

Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership



Minutes of the 43rd Steering Group meeting
1st July 2010, 10.30 am Enterprise House, Newport

Present: Matthew Chatfield, Parks & Countryside Manager, IWC
Joel Bateman, AONB Communications Officer
Ian Boyd, Director, Natural Enterprise
Richard Grogan, Conservation Manager, Hants & I.W. Wildlife Trust
Claire Hamilton, Biodiversity Technical Officer, Environment Agency
Anne Marston, Assistant Ecology Officer, IWC
Colin Pope, Ecology Officer, IWC
Helen Rawlinson, Land Mgt & Conservation Advisor, Natural England
Tina Whitmore, Biodiversity Projects Officer, IWC

Apologies: Jay Doyle (FC), Tony Tutton (NT), Les Street (RSPB), Mike Pittock (FC)

Introductions: Hannah Rose, IW SINC Survey Officer, WT

SG10/16 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

SG10/17 Matters arising from the minutes (other than agenda items)

a. 'Future Landscapes' IALE conference to be held in Brighton September 2010 SG010/02
CP's paper has been agreed and will be presented on the first day of the conference

Action: TW to circulate paper to P'ship (please see attached - Pope IOW_ IALE(UK) 2010)

b. IBDA consultation SG10/11

3 trial areas have been decided upon by SEEBF and put to consultation (South Downs, Thames Valley Basin, Chilterns AONB). RG reported that Wildlife Trust campaigned for the IW to be included, but ultimately it didn't fulfil NE's criteria.

Action: RG offered to feedback on how the 2 IBDA's progress in Hampshire

c. Refining the BOAs SG10/12

TW reported that work on refining BOAs (maps and data tables which will help us identify the gaps/opportunities where there are currently no schemes in place) was continuing and directed partners to new BOA section <http://www.wildonwight.co.uk/boa.php>, that reporting on work in the BOAs is required by December and that partners will be contacted in September for data. TW confirmed that monitoring and reporting work will also contribute to the report.

Action: ALL to visit the BOA section of the website

Action: AM to send CH GIS BOA layer – ALL please contact Anne if you would like a copy

d. IW LRC open for business

MC announced that IW LRC was open for business and directed partners to the website <http://www.wildonwight.co.uk/lrc/>. There's no immediate plans for an official launch but once the LR is fully functional there may be some publicity to raise the IW LRC's profile.

SG10/18 Proposed change of name of Partnership

It was agreed by the partners present that we should now be referred to as the **Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership** which supersedes the IW Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group as we now deliver more than the Action Plans set out 10 years ago. This change will bring us into line with other partnerships.

Action: ALL to update literature with references to the Partnership as soon as possible, and adopt IW Biodiversity Partnership

SG10/19 Wetland HAP revision

The Wetland HAP is being streamlined, pulling together as many wetland habitats and key species as possible into the one HAP with the targets made smart. The habitats to include and new targets discussed at length with the main outcomes being:

- Local rarities (species) should be highlighted and the actions will need to take these into consideration
- Water Framework Directive could be referenced, with 35 river bodies on the IW each having a set of mitigation targets which could potentially be pulled out and incorporated in the HAP but may not be realistically achievable
- A catchment map would be a useful addition to the HAP
- Priority sites will need to be identified for protection against invasive species along with a precautionary principle rather than a HAP wide invasive species target
- There was a discussion on the dilemma of competing requirements to restore and enhance the reedbed resource against the desire to maintain and enhance grazing marsh and fen. The plan needs to provide some guidance on this but it was recognised that, in general, a mosaic of wetland habitats was more appropriate to the Island landscape. To achieve maximum biodiversity gains from reedbed habitats, the resource would need to be expanded considerably (at the expense of other wetland habitats) and the opportunities for doing this were very limited. RSPB were in the strongest position to achieve this if they have aspirations to do so.
- Incorporate the data gathered through the West Wight Ponds Project to generate a map of areas of important ponds
- Flag up that white-clawed crayfish and otters are not present in our Rivers
- Most of the IW's major waterways have populations of Water Vole and so must be managed for them
- It would be useful if the Water Vole survey data and EA maintenance data could be overlain to determine any correlations between the decline of Water Voles in some areas

Action: IWC to produce a draft revised Wetland HAP for next meeting

Action: CH/RG to discuss the possibility of Water Vole/Maintenance data comparison

SG10/20 Upper Medina River improvement project & SITA bid

IB reported that Newport Rivers have been successful in their application for funding of the upper Medina River improvements. 100K will be spent on the improvements for BAP priority species, access and education over the next 2 years. IB also reported that there may be a national cycleway extension from Shide through Pan Mill Meadows. Congratulations to Ian and the team!

Action: IB/TW to discuss publicity about the funding

SG10/21 New LNR application update

TW reported that the Brading Down application has progress with the management plan in place and the completion of the consultation with NE and a formal letter of endorsement has been received. The new HS agreement is almost in place. Onus is now on the council. It will go as a paper to cabinet members, then out to public consultation. TW asked for letters of support for the declaration.

Golden Hill Park, Freshwater and Springhill Woods management plans are currently progressing.

Action: TW to send a letter to partners outlining the objectives of the declaration

Action: ALL (where relevant) to reply in writing

SG10/22 Making Biodiversity Work SEEBF conference

HR reported the conference in May was attended by delegates from businesses and conservation orgs with the theme of 'Ecosystem Services (resources and processes that are supplied by natural

ecosystems e.g. clean water, food, natural flood protection), how we can sell conservation as a 'product' to businesses and how we can work together e.g. via tourism and land acquisition. Discussion outcomes were: locally interest from businesses is there currently due to the financial climate. RG reported that a lot is expected of charitable orgs. in return for sponsorship in the past. Also businesses may be looking more to climate change and carbon reduction rather than conservation. However, it was agreed that working with businesses should be encouraged as and where appropriate.

SG10/23 Partnership input towards the AONB end of year report

JB requested examples of key work which the P'ship has delivered in the AONB from April 2009 – March 2010.

Action: TW will send JB general examples of our work e.g. 10th anniversary and IYB 2010 celebrations.

Action: ALL to send JB examples by 16th July.

SG010/24 (IYB) 2010 activities update

Go Wild in the Woods: TW thanked FC for use of Firestone and their hard work with the car parking, AONB and NE for their financial support and everybody for working really hard all day, sharing their knowledge and time and for making it such a great day. A round-up was produced and distributed but some facts from the day include 300 people, 32 experts, 52 volunteers.

BioBlitz element was also a great success with the final, final count being 447 different species! Many thanks to the IW LRC and iSpot for assistance with the last few, formal identifications. We beat the New Forest (415) and eclipsed Jersey (163)!!

****Stop press **** a new species of Myrid bug to the IW was also discovered by Dr David Biggs!

Lots of good publicity and feedback has been generated by the event. TW suggested mini-bioblitz at the Fort Victoria Foray, August 19th – asked facilitators to assist with species ID and to encourage wildlife recording at the event. Also the idea of a 2nd IW BioBlitz in Spring/Summer on Brading Down was put forward and warmly received at the meeting.

Action: TW to send round the final species produced by the IW LRC FYI (*please see attached - IW Bioblitz_June 2010_Results pdf)

Action: ALL (where relevant) to consider how/where your skills can be used at the mini-bioblitz at the Foray.

Wight in Bloom update: TW reported that 9 entries (schools, businesses and private gardens) had been received for the P'ships' special Wildlife Award. The judges (Dave & Hazel Trevan and Nick Webb) have been out and assessed the entries and reported a very high standard.

MC has agreed to present the awards at the Wight in Bloom ceremony on August 14th on behalf of the P'ship.

TW requested donations of small prizes for the competition to accompany the 3 x gold, silver & bronze wooden plaques e.g. bug boxes, bee sticks, anything wildlife garden related would be very much appreciated.

Action: IB to supply black poplars as part of the prizes (as discussed at SG meeting in March)

Action: ALL to contact TW if able to contribute prizes

Wolverton Show: 4th/5th September, TW will represent the P'ship and happy to produce a display on IYB 2010, but would like to run an activity. Any ideas for this, or offers of help with facilitating would be very helpful.

Action: ALL offers of assistance with the Wolverton Show to TW

SG10/25 Any other business

Rural Community Action Awards – RG reported that Newport Rivers Group were awarded 2nd prize for their collaborative project with the Trust at Pan Mill Meadows. The prize money has been donated to the Trust towards continued mgmt of the site – congratulations to all.

SINC condition project – RG introduced Hannah Rose, SINC Officer. Hannah will be working on the project for 48 weeks, visiting the 217 sites determining the condition and mgmt.

Field of Hope – IB reported that a new G2N project has taken place with funding from the IW festival at the Field of Hope, Newchurch (an ex-arable field). Adam Wright carried out the survey and came up with lots of exiting invertebrate finds at the site.

Wight Winter Walks – TW said submissions to Wight Winter Walks would be called for late July and Highlighted the new promotional feature option available ¼ page at £83, ½ page at £159, Full page at £300 – a great way to publicise special events/projects/surveys/call for volunteers.

- MC stressed that all council publications are coming under scrutiny and fears Wight Walks may well be at risk – therefore any support the p'ship can give via taking up this option could prove essential for its continued existence.
- TW urged everybody to fill out the feedback forms (to be sent out shortly) with data which will help justify the impact the publication has on recruiting walks participants

In the Wild – TW aims to distribute the 2nd edition of 'In the Wild' our new e-newsletter in August. Please have a think about stories/features to put forward. TW will contact everybody shortly for ideas/input.

Date of next meeting Thursday 14th October, 10.30am at Enterprise House