

# Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership



Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, 10.30 am Enterprise House, Newport

**Present:** Matthew Chatfield - Parks & Countryside Manager, IWC  
Cllr Luisa Hilliard – Sustainability Portfolio Holder, IWCI  
Colin Pope – Senior Ecology Officer, IWC  
Sonia Lorenzo-Martin – Forestry Commission  
Jay Doyle - Forestry Commission  
Richard Grogan - Head of Conservation, Hants & IW Wildlife Trust  
Claire Hamilton – Fisheries & Biodiversity Officer, Environment Agency  
Tony Tutton – National Trust  
Ian Boyd – Natural Enterprise  
Richard Black - RSPB  
Joel Bateman – AONB Communications & Projects Officer  
Matt Parkinson – Environment Agency  
Anne Marston – Ecology Officer, IWC  
Grace Booth – Planning Policy, IWC  
Peter Taylor – Environment Agency (arrived late)

Apologies: Belinda Walters (CLA); Mark Larter (NE); Fiona Hanna (AONB)

## **SG13/20 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

## **SG13/21 Matters arising from the minutes (other than agenda items)**

There were no other items raised.

## **SG13/22 Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory Project**

John Brownscombe (consultant) gave a presentation of the mapping work he has carried out, based on documentary evidence, to progress the Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory. The findings led to a discussion on the work, specific site related details, and the way forwards.

The second stage of this work is to look more closely at woods where the map based studies have thrown up anomalies. This work will comprise some archaeological field work and an assessment of ecological data.

## **SG13/23 Discussion of Biodiversity Targets**

The draft Biodiversity Targets paper, previously circulated, was discussed and way forwards agreed. JB said that Fiona was very grateful to the Biodiversity Partnership for progressing this work which will be used to inform the AONB Management Plan Review.

### **Action:**

- **Draft Biodiversity Targets paper to be finalised. CP**
- **Anne to work with Steering Group organisations to improve data on priority habitats and condition on their land holdings. AM**
- **Workshop to be set up this autumn to discuss the best means of on-going monitoring of key sites All**

## **SG13/24 Eurosite Workshop – Wetland restoration in the Pas-de-Calais**

Jay gave a powerpoint presentation on a Eurosite workshop he attended in May 2011 in Normandy. He was able to attend on behalf of the Forestry Commission because of his involvement in the Pond Conservation Trust's Million Ponds project. He showed photograph of a field visit to a wetland restoration project on a coastal sand dune location.

## **SG13/25 Local Records Centre Report**

We are currently in the advanced stages of discussions with both EA and NE for MoAs for 2013/14. They are moving to position where the MoA requirements will be the same for both organisations. For the first time, we will be agreeing an MoA with Southern Water.

**Action: The quarterly report for April to June is circulated with these minutes.**

### **SG13/26 Any Other Business**

Wild on Wight website has been updated and a section for the Isle of Wight Red Squirrel Partnership has been added.

Natural England are currently working on a Natural Character Area (NCA) document for the Island and are likely to be contacting some members of the group for information and feedback.

Tony raised the issue of verge cutting this year. He felt that, on balance, the Council's verge cutting regime was reasonable but was concerned that this year, with the transfer to Island Roads, Matthew confirmed that the transfer of operations over to Island Roads had not been a smooth one and the standard of grass cutting was currently unacceptable. He encouraged members to report any problems on line to Island Roads, because it is likely to be dealt with promptly. Cllr Hilliard explained Councillors concerns with regards to verge cutting and wildlife and how they are working with the Council and Island Roads to improve the situation.

### **Forestry Commission**

Sonia reported that new permits had been issued to rangers to continue surveillance and control of feral deer, working with an extended number of landowners. Jay explained that there had been a recent statement from DEFRA regarding the future of forestry functions and their delivery. Details can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/224026/pb13976-forestry-functions-review-130717.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224026/pb13976-forestry-functions-review-130717.pdf)

Richard Grogan referred to the the Rural Payments Agency who were currently visiting farmers within HLS agreements with a view to reclaiming funding on work which had not been delivered according to their requirements. This is understandably concerning to landowners and could act as a deterrent in some instances to future HLS applications.

Ian reported that he was involved with a project with the Isle of Wight Zoo to collect and captive breed the endangered Sand Pill-Millipede (*Trachysphaera lobata*), found in its only UK site at Bembridge.

Claire reported that some members of the Steering Group were looking to survey for Desmoulin's Whorl Snail at Freshwater Marshes.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 am at Enterprise House**