

**Minutes of the Urban Ecosystem Group meeting
Held on 10 June 2014
NRW Bangor office (Maes y Ffynnon)**

Attendees

Amanda Davies (AD), Pete Frost (PF)(chair), Liz Howe (EH), Jan Sherry (JS), Dave Thorpe (DT)

Item	Title	Notes
1	Introductions and Welcome	
2	Apologies & submissions for AOB	Apologies were received from: Nigel Ajax-Lewis, Clare Dinham, Rebecca Sharp, Steve Chambers, and Dafydd Fryer. There was no other business.
3	Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
4	Communications	<p>PF reported that he had not been allocated a budget for the current financial year to progress the work of the Urban Ecosystem Group. DT reported there were rumours of an underspend. Action 1. PF to investigate and request a budget for the communications work of this group. (Done, 11/06/14)</p> <p>It was Agreed that the leaflet, guidance and presentation on OMHoPDL should be Wales Biodiversity Partnership publications, rather than owned by any single organisation.</p> <p>It was Agreed to request translation by NRW's translation unit.</p> <p>As Buglife had conducted so much work on the management of OMHoPDL the group Agreed they should be asked to produce the OMHoPDL leaflet and management guidance. No other organisation would be able to compete with Buglife's experience and an open tender exercise would therefore be a waste of public money.</p> <p>The specification for the leaflet would aim it at a general audience (e.g. local authority elected members) who had no prior contact with OMHoPDL and little knowledge of biodiversity.</p> <p>The contractor would be required to liaise with the RSPB, the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust and Plantlife to ensure birds, herpetiles, and vegetation were properly reflected in the management guidance. It was Agreed that the management guidance should be produced in paper format and on the internet, with links to management plans and to relevant BARS actions so readers could see real examples of what others had done in this area of work. Action 2: PF to draft specifications and manage the production process for the leaflet and management guidance.</p> <p>The "standard presentation" could be produced at no cost using images and examples provided by members of this group. Action 3: PF to write a draft and circulate for comments ready to agree the presentation at the next meeting, All to send PF and images and key points by the end of June.</p> <p>In pursuit of Action 7 of the last minutes Buglife had confirmed they had information, illustrations and text which they were prepared to allow to be used in our communications work.</p>

5	Mapping	<p>Following the last meeting JS reported that she had received no new information or digital data from local government ecologists (previous Action 4). Cofnod had reported they had a data set of local authority wildlife sites, but these had no information on habitat types represented on the sites. Action 4: JS to follow up and find out if habitat data had been added.</p> <p>AD reported that two NE Wales sites had been assessed using the DEFRA OMHoPDL methodology as a test, and that no maps of OMHoPDL were available from the Wildlife Trusts (previous Action 3).</p> <p>DT reported that the Environment Agency had had GIS data on metal mines, derelict sites and contaminated land. Action 5: DT to attempt to obtain the relevant data.</p> <p>It was Agreed to issue an all Wales definitive map of OMHoPDL and Priority Sites based on the data generated by the DEFRA research project conducted by exegesis. Action 6: JS to combine any new information from local authorities with the DEFRA data into one GIS layer and highlight sites which were on the initial list of key sites compiled early in the life of this group. PF to obtain an up to date list of local authority contacts from WBP and to write to inform them of the priority sites map and how it may be obtained. PF to arrange for the data to be placed in NRW's data download facility.</p> <p>It was anticipated that local authorities might wish to update this definitive map and it was Agreed to offer a presentation to the ALGE meeting in October. Action 7: AD to arrange space on the agenda PF to prepare a presentation JS & DT to attend to answer technical questions.</p> <p>PF reported that the Durham Wildlife Trust had created a system known as EcoServ GIS which appeared to do the same job as the proposed "ecosystem services toolbox" noted in the group's work programme. NRW's Jenny Elliot is discussing how this might be licensed and customised for use in Wales in conjunction with the Wildlife Trusts Wales without being tied into using a "proprietary system". PF and Jenny are jointly leading this project and reporting to NRW's management via Russell Elliot (previous action 8).</p>
6	Reports from members	<p>Buglife submitted a written update as did Dafydd Fryer of NRW. These are attached to these minutes as useful information for WBP members.</p> <p>It was noted that NRW have been allocated Nature Fund money for a pilot area in Rhondda Cynon Taf which might be of interest to Buglife when planning their B-Lines project in south Wales. Action 8: JS to provide details on the RCT pilot, PF pass to Buglife.</p> <p>At the next meeting updates will be provided on the Resilient Ecosystem Fund projects in Wrexham and south Wales Action 9: PF</p>
8	Research needs and evidence gaps (standing item)	<p>There appears to be no definitive list of species confined to, or dependent upon human-created habitats, including allotments, in Wales.</p> <p>The group also noted that allotment provision had changed in Wales and that recent research suggests this could affect pollinator resources. A project was suggested to examine the effect these changes may have had, and to extrapolate the impact of current trends in allotment provision if they continue into the future.</p> <p>It was Agreed to add these projects to the Evidence Gaps register. Action 10: PF to draft the entries and circulate to All for comments before sending them to WBP</p>

9	Policies	<p>It was noted that the European Commission has published a proposal for a Regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. See: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm</p> <p>Action 11: DT to keep this under review and draft any response required by this group</p> <p>The Welsh Government is focussing on natural resource planning. See: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/?lang=en</p> <p>Action 12: PF to find and liaise with the NRW lead officer on natural resource planning, and report back to this group</p> <p>Action 13: All to bring any relevant forthcoming consultation, legislation or policies to the attention of this group as they become aware of them.</p>
10	Check actions from last meeting	<p>All actions from the previous meeting had been discharged or incorporated into actions from this meeting.</p>
11	Review membership	<p>Academic representation: Lorraine Frater from Cardiff University is the group's academic representative and has been both helpful and active despite being unable to attend many meetings. It is suggested that the group recruit an additional academic representative with a specialism in our area of work to complement Lorraine's input.</p> <p>Action 14: All to notify the chair of suggestions for a suitable additional academic representative on receipt of these minutes</p>
13	Confirm actions from this meeting	<p>The actions from this meeting were confirmed</p>
14	Venue and Date of next meeting	<p>It was suggested that the next meeting should include a site visit, and should be located in south Wales. Dates will be sought from members for the next meeting using Meet-o-Matic or similar internet service. Action 15: All to suggest suitable venues for a site visit and PF to set a date.</p> <p>PF will be unable to attend the WBP chairs meeting and JS agreed to represent the group in his place. Action 16: JS to attend and report back.</p>