

# Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership

Minutes of the 86<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2021, 10.30am Via Teams



Attendees	Apologies
Richard Grogan (AONB) (Chair)	Phil Morley (APS)
Lucy Temple (LRC)	Jamie Marsh (HIWWT)
Emma Hunt (HIWWT)	Mathilda Evans (Marine Management Org)
Mark Larter (Natural England)	Rob Pearson (Environment Agency)
Colin Pope (IWNHAS)	Claire Hamilton (Environment Agency)
Peter Taylor (Environment Agency)	Angus Clarke (Forestry Commission)
Carol Flux (Natural Enterprise)	Claire Bennett (CLA)
Ben Phelan (Forestry England)	Jim Baldwin (BTO)
Mark Simmons (CSFO)	Sarah Oakley (Forestry England Ecology)
Grace Booth (IWC)	Robin Lang (National Trust)
Margaret Spencer (AONB)	Ian Boyd (Arc)
	Mollie Dailide (Forestry Commission)
	Jerry Willis (IWC Tree Officer)

## 1. Apologies for absence:

The Chairman gave apologies for those unable to attend.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes were agreed and signed.

Matters arising:

IW Biodiversity Action Plans agreed and signed off by the Committee.

**Action : Final version to be distributed to everyone MSP**

## 3. Tree Planting:

Tree planting is currently being actively promoted by Natural England and the CLA amongst others with the IWC also having a tree planting initiative.

It will be a possible income stream for farmers and could have a radical impact on the landscape and the biodiversity but this would not necessarily be negative.

The AONB has been contacted by the farming community to provide a talk on how they should approach this on the Island. RG has provided a paper to assist in informing farmers on this. The sentences in bold would be transferred into a flyer that could be distributed amongst the farmers to try to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right place.

The IWC intend to produce a Tree Planting Policy for the Island and this document can be used as a starting point.

Suggested offering site inspections prior to planting of large areas to ascertain the priorities for the existing Landscape and Biodiversity within.

Suggested planting of more disease resistant elms if they are available and depending on the cost. These will not be locally sourced.

There is a list of recommended trees for specific areas on the Forestry Commission website. The link for this could be included in the flyer.

**Action : RG to turn document into a draft flyer and will send to the Committee for final approval.**

#### **4. IW Local Records Centre update:**

LT gave an overview of the latest LRC quarterly report.

The total number of records on IWLRC Mapmate is 763,951

135,304 records have also been downloaded from iRecord and have been sent for verification to the various County Recorders.

20 requests for data have been received during the quarter.

Large data requests have been received from the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency.

A LRC volunteer is starting to input data from the archive onto the system.

Suggested check the 'Living Record' App for records held on it – speak to Nicky Court re this.

A university student is looking for information on grasshopper records which will eventually be included in a book. CP happy to support the project in principle but advised here was not much information

#### **5. Partner updates:**

**RG** – Working on the Nature Recovery Plan. LT helping with the Maps. This will be provided at the next meeting.

The AONB is working with Defra on providing grants to farmers, awaiting eligibility criteria before going live on 21 June. More information to be provided at the next meeting.

**CF** – Talking to Chris Mills (IWC Planning Policy) on a local plan re watercourses and has met with MSi and ML re water voles.

Himalayan Balsam pulling – Has received funding promise from the EA for the next 5 years subject to an annual review.

Using water testing equipment on the Caul Bourne river and Wroxall stream.

Planning work on Blackgang Viewpoint car park to remove some vegetation at the end of the summer.

**BP** – Harvesting is underway in Burnt Wood and work is continuing in Brighstone with chestnut coppicing.

White Tailed Sea Eagles – new batch due to arrive soon.

**ML** – Countryside Stewardship higher tier work continuing.  
SSSi designated sites work will commence once the Countryside Stewardship work has been completed.

**GB** – the revised Island Planning Strategy is to go to public consultation in July. Happy to share the chapter on Ecology with anyone who wants to see it.

**EH** – The HIWWT are interviewing for a Beaver Project Officer with them hoping to start in the next couple of months.

**MSi** – A number of mid-tier Countryside Stewardship applications have come in this year and one has been chosen for the pilot Sustainable Farm Incentive scheme so it will be good to follow their efforts in future meetings.

**PT** – Saltmarsh trial feasibility study has concluded and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

## **6. AOB:**

None

### **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 16 Sept 2021 via Teams 10.30am.

This meeting clashes with the reorganised Isle of Wight Festival so Seaclose offices will not be available. It was agreed that this meeting would also take place via Teams.