

10am. Tuesday 15th February 2011.
 Loxley House, Nottingham.

Present:

Wayne Ball	Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT)
Linda Davey (Vice Chair)	Notts federation of Women's Institute (WI)
Edmund Hopkins	Royal Forestry Society (RFS)
Chris Jackson	Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG)
Simon Jenkins	Nottingham City Council
Erin McDaid (Chair)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Sarah Pierce	Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)

1. Apologies

Jackie Adams (Nottinghamshire County Council Env Ed), Bill Bacon (Butterfly Conservation), Amy Chandler (Forestry Commission), Clark Field (Nottinghamshire County Council), Gill Grievson (Greenwood CF), Ian Major (Sherwood Forest Trust), Sue McDonald (Bestwood Country Park), Mark Waller (Center Parcs), Kathy Wimble (Newark & Sherwood District Council).

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed.

Action 1 - CJ to circulate Terms of reference for the subgroup.

Action 4 - ongoing

Action 11 - EM still pursuing STW contact.

Dormant partner, Severn Trent Water, continues to elude. STW owns 45,000 ha inc SSSI's, and has management plans for all sites.

Action 1 - Proposed and agreed to place STW on the agenda as a standing item.

3. Subgroup Workplan

Members to bring to subgroup meeting areas of their own work that relate to the BAP. Partners to promote LBAP in own publicity, especially with regard to BAP habitat and species.

Action 2 - CJ to circulate list of HAP's and SAP's and a list of UKBAP species present in Notts.

Chair commented need to talk up the presence of unusual spp in the county, something we have not done so effectively hitherto.

Discussion: All present committed to ensuring LBAP cited in any project publicity. SP referred to the joint OPAL/FSC East Midlands Heathland Field Guide (due to go to press later this year), Chair commented the group could offer help on publicity for that, at publication (mid-late summer).

Chair proposed BAP priority habitats and species should be standard agenda item. Agreed.

Action 3 - EM and CJ to work up action plan with regards to promotion of BAP and have in place for next meeting. The plan will involve reporting back actions to subgroup .

The subgroup needs to be more pro active, and communicate between each other between meetings.

4. Alien Invasive species

CJ updated all on the Japanese Knotweed Survey promoted in 2009. The survey was still getting records and combined with original data held by NBGRC the number of records now totalled 800. 6 of these records were for SSSI's, for which all the land owners of these sites were aware of the issue and were treating the knotweed. CJ has previously featured on local radio on a number of occasions promoting this project.

CJ update for Himalayan Balsam. Surveys ongoing, but need to accelerate. Focus on catchments other than Trent, e.g Maun, Leen, Erewash. Good progress had been made on partnership working, e.g on River Leen through Bestwood Country Park, funded by 6C's GI pot, e.g. on River Maun through coordination of Friends of Groups. Talk of coordinating different groups to work on common date for a "day of action" in April or May.

Action 4 - CJ to contact all once he has a proposed date for the 'day of action'.

Action 5 - ALL to help to promote the date through their organisations.

CJ stressed that the main aim of the HB project was to identify areas where balsam was present and where organisations/groups were working on eradicating the resource. Using this data a more coordinated approach could then be taken to managing the resource to ensure that groups were not putting in a lot of unnecessary work. Identifying the most upstream locations of Himalayan Balsam and controlling HB at these sites would be the most effective method of control.

EH talked about the problem of HB on the Ouse Dyke and will contact the Gedling Conservation Trust about undertaking action at Stoke Bardolph/Netherfield Lagoons.

Action 6 - EH to talk to Gedling Group.

Chair pointed out that grazing can work at least visually.

CJ pointed out to all that any work to eradicate HB volunteers should be mindful of the bird nesting season and other active wildlife.

CJ stressed that all the records that were gained from both the surveys would be made available on the NBN website.

The Records Centre has emphasised the importance of collecting records for *Crassula helmsii*. EH requested any action on *Crassula* should be photo'd/recorded for potential future publicity.

5. BigBAG Annual Forum Event

No progress with venues and themes due to current turmoil and uncertainty with the UKBAP and with posts and also due to a lack of capacity. CJ informed the group that it was looking as though his contract would now be extended for one more year, with external funding being required thereafter. Natural England currently in the process of reviewing their entire service, including the funding for LBAP's.

It was agreed not to take BIGBAG forward this year, whilst reiterating its value to the partnership.

6. **Priority Habitat and Species 2010/11**

Traditional orchards - PTES have been mapping this habitat across England using aerial photographic data, the project is funded by Natural England. This stage of the mapping process is now complete for Notts with over 650 sites recorded. The next stage of the work is to ground truth the existing sites to see if they conform to the habitat definition. PTES will host volunteering opportunities for partnership working. CJ is currently trying to get PTES to attend the next BAG I & M meeting to discuss the project in more detail.

Action 7 - CJ will mail around link to PTES site.

Action 8 - EH will contact Ray Blockley cider micro brewer from Hucknall.

Water Vole – CJ is hoping to arrange a series of water vole training events across the county in 2011.

Action 9 - CJ to start contacting partners to work up water vole training arrangements.

Action 10 - EM will commit NWT to getting “Know your Vole” cards out amongst the public to encourage reporting of water voles.

7. **Partner Updates**

Wayne Ball - Sherwood Forest Trust

Special Trees Project. LD mentioned that the WI might help with this. Practical conservation events with law students (ongoing). Pilot grazing project at Sherwood Heath (dogs an issue) - feasibility study underway. Hedge laying programme 2011/12 now firmed up; one element is training the trainers to national proficiency level. SFT currently producing National character area (NCA) templates for NE.

Edmund Hopkins - Royal Forestry Society

Woodland competition, mentioned above.

Simon Jenkins - Nottingham City Council (Butterfly Conservation).

Beeston Sidings slow worm monitoring is being undertaken. 1 apprentice is now working 2.5 days a week with the Wildlife in the city Project. The River Leen biodiversity and footpath improvement 6C green infrastructure works are now underway, working with EA on the section between Bulwell Bogs and Old Basford. Butterfly Conservation SJ reported 2006 records now available on website (not Moths though).

Sarah Pierce - Open Air Laboratories

Autumn biodiversity survey has been completed. Spring weather (climate) survey is now planned and scheduled. Funding secured for 6th National Survey (likely to be a Bug Hunt). Outreach funding is available too, which may be available to help LBAG projects.

National Road show is coming to the region, SP requested possible sites/venues for what is a very large roadshow that requires several days in situ to justify. Riverside Festival was suggested by EH.

Linda Davey - National Fed. WI

LD summarised the talks that she has been giving across the county. Talks from LD are ongoing and she is now Broadening out to a wider audience, including gardening groups and U3A (University of the Third Age).

Erin McDaid - Notts Wildlife Trust

PP at Besthorpe is now underway, and the reserve will be closed from 15/2/2011. Largest restoration project NWT has ever undertaken.

Blue Butterfly a scheme hitting targets but need now to review/restructure. 10,000 packs of wildflower seed (each covering 1m2) now distributed. Cost of packs dramatically risen this year (350%).

8. Feedback from the BAG I & M subgroup

Most of the important issues had been touched on earlier in the meeting.

9. AOB

EH asked if a joint Wildlife in the City /Friends of Colwick Woods/Sneinton Festival event could use the bioblitz concept during this summer. Simon Jenkins felt that this would be possible. Sarah Pierce indicated that OPAL may be able to support this.

Action 11 - CJ to send EH/SP a copy of the Bioblitz logo and a list of all the contacts that the Notts Biodiversity Action group have used previously to put on past Notts Bioblitz events.

10. Date of next meetings

Wednesday 11th May 2011, 10.00am - Nottingham University.

Tuesday 2nd August 2011, 10.00am - SFT Offices, Edwinstowe.

Thursday 10th November 2011, 10.00am - Woodthorpe Grange, Nottingham.