

## Isle of Wight Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership

Minutes of the 38th Steering Group meeting, 2nd April 2009, 10.30 a.m Enterprise House,  
Newport

**Present:** Matthew Chatfield, Parks and Countryside Manager, IWC  
Richard Grogan, Conservation Manager, Hants & I.W. Wildlife Trust  
David Langford, Country Land and Business Association  
Joel Bateman, AONB Communications Officer  
Anne Marston, Assistant Ecology Officer, IWC  
Sam Buck, Island 2000 Trust  
Colin Pope, Ecology Officer, IWC  
Tina Williamson, Biodiversity Projects Officer, IWC

**Apologies:** Jackie Mellan, Environment Agency  
Mike Pittock, Forestry Commission  
Tony Tutton, National Trust  
Jackie Kelly, Natural England  
Les Street, South-East Project Officer, RSPB

### **SG09/10 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

### **SG09/11 Matters arising from the minutes (other than agenda items)**

#### *a) Declaring new LNRs update SG09/02*

TW reported that NE advises to put forward as many sites that are deemed suitable for lump sum funding, then distribute where relevant.

Management plans for Brading Down, Springhill Woods and Golden Hill Park are currently being developed. A meeting with LNR rep from Natural England is planned for April 16th to visit remaining sites on shortlist.

#### *b) Recorder's Conference SG08/07*

Took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. The event was a success and well attended by approx. 50. Write-up and photos of the event can be found at

[www.wildonwight.co.uk/news/index.php/2009/01/19/isle-of-wight-records-conference](http://www.wildonwight.co.uk/news/index.php/2009/01/19/isle-of-wight-records-conference)

#### *c) Darwin200/Wight Summer Walks SG09/06*

Special edition Wight Summer Walks now available celebrating IW Biodiversity and Darwin's links with the Island, please contact TW if copies are required. Thank you to members for their contributions to the publication costs.

#### *d) Species list update SG07/20*

Revision of priority BAP Species complete. Recorders Conference attendees commented and made suggestions via the WOW website to the list, these have now been incorporated. The new list is now available at [www.wildonwight.co.uk/review.php](http://www.wildonwight.co.uk/review.php)

### **SG09/12 National Indicator for Biodiversity NI197**

AM described the NI197 reporting process (report due by end of April) and thanked the partners for their advice on local site management (see accompanying attachment).

SG discussed how to identify sites where non-intervention is appropriate management and that an explanation should be added.

RG queried the number of SINC's differs in this document to the UDP, AM to add an explanation.

**Action: AM to add an explanation on numbers of SINC's and define non-intervention. AM also working on a list of sites to distribute as a spreadsheet.**

### **SG09/13 IW Living Landscapes Project evaluation & Catchment Sensitive Farming Project**

Living Landscapes: RG reported on the successes of project Aug 08-March09 (HIWWT and EA collaboration) providing land owners with sensitive management advice and Environmental Stewardship funding. The trend now is visiting more intensively farmed land rather than just biodiversity-rich areas. EA have agreed to future funding of the project.

Catchment Sensitive Farming Project: is currently under negotiation between NE, HIWWT and EA. Advice will be offered on protection of water courses and aquifers and providing diffuse pollution advice and training. EA has offered funding, NE are considering. If successful the project should be running by June 2009.

### **SG09/13 SE Biodiversity Strategy**

CP presented the SE Biodiversity Strategy handbook - more copies are on order for the SG. The Strategy aims to be a clear, coherent and inspiring vision and framework that guides and supports all those who can impact biodiversity in the region. It should complement and bring together the work carried out by LBAP partnerships. The 3 main aims are:

1. Working in Partnership
2. Regional Biodiversity Opportunity Areas
3. BAP targets

Further guidance is expected from NE on mapping urban areas and the marine environment.

See [www.strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk/](http://www.strategy.sebiodiversity.org.uk/) for more details.

### **SG09/14 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BAP SG**

Event: Proposed date of birthday event 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Brading Roman Villa which can seat around 40.

Content of the event was discussed e.g. series of short presentations from members highlighting achievements in the last 10 yrs, presentation from Brading Town Council, explore the grounds of the Villa and surrounding views, longer walk up to Brading Down.

RG offered to put together a presentation on land management over the past ten years for the event. Subsequent to the meeting, MP has since offered a presentation on Forestry Commission initiatives such as PAWS and JIGSAW.

Publication: will be launched at the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday event. SG asked to think about content e.g. achievements and frustrations. It will be important that the publication reaches a wide audience and demonstrates how biodiversity is relevant to all sectors and groups.

**Action: TW will contact SG shortly with timeframe for submissions and request content.**

### **SG09/15 Celebrating BAP - IW Photographer of the Year**

TW introduced the project. We are supporting a new sub-category called '*It's a very small world – Go Wild on Wight*' and hope to encourage people to celebrate our Island's biodiversity by exploring their local patch. There's no age limit, anyone can enter for free. See [www.iwpoy.org](http://www.iwpoy.org) for further details.

**Action: All - TW is looking to the SG for support in the form of nature-related prizes, or modest cash contributions to purchase relevant prizes. Any publicity you can help with would also be greatly appreciated.**

### **SG09/16 Local Records Centre**

AM presented the latest quarterly report. As part of the NE agreement, the IW LRC should be up and running by April 2010. As demand for data requests is comparatively low, an independent LRC would not be viable. The LRC has a presence on the Wild on Wight website for now but a stand alone website may be developed (see accompanying attachment).

### **SG09/17 Funding & Communication Strategy**

TW has been working on both as a requirement of the agreement with NE.

Communications Strategy has been signed off and outlines priorities of the BAP Partnership over the next couple of years in terms of raising awareness and promotion of Biodiversity to a wider audience (See attachment).

Funding Strategy TW thanked the SG partners for their input with outlining their Biodiversity project aspirations for the next 3-5yrs. Collaborative projects, particularly those which fall into the new Biodiversity Opportunity Areas have been included. NE sees this as an opportunity to address any gaps in funding required for the delivery of the LBAP. Projects may or may not happen, but the strategy will provide a useful reference in terms of what sorts of projects partners have in the pipeline and suggest where collaborations can be made.

JK states the document will evolve over the coming years as targeting work around mapping for example, should start to identify our priorities.

**Action: Once agreed with NE, TW will forward the strategy to the SG.**

### **SG09/18 Environment Agency projects update**

The SINC wetland habitats and invertebrates survey is now available. Information on the River Medina and Fisheries Studies reports are also available. Copies have already been sent to landowners and several organisations represented on the Steering Group. The e-mail attachments are large.

**Action: Please contact TW for copies of EA reports if required.**

### **SG09/19 Forestry Commission Projects update**

JD reported that harvesting is on course in Parkhurst, with public relations going well.

England Woodland Grants Scheme (EWGS) is re-open for applications as is [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7fch5d](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7fch5d) for red squirrel on the IW (2009-2012) - Mike Pittock is the point of contact for further information.

Restoring and expanding open habitats from woods and forests in England is open for consultation until 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009 see [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7fch5d](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7fch5d)

Internal review of Forest Enterprise currently may mean re-organisations.

RG reported that HIWWT are liaising with neighbours at Bouldnor Forest as part of Forest Design Plan new woodland plantings.

### **Any other business**

RG reported on the Soft Cliffs & Chines Project. EA funding is secured. First meeting was held in March, next meeting scheduled for July. The project will be delivered in 3 Phases: 1. Interpretation and education. 2. Monitoring of buffer regions & farmland bird survey extension. 3. Climate change & its effects on the Chines.

Graham Roberts will attend the next BAP meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> to present the Water Vole SAP and discuss wetland management.

DL reported on BBC actively seeking input from the farming industry on content/messages to convey in their topical programmes, Countryfile, which has now moved to a primetime slot on BBC 1 Sunday evenings.

Finest Landscapes publication next due in May.

**Action: TW requested submissions for articles from the SG by April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Opal surveys - anyone can take part, aims to get people involved with and explore nature. More information and survey packs can be obtained from [www.opalexplornature.org/?q=surveys](http://www.opalexplornature.org/?q=surveys)

SB reported that it is business as usual for projects running with Gift to Nature, Newport Rivers and Arc.

**SG09/ Date of next meeting** - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 am at Enterprise House, Newport

***Action: Anyone having an item for the agenda please send it to TW 3 weeks before the meeting date to that it can be incorporated and any necessary papers circulated.***