coastal ecosystems section on WBP website	Central repository for the work of the group, references, case studies etc.	Link exists on WBP website. Consider content & structure & send to Sean McHugh All Link: http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/bap_in_wales-27.aspx	
Event for International day for Biodiversity (IDB) Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW)	Raise profile of coastal habitats & species	Consider hosting events or 'piggybacking' onto larger events for IBD 22 nd May (theme-non-native invasives). And WBW 6 th -14 th June. Events through the calendar year crucial too. All (send to Sean McHugh for publicity)	
Offer presentation to WBP meeting	Inform WBP of group aims and areas where it needs action/guidance from partnership	Presentation to WBP is an option. WBP SG meet 3 times a year All to consider	
6. LBAP perspective			
Review coverage of coastal habitats/species in Welsh LBAPs	Working with LBAPS seen as a priority. Ensure priority coastal habitats are addressed	Addressed in 'Targets for LBAPs'	
Date of Next Meeting: TBA	Site visit mooted following meeting & attendance of external partner – land manager/ SMP representative		

Sean McHugh
WBP
19 Feb 2009