

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan

Minutes of the nineteenth Steering Group meeting held on 12th February 2004, 10.30am, IWC Seaclose Offices, Newport

Present: Matthew Chatfield, Senior Countryside Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Andy Gordon, English Nature
Richard Grogan, Wight Wildlife
David Langford, Country Land and Business Association
Anne Marston, Assistant Ecology Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Hugh Milner, Forestry Commission
Martin Munt, Dinosaur Isle
Colin Pope, Ecology Officer, Isle of Wight Council
Lucy Sheffield, Environment Agency
Les Street, RSPB
Tony Tutton, National Trust

Apologies: John Brownscombe, AONB Officer
Brendan Burley, DEFRA
Carrie Temple, RSPB

SG04/01 Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed

SG04/02 Matters arising from the minutes

SG03/33 Farmland HAP

Final version still pending as the government statement on CAP reform has yet to be made.

SG04/03 Solent Coastal Habitat Action Plan

Comments have been received from Steering Group members relating to sections 1-5 and incorporated into the document, which has been circulated. The meeting then debated Section 6 at length to revise the actions, decide on lead partners and set dates. These suggestions will be incorporated and circulated. The final version will be sent out with the minutes.

SG04/04 Community Biodiversity Action Plan

A paper had been circulated before the meeting, which was briefly discussed. It was felt that there was a perception that the environment was seen as a constraint rather than an asset and that there was a need for greater awareness amongst politicians about the added value of environmental factors.

As several audiences have been identified, it was proposed that lead partners should be agreed to develop awareness for each group.

The actions from this BAP should be materials designed for public use – as opposed to the technical documents. Communication can be via libraries, museums, websites, schools etc

It was felt important that the Steering Group investigate the common ground between the organisations represented, and it was agreed that an audit of biodiversity awareness-raising activities should be undertaken as a first step.

Action: Papers to be circulated related to biodiversity awareness raising, to be completed and returned to Anne Marston by 5th April 2004

SG04/05 Local Geodiversity Action Plan

Martin Munt, curator of Dinosaur Isle, spoke briefly of the progress to produce a local Geodiversity Action Plan (LGAP). The Island is one of a number of sites, including Dorset and the Yorkshire coast, which will have plans covering extensive areas (as opposed to areas which principally have sites like quarries). Its aim is to record, conserve and develop the geological heritage. An audit is being carried out by the Geology Museum and the Centre for the Coastal Environment. A document will be circulated for comment in due course, and actions taken forward. There should be opportunities for co-operation between the local BAP and local GAP.

SG04/06 Woodland Bat SAP

The Island has significant populations of Bechstein's and Barbastelle bats. There needs to be co-ordinated action specified for them. CP to discuss with Ian Davidson-Watts, who has produced the equivalent plans for Hampshire, with a view to producing an Island Woodland Bat SAP. AG to raise the issue of funding with Wanda Fojt.

SG04/07 Monitoring

Due to a lack of time, discussion of this is to be held over to the next meeting. Information will be requested relating to the second year of the Maritime cliffs and Slopes Habitat Action Plan, so that the momentum is maintained.

SG04/08 AOB

- 1) The BAP Audit and the HAPs are now available on the Isle of Wight Council website <http://www.iwight.com/Countryside/Ecology/Habitats>
- 2) There is a need to discuss generic issues such as sea level rise and climate change, as well as the need for any further species action plans.
- 3) The UK Red Squirrel Group is meeting on the Island between 18th-20th May 2004; there will be site visits on 19th May. Details will be circulated.
- 4) Eileen Moss has retired from English Heritage and has not been replaced.

SG04/09 Date of next meeting

13th May 2004 10.30am Seaclose Offices

