

**10am Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
 Natural England Offices, Apex Court.**

**Present:**

Janice Bradley (JB)(Chair)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Nick Crouch (NC)(Vice-chair)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Chris Jackson (CJ)	Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG)
Janet Valenti (Mins)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Sue McDonald (SM)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Jo Waldron (JW)	Mansfield District Council (MDC)
Brian Dunning (BD)	Natural England (NE)
Jenny Gill (JG)	Forestry Commission (FC)
Rob Johnson (RJ)	Nottinghamshire Records Centre (NBGRC)
Sheila Wright (SW)	Nottingham Natural History Museum (NNHM)
Ian Major (IM)	Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT)
James Dymond (JD)	Nottingham City (NC)
Paul Philips (PP)	Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC)
Rosy Carter (RC)	Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LNP (LDNLNP)
Michael Walker (MW)	Notts Bat Group/NWT

**1. Apologies & Introductions**

Bill Bacon (BB)	Butterfly Conservation (BC)
Lesley Sharpe (LS)	Farm Environment Advisor (FEA)
Dan Widdowson (DW)	Environment Agency (EA)
Swati Nettleship (SN)	Environment Agency (EA)
Steve Fisher (SF)	Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC)
Linda Davey (LD)	Nottinghamshire Federation of WI's (NFWI)
Kira Besh (KB)	Mansfield District Council (MDC)
Adrienne Bennett (AB)	Forestry Commission (FC)
Wayne Ball (WB)	Canal & Rivers Trust (C&RT)
Chris Manning (CM)	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
Jackie Adams (JA)	Into the Forest (ITF)
Emma Wright (EW)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Carl Cornish (CC)	RSPB

**2. Previous Minutes, Accuracy and Actions**

Actions 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16 – completed

**Willow Tit - Carl Cornish**

Action 2: carry forward **(Carl to provide CJ with a copy of the Willow Tit presentation)  
 CJ to chase up.**

It was noted the email address for Andy Hall ([andy.hll@ntlworld.com](mailto:andy.hll@ntlworld.com)) was recorded inaccurately. Any records of Willow Tit in Nottinghamshire should be sent to [andy.h11@ntlworld.com](mailto:andy.h11@ntlworld.com).

Action 3: carry forward **(NC and CJ to meet with MW to start revision/updating of HAPS)**

Action 4: carry forward **(Awareness and Communications Strategy for the LBAP - CJ to discuss with JB).**

Action 4a: **JB recalled that a draft Awareness and Communications Strategy for the LBAP was circulated last year by Erin, although no comments were received. JB agreed to follow this up and carry forward as an urgent action.**

Action 5 - done. The work plan is an agenda item for today's meeting.

Action 6 - ongoing.

Action 10: carry forward. **(CC to write a SAP for the Willow Tit)**  
CC to send a draft to CJ and NC for comments. Hopefully the Willow Tit SAP and the black Poplar SAP will be available for the next meeting (combine the 2 together for consultation).

Action 12: carry forward **(NC to progress the updating of the list of conservation concern for Nottinghamshire)**

Action 13: carry forward **(CJ to send a message around the partnership about the big 10 species in Notts - mentioning successes re: Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed ).**

Action 14: RC to provide an update at today's meeting **(RC contact Tim Graham, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust re Humberhead Levels NIA)**

### **3. NottsBAG Delivery Group Work Plan**

JB provided an update.

#### Monitoring and reporting

CJ confirmed everyone has been provided with a spreadsheet for data collection, which is done on a 3 yearly rota. In the past CJ has struggled with poor responses and urged everyone to send completed spreadsheets to him for collation. Once this information has been received and collated, CJ will produce a report. JB stressed the importance of capturing this information to show the good work done, such data can present an exciting picture to people.

JB referred to updating habitat targets, the first review of which was set for October. CJ confirmed that this work is currently behind schedule as the partnership is awaiting the outcome of some of the BOM mapping work. Once BOM mapping has been done, we shall have better baseline data.

JB suggested the wording "subject to completion of BOM mapping" should be added to the Work Plan. A cut-off point should also be mentioned.

**Action 1: CJ to add "subject to completion of BOM mapping" to Work Plan. A cut-off point should also be mentioned in the Work Plan.**

CJ referred to the integration of the LBAP targets into the BARS 2 database. It has been difficult for the County BAP to get on to BARS 2 system, to report at a county level until some of the updates have been made to the HAPS and SAPS. It was agreed that when

the information has been updated this is what we should be aiming for. JB and CJ will get together to discuss this matter in more detail.

**Action 2: CJ and JB to discuss integration of LBAP info into BARS 2 database.**

#### **4. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping**

Sherwood BOM: The first BOM workshop was held back in February 2013. Since this workshop the BOM process has been revised and a first draft of the Trent Valley Report was created following this new methodology. As a result the new methodology has been applied to the data captured as part of the Sherwood BOM workshop retrospectively. This has proved to be a huge job. The work to update the workshop outcomes to fit the new methodology is well under way with 3 of the broad habitat types now completed. Examples of this work have been presented to the BOM working group who were happy with the progress being made. It is hoped that the updating of the information will be complete by Christmas and a draft report will be started in the New Year.

Rushcliffe BOM: A draft report has been produced for Rushcliffe West. This has been circulated for comment.

**Action 3: Advise CJ of any comments on the Rushcliffe West Report.**

Work will start soon on geo-rectifying for Rushcliffe East, and a BOM workshop will be held in the New Year. A draft BOM Report will be available by the end of the financial year.

Funding has been proposed from the Environment Agency, to undertake the data preparation for a BOM for Bassetlaw and the Idle Catchment (north of Sherwood). It is hoped the Bassetlaw mapping will be done by the end of the financial year. This will build on the Phase 1 mapping that has been digitised for the Humberhead Levels NIA area in Notts (plus a 5km buffer).

CJ & JB are chasing ADC to see if they will fund undertaking BOM mapping in the final part of Ashfield District currently not mapped.

CJ is working with Kira Besh, MDC to incorporate her data into the BOM process.

Broxtowe Borough Council has taken the first draft of the Broxtowe BOM and utilised this to inform their Green Infrastructure Strategy.

NC is progressing with work to update the Trent Valley BOM report.

PP commented on the report produced for Rushcliffe West which he found to be a very good product containing useful information. PP confirmed that RBC was keen to continue with funding for the BOM work for Rushcliffe East.

JB offered her thanks to CJ and Karen Taylor (GIS Development Officer, NCC) for producing this phenomenal piece of work.

#### **5. Updating the Notts SOCC list**

Nick provided the group with an update on the list of species of conservation concern. The list was produced in 1998 but is now out of date. The original list was compiled in a way that enabled some fairly common and widespread species to end up on it. In addition not all the species on the national Section 41 list of species feature in the county list. As a result it has been agreed that the Notts SOCC list needs to be updated. NC will circulate his ideas of a way of updating the list to JB and CJ for their input, before circulating wider.

**Action 4: NC to circulate Notts SOCC list update methodology to JB and CJ for their ideas.**

We need to look at 3 main criteria:

- Species on England Section 41 list present in Notts
- Red listed invertebrates not listed in Section 41
- County rarity and decline, think about how we assess the decline.

All present agreed to use these 3 criteria.

We should get in touch with County Recorders and species experts in the county to ask for high priority species in the county and seek their input. Local species groups could be asked to comment. JB agreed, we need to encourage as much input as possible, groups can provide information on specific species. Now is the opportune time to go out to recorders and ask people to do some thinking about this as the survey season has finished for most. JB expressed her agreement with Nick's approach, it should be scientifically based.

**Action 5: NC to circulate SOCC list for consultation.**

SW offered to provide Nick with a recently updated list of moths. Moths are in decline nationally, it makes sense to note national and local species.

**Action 6: SW to provide NC with an updated list of moths.**

**6. New SAP species**

At the Big BAG Forum last year, guests were asked to indicate additional species in Notts which they felt needed a species action plan (SAP) and reasons why. A total of 7 species were suggested, all received 1 nomination except Willow Tit which received 3.

To write a SAP for a particular species requires an author to produce the SAP and then to lead and promote work on the species i.e. Grizzled Skipper. Currently there are 11 SAP species, CJ asked the question, could we take on any more? Suggested species from the Big BAG are:

- Hedgehog
- Slow Worm
- Willow Tit
- Welsh Clearwing
- Grass-wrack pondweed,
- Shepherds Needle
- Early Marsh Orchid

SW suggested that she could do a generic grouped SAP for Grade 1 moths in Notts which could be completed by next summer.

If anyone can suggest a species that they feel would benefit from having a SAP, please contact CJ via email, preferably by the end of November. Any suggested species needs an Action Plan and someone to take on the role of author and lead. This will be an Agenda item for the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**Action 7: Any ideas to be sent to CJ (chris.jackson@nottscc.gov.uk) by the end of November with rationale for species and identification of author. Make this a main agenda item at the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

CC has been identified for producing the Willow Tit SAP and is close to producing a draft which hopefully can be signed off at the next meeting.

Everyone around the table was happy with the approach recommended by CJ.

## **7. BigBAG Annual Forum Event (planning the next one)**

CJ suggested setting up a working group to plan next year's event, focussing on habitats. The following people volunteered to be a part of the working group:

Sue McDonald  
Janice Bradley  
Paul Phillips  
Chris Jackson

The working group should discuss ideas for future speakers.

It was agreed that NTU Brackenhurst provided a perfect venue at last year's event, particularly as the venue offers a number of rooms including a large lecture hall (capacity 120), that there are plenty of car parking spaces available and that the venue is available for free. CJ agreed to contact Trent University to ascertain if they would be happy to provide the venue again for next year's event. CJ will take the opportunity to invite a representative from Trent University to sit on the working group.

All around the table were happy for CJ to take this course of action.

SM suggested avoiding the school Easter Holidays (3rd-17<sup>th</sup> April) when choosing a date for this event.

**Action 8: CJ to approach Trent University to ascertain if they would be happy to provide Brackenhurst College as the venue for next year's BigBAG Annual Forum.**

**Action 9: CJ to invite a representative from Trent University to sit on the working group.**

## **8. Local Nature Partnership Update**

RC provided an update.

### NIAs

Nick Moyes and CJ have gathered baseline data re designated sites in both LBAP areas. There is now a list of identified potential new NIAs. RC has been in touch with Natural England requesting more guidance and to ascertain if there is any funding for NIAs. Unfortunately, nothing has come from them.

RC recently attended a workshop for the Humberhead Levels NIA (straddling Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire), 1 of 12 NIAs funded by Defra. They have a strong partnership and have done well during the past 2 years.

Locally designated NIAs have key benefits i.e. involvement with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and obtaining funding from EU and Government to stimulate jobs encouraging economic growth.

Two potential NIAs have so far been identified within the LNP area; Trent Valley and Sherwood, both of which have merits with the Chief Executive and Chair of the LEP. John Everitt (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust) and Adam Lathbury (Derbyshire County Council) are collating information and putting ideas together to take to the LEP. We will need a pipeline of projects which will be ready to go when the funding becomes available in January 2015.

One key thing to bear in mind regarding NIAs is that local authorities should take into account the Duty to Co-operate in planning matters. The Duty to Cooperate places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local and Marine Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

The LNP would like to run a workshop around the end of November for Heads of Strategic Planning to talk to the LNP on matters such as ecological data going into their strategic planning/BOM mapping data. It was suggested CJ should also attend this workshop to talk to them, CJ agreed this was a good idea. JB is of the opinion it would be useful to have elected representatives from local authorities along with senior planners attending the workshop.

JB also suggested there could be input from this BAG group as several people are involved in planning, they can provide technical input.

CJ offered to help out with setting up a group.

RC attended an equivalent group in Derbyshire which was attended by quite a few planners. RC has contact names to invite to the combined Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire workshop.

### NELMS

The LNP, along with Natural England, ran a workshop inviting people across the area to comment on targeting statements as well as NELMs funding. There was concern on data held nationally which is not consistent with that held locally. There was a flurry of letters between Chair of the LNP and Defra. Defra has taken on board the feedback.

Natural England provided RC with a draft document on NELMs targeting statements. RC will send out the final version after 3 November and email the document to CJ for distribution to NottsBAG members asap requesting comments.

**Action 10: RC to provide CJ final version of the NELMS targeting statements for distribution to NottsBAG members for comments.**

RC mentioned that anyone wishing to subscribe to the LNP website ([www.ldnlnp.org](http://www.ldnlnp.org)) will receive regular updates via email.

RC confirmed Jo Smith, Chief Executive Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has joined the board of the LNP.

RC will be attending a meeting with the LEP on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. RC would like to ascertain from the LEP the type of projects they are willing to fund, how environmental work could generate jobs and the type of information the LEP need. The LEP want big projects to fund so they don't have to monitor a large number of small projects. JB feels it would be helpful to get clarity from John Everitt and Adam Lathbury, looking at processes and criteria we need to follow and how projects are brought forward.

SM suggested there is a need to recognise tourism which is very significant.

CJ asked how the LBAP should interact with the LNP. Does information from LBAP meetings feedback into LNP meetings? RC agreed this would be a good way forward, perhaps she could make a regular item on future agendas for LNP Board meetings (these take place every 2 months). NC commented this would help to remind them of our existence. This could also ensure there is a sharing of information via this process.

The LNP should be aware of large planning permissions i.e. Hucknall. JB asked if this could be discussed at the workshop? RC took this point on board, saying we need to have input into projects that have been missed.

**Action 11: RC to ask the LEP about existing projects which would be beneficial to the ongoing process.**

RC referred to the next BigBAG event and is of the opinion LNP Board members might be interested in attending. This will also help to raise awareness.

## **9. Future Speakers**

At the last meeting BD put himself forward to provide a presentation on CAP greening and the new NELMS funding scheme. BD agreed to do this at the next meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

CJ suggested NC could provide a presentation on the Black Poplar at the meeting in April.

IM offered to approach Lawrence Bee to ask if he would be happy to provide a presentation on the *Midia midas* Spider on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**Action 12: IM to email Lawrence Bee to ask if he would be happy to provide a presentation on the Midia Midas for the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

### **Summary of speakers for future meetings:**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 : BD to provide a presentation on CAP greening and the new Stewardship Scheme.

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 : NC to provide a presentation on Black Poplar.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 : Lawrence Bee to provide a presentation on the *Midia midas*.

PP thought it might be useful if somebody could come along to one of the meetings to explain the planning system i.e. basic principles, key legislation, what is a Local Plan, an interpretation of the National Planning Framework and basically provide a general summary and overview. JB agreed this was a good idea and will talk with NC. NC had reservations about giving a meaningful insight into this subject in short a short timeframe.

**Action 13: JB to discuss with NC to see if they thought that this would be feasible in the short window of a BAG Delivery meeting.**

**Action 14: Any ideas for future speakers please email CJ.**

## **10. Items arising from the Partners Update**

JB asked everyone around the table if they were happy to receive written updates prior to the meeting. Everyone was in agreement to continue in this way.

MW provided CJ with his update after the list had been circulated to everyone. CJ agreed to add this update to the list and circulate it again to everybody.

**Action 15: CJ to add MW's update and circulate the amended list to all.**

RJ referred to EA's update on £5000 funding for soil testing at Dunham/Littleborough Lagoons and re-landscaping the topography of the lagoons, thus encouraging an increased growth of reedbeds at this location. He expressed some concern over this and decided that he would contact Swati Nettleship directly to discuss further.

SW expressed concern that creation of wet reedbed was often prioritised over maintaining dry reedbeds that provide a valuable resource for a wide range of moth species.

**11. Outstanding matters arising**

None.

**12. AOB**

IM confirmed a single, decapitated female *Midia midas* was found recently in Sherwood NNR. The last recording of this species of spider was in 1979. Funding was provided by NE for volunteers to set traps in veteran trees around the site.

JB confirmed since the update on how the bTB Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme can be rolled out in Notts, it is now highly likely NFU and NWT will be bidding to be part of the scheme. Bids will be submitted in February 2015.

**13. Dates of next meetings**

**10.00am Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015, RBC Offices, Rushcliffe Civic Centre.**

**10.00am Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, EA Offices, Trentside.**

**10.00am Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Nottingham City Offices.**

**10.00am Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 venue tbc.**