

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan

STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the Third meeting held 3rd April 2000 10.30am IWC Seaclose Offices

Present: Matthew Chatfield, Senior Countryside Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Sarah Dawkins, Conservation Officer, RSPB
Richard Grogan, Wight Wildlife Officer
Peter Keevil, Secretary, National Farmers' Union
Claire Lambert, Conservation Officer, English Nature
David Langford, Regional Director, Country Landowners Association
Colin Pope, Ecology Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Anne Riley, Assistant Ecology Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Tony Tutton, Property Manager, National Trust
Debbie Wicks, Conservation Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife

Trust

Apologies: Paul Airey, Policy and Environment Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Angela Mawle, Local Agenda 21 Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Tim Sykes, Conservation and Recreation Officer, Environment Agency

SG00/01 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed

SG00/02 Matters arising from the minutes (other than agenda items)

SG99/07 Hampshire are not using the CMS system to monitor their BAP; other systems are being investigated

SG99/15 (Presented by CP in the absence of PA). Designated European sites and development pressures. A meeting is to be held shortly between IWC, English Nature and the Environment Agency, relating to the efficient processing of applications which fall under the Habitats Regulations. PA has suggested that a wider forum be developed, involving the organisations represented on the Steering Group and various departments of the Council to raise issues and develop guidelines for nature conservation issues and development. After discussion, it was resolved that this would be a very useful group to set up but that it would be best done in the autumn. National and Regional Sustainability Targets are being developed and will assist in the production of Biodiversity Planning Guidance. This would be a good topic to bring to that forum

SG99/15 DL had obtained a Hedgerow HAP from Hampshire which he passed to the group.

SG99/18g MC has spoken to Michael Poland and will be writing to him shortly.

SG99/18h Godshill Organics have joined the BAP partnership.

SG00/03 The terms of reference, which had previously been circulated were discussed. The details were agreed and are attached.

SG00/04 IW Biodiversity Audit publication

a) CP outlined the current state of the Audit production. The bulk of the content has been circulated. David Bellamy has agreed to provide a foreword. A summary has been written, and The Way Forward section is underway. An index was considered unnecessary. Illustrations have been provided by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust via Wight Wildlife, and IWC. The format of the species audit was discussed and suggestions made for minor amendments to aid clarity. Financial contributions have been received from Environment Agency and RSPB. IWC will provide finance for a colour cover. It was agreed that the Steering Group logos, with contact details, will be on the back cover. The existence of the partnership and its likely role will be acknowledged, but without giving full details. The document is scheduled to be published for the first week of July.

b) CP/AR have been in discussion with the Editor of Wight Insight and an article is provisionally planned for the edition of June 9th 2000. It is hoped to include examples of current action for biodiversity.

SG members are asked to provide a brief comment (not more than 2 lines) /photograph of an aspect of their activities suitable for inclusion to Countryside Section by 12th April 2000.

c) The next BAP newsletter is to be produced to be mailed in the week before the Wight Insight publication. Countryside Section to co-ordinate its production. Content to include items on:

Audit	CP/AR IWC
Wall Lizard:	RG Wight Wildlife
National Trust BAP activities	TT National Trust
BAP "progress to action"	CL English Nature

Copy needs to be with the Countryside Section by 19th May 2000.

d) The launch of the document was set for Tuesday 11th July 2000, following a Steering Group meeting in the morning. It was hoped to link this to another event if possible (details to be advised later). Press and local radio to be invited. Publicity via the County Show (22nd/23rd July) was suggested by Peter Keevil. A stall could be part of the IWC stand, possibly linked to Agenda 21. DL offered to display material on the CLA stand. Details of the booklet to be advertised on a 'flyer', via which it can be obtained.

e) Dissemination

The document will be circulated to SG members, key deliverers of biodiversity action and Councillors. PA suggests that it is presented to the Council for their adoption. Print run of 500 is proposed. Hampshire printed 1000, which have a cover price, but they have given the majority away. Problems arise if they are given to some people and not others. It was suggested that the booklet should be offered to partnership members at a reduced rate and to the general public either via outlets such as TICs, Museum, Botanical Gardens, bookshops etc.

It was suggested that the Audit (and the Newsletter) could be placed on the Internet, and be downloaded by those interested.

IW BAP STEERING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To steer BAP processes on the Island to make an effective contribution to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and local BAP objectives and targets

- To facilitate the partnership working for biodiversity conservation on the IW to ensure effective communication and co-ordination with others, working towards the goal of sustainable development.
- To develop local biodiversity objectives and targets and an overview of their relationship to regional and national targets.
- To promote an understanding of, and support for, biodiversity conservation priorities and to recommend action by local and regional agencies.
- To act as a focus for biodiversity expertise and advice on the Isle of Wight.
- To ensure that progress with UK BAP objectives and targets is monitored and evaluated, and to facilitate the national reporting process, the measuring of sustainability indicators and State of the Environment assessments.
- Share good practice, facilitate networking and maintain momentum with the BAP.