

10am, Thursday 16th September 2010
 NWT Offices, The Old Ragged School, Nottingham

Present:

Janice Bradley	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Nick Crouch	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Chris Jackson	Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG)
Rob Johnson	Nottinghamshire Biological Record Centre (NBGRC)
Paul Phillips (Vice chair)	Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC)
Anja Randeria	Environment Agency (EA)
Heather Stokes	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Alice Hudson (Volunteer)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Erin McDaid	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

1. Apologies

Caroline Harrison (Natural England), Norma Saunders (Sherwood Forest Trust), Tristan Galletly (Forestry Commission), Steve Fisher (Broxtowe Borough Council).

2. Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were checked and accepted as a true record.

Actions from the previous meeting.

- 1) JB would send through her presentation from the BigBag to be added to the BAG website.
- 3) AR to follow up discussions on data exchange between EA and BAG, and would seek to pass on Japanese Knotweed records to BAG from Leslie Rippon.
- 5) EM to raise the production of a brief report for 10 years of BAG with the BAG Awareness subgroup.

3. Biodiversity Officer update and work plan prioritisation

CJ reported to the Steering Group on the progress made with regards to various BAG issues and work streams including

- Recent funding bids from BAG partner organisations
- Website developments
- Latest updates with regards to the LBAP document
- The current situation with regards to LBAP mapping in Notts.
- LBAP reporting
- BAG Funding
- BAG Events (Big BAG & Bioblitz)
- Non-native species work
- Priority species work
- BAG budget
- Future Work Priorities

CJ was thanked by the group for the update and the work that he had undertaken.

Action 1: CJ to send around to the partnership a reminder about sending completed reporting spreadsheet back to him.

Action 2: CJ to draft a letter to Natural England about the BAG partnership's concerns about the use of Bestwood Duckponds as a donor site for white-clawed crayfish reintroductions at Lathkill Dale in Derbyshire.

4. LBAP Funding

CJ briefed the group that he had heard very little from NE with regards to funding beyond 2010-11. NE had said in 2009 that they would be in touch with LBAP's by Oct 2010 to let them know the level of funding (if any) for future support of LBAP's after 2010-11

CH had not been able to enlighten CJ any more with regards to funding prior to the meeting.

HS informed the group of the high level of cuts that had been proposed for both the conservation team and country parks at NCC. The cuts were at a level of around 70%, the detail of which was still being discussed.

AR reported that EA had not been able to continue their financial support for Notts BAG during 2010-11.

The group discussed what they could do to help the situation of BAG funding. It was decided that once more information about future funding of the LBAP was understood it would be wise to hold an extraordinary meeting of the BAG Steering Group.

Action 3: CJ to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting of the BAG Steering Group in November 2010.

5. Biodiversity Mapping & Income Generation

NC talked about how the creation of BAP habitat layers for the county had evolved and how the work had been shared between Notts BAG and NBGRC. As a result the data that was now being created would be a product that would be jointly owned between both organisations.

RJ had come along to the meeting to join in this part of the meeting to discuss the future potential sale of this data.

RJ was asked what the cost of the data should be. RJ felt that for the amount of work that had gone into these layers it was probably worth £2k for the initial layers.

It was felt that this level of cost may not be affordable to local authorities in the current economic situation and that it may be best to look for an annual cost that could be added on to the cost of the SLA that NBGRC currently have with LA's through the data partnership.

Data could be sold to other agencies to, such as consultancies.

Districts could get the data including a 5km buffer around the district boundary.

It was discussed that the data could be sold at price as a one off purchase or with an ongoing commitment (annual updates) it could be sold at a lower rate – it was discussed that £500/year may be an acceptable rate.

Action 4: CJ & NC to discuss sale of biodiversity habitat data with RJ and Ron Inglis.

6. IBDA's

CJ reported to the group that since the last steering meeting the East Midlands IBDA workshop had taken place and that as a result of this workshop it had been agreed to put forward three areas in the region as IBDA's. Originally, it was expected that each region would have two areas put forward but Warren Priest thought that this would probably change to three. The three areas that were accepted from the East Midlands were Sherwood, Lincolnshire Coast and fringes and the Peak District and fringes.

During July a last minute scramble (whilst CJ was away on leave) saw the IBDA process look to take forward 1 proposed area per England region as IBDA pilots. The East Midlands area ended up being drawn from a hat as there was no way of prioritising this work in the short timescales that were given. In the East Midlands the Peak District and fringes were chosen as the area to go forward as the pilot project.

Since this time a meeting/workshop has been called for the Peak District IBDA in early September. The aim of this meeting was to discuss how to proceed and to try to generate amongst the IBDA partnership some key information to help to develop the project. This information would include project boundary, key habitats and species, agreed aims and objectives etc.

CJ understands that the Peaks IBDA is the first to meet and that the rest are due to meet over the coming weeks. He also understands that the pilots are due to work up projects through to the end of March and then report back. The findings will help inform the second wave of IBDA's that are expected to start development in 2011.

Many people are still very unsure as to what the added benefit of being an IBDA will provide?

7. Update from the Implementation and Monitoring subgroup

JB informed all that the subgroup had met twice since the previous meeting, in April and in July. The meetings had been very well attended and there had been some interesting discussions. Much of the work had been discussed in the Biodiversity Officer Update earlier in the meeting. After the July meeting the group had run a workshop on water vole in Nottinghamshire. The workshop had been well attended and it is intended to run a further workshop to see if a project on water vole can be developed county wide.

8. Update from the Awareness subgroup

EM informed the group that the Awareness subgroup had only met once since the last BAG Steering Group meeting. The subgroup had discussed refocusing its activities and trying to tie in a lot of the promotional work undertaken by the partnership with BAG habitats and species. Over the last few months the group had spent much of its time working on Bioblitz. The group organised and ran its

third Bioblitz event in July at Rushcliffe Country Park. The event was well attended and very well received.

9. **AOB**

JB informed the group that in her role on the UKBAP lowland heathland steering group, she was aware that many of the existing BAP structures may change and disappear. One of the areas to go may be the UKBAP habitat steering groups.

EM announced that NWT had been successful with a funding bid to the 'Access to Nature' fund. The project called 'Wildlife in the city' was due to be launched on 29th October. The focus was to work with particular communities in deprived wards of the city and increase their awareness of wildlife.

EM made all aware of the Green Guardian awards run by NWT.

Action 5: CJ to send round the partnership information about this years Green Guardian Awards.

10. **Date of Next Meetings**

Tuesday 15th March 2011. 10.00. EA Offices.

Thursday 13th September 2011. 10.00. RBC Offices.