



**Biodiversity Action Group  
Implementation and Monitoring Subgroup  
Minutes**

**2pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009  
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Offices, Nottingham**

**Present:**

Janice Bradley (Chair)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Rebecca Brunt	Environment Agency (EA)
Chris Comerie (Minutes)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Carl Cornish	Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers (NB)
Nick Crouch	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Julia Gallagher	RPSB
Tristan Galletly	Forestry Commission (FC)
Katherine Garton	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Deanne Gow	British Waterways (BW)
Caroline Harrison	Natural England (NE)
Chris Jackson	Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG)
Annette Kelly	AmScott (AS)
Paul Phillips	Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC)
Warren Priest	Natural England (NE)
Leslie Sharpe	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Sheila Wright	Nottingham Natural History Museum (NNHM)

**1. Apologies**

Bill Bacon (BC), Felicity Washbrook (Mansfield District Council), Karyn Stander (Sherwood Forest Trust), Norma Saunders (Sherwood Forest Trust).

**2. Previous Minutes**

Previous minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting. The following comments were made with respect to the actions laid out in the minutes of the previous meeting.

Action 1: KG in process of writing HAP for Post Industrial habitat.

Action 2: Currently no author for the Urban HAP, partnership will continue to seek an author.

Action 3: CJ continuing to chase target setting data for LBAP habitats without targets - action ongoing.

Action 4: CJ has received no response from Richard Yarnall regarding giving a presentation to the I&M subgroup about his work with hedgehogs and the possible creation of a SAP for hedgehogs. CJ has received an email from Derek Wilson, who is working with Richard Yarnall. CJ to pursue.

Action 5: WP to pass the date onto CJ for the regional BAP species workshop.

Action 6: LBAP species pending list to remain as a standing item on the I&M subgroup agenda.

Action 7: Done

Action 8: RB is compiling an advice note to help LBAP partners to apply for EA funding if a similar opportunity arises in 2009 as it did last year. CJ will then circulate this around the partnership when he receives it.

Action 9: SW has passed on a list of amphibian and reptile sites (that require resurvey) to CJ. The data covers approximately 60 sites, all of which require some new/missing information to meet the SINC criteria.

Action 10: CJ has met with James Diamond, Nottingham City Council's Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer, who will be representing the City Council at future BAG meetings.

### **3. Update on UKBAP**

WP reported that not much has been developed at the national level lately, though a report is due at the end of the year. Natural England have taken over responsibility from DEFRA for the UKBAP, which regionally will have increased emphasis on habitat creation, maintenance and key species.

A regional priority species list is to be compiled with a workshop on this possibly occurring in May/June. The workshop will seek clarification on which species should be included regionally, if migrant species are to be included and how this can be developed.

As a main part of the UKBAP framework work is being done on strengthening national and regional networks with new groups being set up to link HAPs and SAPs to broader habitat plans.

Mapping work is being undertaken for the whole region and has been targeted for completion in 1 years time with a delivery document on this due in August.

CJ raised the issue of inconsistency in mapping.

WP responded that this has been brought to Natural England's attention and a data job/project is trying to be created for mapping uniformity.

NC expressed concern for the accuracy of 6C data as some sites have been incorrectly categorised as a consequence.

WP explained that some data was not available for 6C so work was done from a proxy.

### **4. Update on Notts HAPs and SAPs**

CJ has circulated a document indicating HAP and SAP lead partners to remind all lead partners of their habitat lead status and to reinvigorate the plans as some partners may have been unaware that they were the lead partners for some habitats.

JB pointed out that a lot of this is historical and a new focus on the implications of being a lead partner needs to be raised and opened for discussion separate to this meeting, as it will require a more time.

CH queried what types of baseline data and statistics were required and noted that initial information may need to measure successful management on sites.

WP felt that it is up to the lead partner to identify what is required with data and how it is being measured, adding that Natural England has an issue with identifying what makes beneficial management and the definitions of this are being questioned internally.

JB stated that the 2006 baseline data was the most accurate available at the time, collated from a range of sources and that more advocacy of habitats is needed with lead partners in contact with other relevant partners and there is a need to focus more on working towards targets and delivering them.

CJ responded that data was unavailable for some habitat types from the 2006 baseline data and suggested that a starting point for collating data should be the habitats from the original LBAP document as they are the habitats that can be best quantified. CJ also pointed out that most plans are out of date with regard to the current status and issues sections and that these need to be reviewed by lead partners.

The conversation then moved on to discuss the shortcomings of the BARS system, where it was agreed amongst the partnership that it was too complicated and insufficient training had been provided on it. CH had requested training for BARS from Natural England but had received an unsatisfactory response.

It was agreed that clarification was needed on habitat definitions and responsibilities and these would be further discussed at a workshop, with questions to be emailed to CJ in advance with provisional dates set for early June.

CJ has discussed with RB mapping for rivers and streams for the whole County and Steve Clifton is due to respond with data on pasture and parkland and a discussion between CJ and Bill Bacon is due for SAP targets for skippers, while data on Barn Owls and Nightjars is being chased.

CJ went on to mention the coniferous woodland HAP which was finalised by the group in 2007. The HAP was originally developed partly to help and support FC staff to justify creation of open BAP habitats on the Forest Estate. CJ went on to question if the HAP was now needed in the partnership as the habitat is not considered a UK priority. JB pointed out that the current FC Open Habitats consultation indicates a change of position nationally and so agreed it is probably time to review the need for the HAP

WP followed that as part of the LBAP the partnership needs to identify habitats whether they are nationally important or not and suggested consulting with FC to see if the HAP is helping them. TG to ask internally within FC.

The partnership went onto discuss if the HAP should be changed to a guidance note and a series of species action plans and it was agreed that this should be examined further at the next meeting.

KG announced that she is writing a SAP for Black Poplar on the back of NC's mapping and requested that any further information on the species held by the partnership be passed on to her, once the SAP is complete it will be passed to CJ.

**Action 1: CH to investigate training for BARS.**

**Action 2: TG to obtain feedback from FC Enterprises on the Coniferous Woodland HAP and inform the partnership on the findings.**

**5. LBAP Reporting**

CJ informed the group of the reporting problems highlighted to him at the 2008 LBAP conference and that the UK HAP groups only wanted smart target data. Nottinghamshire LBAP hasn't been reporting any data in recent years and CJ is aware that partners may need help with some LBAP habitat mapping. This initiative is now underway (LBAP mapping) with KG working on mapping the Nottinghamshire CC estate, while CJ is working with NWT, the National Trust, FC, and Centre Parcs.

RB will be providing data to CJ from the EA estates to form a database layer of mapping information for both the EA estate and the County HAPs.

LBAP habitat mapping is underway for a number of habitats and CJ is hoping to receive woodland data from TG in the near future.

**6. LBAP list of species of Conservation Concern (Pending List)**

CJ briefed all that the SoCC list is now 10 years old. It will be amended in 2010 so in the meantime a pending list of species is being compiled for which Welsh Clearwing has just been added.

NC and CJ discussed the need to clarify the selection criteria for species which at present is uncertain and this needs to be investigated.

JB stated that the criteria for the list needs to be consistent with the SINC criteria and LBAP, with the emphasis on locally important species, it was agreed that further discussion of this will be raised at the next SINC Panel meeting.

SW interjected that the criteria for selecting moth species for the list combines species of national and local significance and that this should apply to other species on the list. She then brought the groups attention to the Clearwing Training Day at Sherwood Visitors Centre hosted by David Green on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Action 3: CJ to ensure that the list of birds of conservation concern is updated into the LBAP document.**

**7. Priority species/habitats - 2009 work programme**

CJ reported that SW will be working over the next 2 months with Erin McDaid from NWT on a press release to promote and possibly identify sites of the Scarce Vapourer moth (*Orgyia antique*), which was last seen in the Midlands at Clumber in 2000, and the Small Eggar moth (*Eriogaster Lanestris*) which has been spotted 4 times since 2000, it has distinctive nests that have been seen and photographed in Sutton On Trent by Carl Cornish and around Besthorpe and Sutton On Trent, and is distributed mainly around Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire. Population numbers of both species have fallen due to over management of hedgerows as both species require new growth in important parts of their life cycles. A further press release will focus on improving management of hedgerows for both species.

***Action 4: Ongoing work by SW and Erin McDaid to complete press release and promote the moth species and well managed hedgerow habitats.***

**8. Update on partner projects**

CH (NE) Mike Reid has been appointed the farmland bird project officer. Natural England are currently drafting a policy on wind turbines.

SW (NNHM) SW is working with the NARRS volunteers to resurvey a number of sites that required more data to establish if they qualify as SINC sites or not. The first trapping session for moths has been organised for the 18<sup>th</sup> May at Ollerton Shooting Range. Further trapping is planned for Proteus Square (near Ollerton) and Papplewick where a large number of oak feeding moth species are expected. In early May the annual visit to Budby Heath will take place to undertake the bat box recording.

CJ (BAG) The Japanese Knotweed survey is progressing with over 100 records recorded. Survey forms are available on the website, work is underway for promoting the survey.

KG (NCC) LBAP mapping for the County council estate is ongoing. The main role is commenting on planning applications throughout the County.

RB (EA) EA ecologists have been filling out the Japanese Knotweed survey form when they are out visiting sites. A project working with NWT on installing a silt trap at the Hook is ongoing. A volunteer has been updating the EA species database and it will be circulated throughout the partnership soon.

TG (FC) Data on EWGS and WGS and the woodland inventory data is due to be sent through to BAG in the near future. The WIG for woodland birds is currently open and a woodland creation grant will open in May. There are to be 4 regional seminars on the Woodland Bird WIG with the Nottinghamshire event taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

WP (NE) Money has been found to pay for increased staff time at the regional level to help with the LAA and NI197.

LS (FWAG) Stewardship schemes are being mainly worked on at present but have been slowed down due to the lack of a NE project officer and work is underway processing a pilot scheme application in Sherwood for a bird focused HLS which is due to finish in July.

JG (RSPB) Planning permission has been granted for Beckingham. Langford Lowfields now has a new officer in place and land forming for phase 2 of the Langford reedbed has been completed. Mike Reid has interest from 4 farms about entering the HLS farmland bird scheme. A WREN funding bid has been put in for Beckingham Marshes. There are plans to undertake 50 volunteer led bird surveys as part of the HLS farmland bird scheme in Nottinghamshire.

NC (NCC) Planning work has been the core of NC time and data is being chased for the National Indicator 197 dataset.

PP (RBC) The annual report on nature conservation is nearing completion and the AGM for the Conservation Strategy Improvement Group meeting is due on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Natural England have approved 3 proposals for new local nature reserves in

Rushcliffe. A number of large scale planning applications have been coming in, with the outcome of the Sharphill Wood appeal imminent, and a report is due mid-summer on taking the Newton Ecotown consultation to the next stage.

AK (AS) Woodland and grassland management work is being done with further habitat management schemes being conducted throughout the year. Reptile habitat creation, tree planting and pond management work is being done during the winter with amphibian surveys in Nottinghamshire and reptile surveys outside of the County in spring. Water Vole and Otter surveys are on going and Barn Owl data is being collected.

CC (NWT and NB) The Notts Birdwatchers annual report has been produced and funding application forms are on the website for small conservation grants. Work is continuing with regards to the national (and Notts) Bird Atlas. Langold Park, Woodsetts Pond and Retford Cemetery have all been mapped with management plans are to be finalised. At Sutton and Lound gravel pits large soil movements are complete and reeded has been established. A Community Outreach Officer at Idle Valley is to be appointed soon.

JB (NWT) Protected species issues with regards to badgers, bats, peregrines and disturbance to breeding birds (some involving the A46 work) are being taken forward, in some cases with the police. Work is ongoing on planning, with NWT staff screening all planning lists in the County. NWT in conjunction with Bassetlaw, Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling councils are working on local nature reserve creation and providing advice. First phase of earth moving at Mons Pool at Besthorpe is now complete and reeds will be planted in July, second phase will be submitted for planning permission soon. The Phase 2 submission for Trent Vale landscape partnership will be submitted at the end of May. A recent MoD review of Spalford Warren shows the site needs further surveying for buried ordnance and chemicals, to take place in May. John Black the Southern Reserves Officer is leaving and recruitment will start soon for the post.

**9. Feedback from the Steering Group**

NC informed the group that the communications strategy has been drafted and the funding strategy extended.

**10. Feedback from the Awareness sub group**

CJ reported that preparations for this year's Big BAG were currently in the very early stages and he requested any ideas from partners to be emailed to him regarding themes, venues and times for the BigBAG event. The current thinking being that the event will be held around October time in one of either Gedling, Newark and Sherwood or Ashfield districts.

**11. Outstanding matters arising**

None.

**12. AOB**

None.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

**10am Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, Trent Bridge House, West Bridgford**

**10am Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Idle Valley Centre**  
**10am Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January (2010), Venue TBA**