

# Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership



Minutes of the 59<sup>h</sup> Steering Group meeting  
17<sup>h</sup> July 2014, 10.30 am Northwood House, Cowes

**Present:** Matthew Chatfield - Parks & Countryside Manager, IWC  
Colin Pope – Senior Ecology Officer, IWC  
Nicola Wheeler – HIW Wildlife Trust  
Richard Black – RSPB  
Keith Ballard - RSPB  
Claire Hamilton – Fisheries & Biodiversity Officer, Environment Agency  
Ian Boyd – Arc Environmental  
Carol Flux – Natural Enterprise  
Fiona Hanna – AONB Lead Officer  
Mark Larter – Natural England

Apologies: Debbie Tann, Richard Grogan (Wildlife Trust), Tony Tutton (National Trust), Belinda Walters (CLA), Cllr Luisa Hilliard, Jay Doyle (Forest Enterprise).

## SG14/17 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

## SG14/18 Matters arising from the minutes (other than agenda items)

Fiona reported that the Bioblitz event at Newchurch was very successful and had good community involvement. It was generally agreed that this was one of the most successful Bioblitz events held to date. Fiona also mentioned details of next year's event:

- **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Bioblitz at St Helen's Duver, courtesy of National Trust**

## SG14/19 Isle of Wight Deer Position Statement

A draft Position Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting, and was discussed. The first part comprises a factual description of the position of deer on the Island obtained from a range of sources.

- **Action: Please let me know if there is anything in this section which you feel needs changing or adding.**

The second part is the IW BAP position statement and this was the focus of our discussions. Discussions were principally around the role of the Steering Group, the influence which it had and the differing views of some members of the Steering Group. It was also agreed that the statement needed an introduction explaining how and why this position statement had come about.

- **Action: Matthew to discuss this with Belinda and to redraft and circulate a revised Statement for sign off at the next Steering Group meeting which will then be posted on the Wild on Wight website.**

## SG14/20 Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory

The Review was now complete and available on line. A Press Release will be launched imminently. A great deal of useful and detailed information has been produced which was available to the Partnership and hopefully will be used in producing educational and interpretive material. Mark asked if the Review had thrown up some new SINC sites. Many smaller woods have become identified as ancient (a qualifying SINC criterion) and are not currently SINC. Theoretically, they could all be brought forward for consideration at our SINC review meeting. However, due to resource implications, this would only happen if any organisation represented on the Steering Group were prepared to consult with landowners, and produce all the relevant paperwork to support designation.

It was pointed out that ancient woodland was in itself a material planning constraint and so there was minimal benefit in adding to this from a planning perspective. The planning authority has the new ancient woodland layer and this can be viewed on the Council's on-line constraints map at:  
<http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning-Policy-new/Core-Strategy/Online-Maps>

#### **SG14/21 Local Record Centre Report**

The quarterly report for April – June was discussed. Later this year, management of the Local Record Centre will be taken over by the AONB Unit. The Steering Group will still oversee the work of the LRC.

There was some discussion regarding on-line recording. This will be a theme of the next Recorder's Conference. The date for this has been set at **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February**.

#### **Action: Quarterly report attached with these minutes**

#### **SG14/22 AOB**

Claire reported on the very successful electro-fishing surveys carried out the Environment Agency in recent weeks, yielding good hauls of Brown Trout from some several catchments, together with records of Bullhead, Eel and Brook Lamprey.

Mark outlined his work priorities for the coming year, including condition assessments for SSSI and Environmental Stewardship sites, and SAC / SPA reviews. Another NE officer, Matt Taylor, will be dealing with coastal issues (management and planning) on the Island.

#### **Date of next meeting**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 a.m. at Seaclose offices, Newport**

The meeting was followed by a NELMES targeting workshop, led by Harold Makant from Natural England.