

WESG Meeting 12
Welsh Govt Offices, Aberystwyth
Wednesday 16th January 2013
10.30am– 3.00pm

Attendees

Chris Tucker (CT) – FCW
Nigel Ajax-Lewis (NAL) - WWT
Celia Thomas (CTh)- PNPA
Linda Makepeace (LM) - WG
Richard Jones (RJ) - CCW
Arfon Williams (AW) - RSPB
Hilary Miller (HM) - CCW
Chris Smith (CS) - ENPA
Carolyn Griffiths (CG) - FCW and Secretariat

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1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies

Bill Macdonald – FCW
Dave Lamacraft
Jim Latham – CCW
Liz Halliwell – CCW
Patrick Green – FCW

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Fewer Coed Cymru Officers involved in new plantings etc. Local Authority budget is being squeezed and less money is being provided to Coed Cymru. The funding isn't there. Not all Coed Cymru Officers are trained to do new plantings. There are other Glastir project officers.

1. What is the geographical spread of project officers?
2. Where are the cases which they are taking?

It's hard for officers in post who can't deliver. Coed Cymru have experience of delivering for smaller woodland areas and conservation type management. Other project officers may not be interested in these types of sites. Smaller schemes aren't as cost effective to private sector.
Group discussion re small woodland funding.

1. Involvement of Coed Cymru?

ACTION: Ask David to re-engage with the group.

Species integration discussed. CCW species colleagues would be interested in being involved as they may have better records for some species.

ACTION: AW to let Stephen Bladwell know about attending the species expert group meeting.

Actioned: CT discussed with Stephen Bladwell who raised Glastir species integration at the Species Expert group meeting. There will be a specific meeting with those interested to progress.

Discussion on research gaps to be identified and how they could be filled. Also on finding opportunities for research projects

ACTION: HM to contact ? re characterising wood pastures.

Action update: WBP held a meeting for researchers and CT inputted information from the group.

3. WESG Action plan and work programme 2013/14

CT showed action plan on a large spread sheet.

How to deliver for LBAPs?

What guidance and advice we can provide to local delivery. Strategic plan Rhododendrons, grey squirrels, priority species.

It was agreed the group should invest time in work on Glastir and RDP. Providing the land manager with tools to deliver other things.

ACTION: Influence upwards - ALL

RDP discussed. WESG can feed into the process through Bill Macdonald.

Closing date is 23rd April

ACTION: Group will respond to consultation

Sub group to meet and draft response and circulate to group.

Fairly top line and back up with an example.

VOLUNTEERS to look at this AW, CTh, LM, HM.

AW will highlight what areas need responding to and ask the others for specific questions.

Influencing Glastir

Another subgroup to look at guidance for Glastir.

Only need one set of guidance on habitat management generally.

There is a danger in setting minimum number of species as different habitats (within the woodland set) have characteristically different levels of diversity. (Example Upland Oak woodland has is less diverse than lowland mixed deciduous.)

What is acceptable in terms of non-native species in the canopy? Non-native trees can provide the conditions required by woodland species. Guidance up to X % should be provided.

Definition of scrub needs to be clear.

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Went thought the work programme.

Guidance in there needs to be updated and signposted.

Identify where woodland expansion would be appropriate. Looking at where to target woodland expansion and woodland type.

Other things to provide guidance on.

- small group to discuss LBAP in workshop
- Habitat networks
- Basic management
- Info on what's happening on the ground
- Sharing info/best practice
- Chris T to lead on subgroup; RJ, NAL
- Workshop could be set up in areas where visits possible.

Some LBAPS have woodland forum

ACTION: CT to write up work programme and distribute.

Tie in RDP etc looking for time scales to influence progress through the INNS group etc.

WfW states there is a Rhododendron strategy. Group thinks it could be adapted to other invasive species (Rhododendron, Himalayan Balsam, Cherry Laurel, Deer, Grey Squirrel, Snow Berries, Goats).

ACTION: CT to talk to David Thomas (Chair of INNS) re setting up subgroup. Completed

Grey Squirrels – Strategy Parked. FR has lots of research on Grey Squirrels. Clarification required on the issue of impact of squirrels.

ACTION: Ask Christine Edwards or Kathryn Hewitt to come and talk about Action Database on Outcome 21 and N"K project.

Discussion on SACs. The database is very relevant to LBAP workshops.

ACTION: Ask Christine to query the data re SACs and how many actions are not agree.

ACTION: CT to call Kathryn re process when habitat management conflicts with SAC feature management.

Discussion on Tree Diversity

ACTION: CT to tidy document and send out with minutes.

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4. BAP Targets

Brief discussion on AWI. If guidance or a question on AWI arises the process is to contact Dafydd Fryer on 0300 068 0300

ACTION: AWI Paper to be circulated to all

Discussion on setting targets for woodland HAPS.

ACTION: CT to get figures for hitting HAP targets

Discussion on whether targets required

ACTION: CT look into what obligations of targets are.

5. Beech, it's range and influence – Celia Thomas

CTh provided info on the above.

Discussion on climate change – should we be looking at new species?

6. Glastir Forestry Target Species – Chris Tucker

Discussed earlier

7. Review of TPOs – Hilary Miller

HM would like a review of TPO by task and finish group.

2 pieces of legislation are going through
Heritage Bill
Planning Bill

Both might offer opportunity to address this issue.

ACTION: HM to check with Terry O'keefe, WG Forest policy, about how things go forward.

ACTION: Support from WESG to Forestry Policy Team if it takes this forward

8. AOB

ACTION: CT to take forward issued on EPS in guidance review

Bill – GWC opportunity Maps

Bill is seeking guidance from WG colleagues what want to be done re woodland creation policy.

SINC Sites – SINC guidelines and habitat sheets. Comments to Laura via Chris.

ADD ancient woodland indicator list to document

9. DONM - 8th May 2013, Newton House Dinefwr, NT and WTSWW site