



**Biodiversity Action Group  
Steering Group meeting  
Minutes**

**2pm, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Offices, Nottingham**

**Present:**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Janice Bradley          | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)            |
| Chris Comerie (Minutes) | Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)            |
| Chris Jackson           | Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG) |
| Paul Phillips           | Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC)                |
| Norma Saunders (Chair)  | Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT)                     |
| Heather Stokes          | Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)            |

**1. Apologies**

Rebecca Brunt - Environment Agency (EA), Nick Crouch - Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), Tristan Galletly - Forestry Commission (FC), Caroline Harrison – Natural England (NE), Erin McDaid - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT),

**2. Previous Minutes**

Previous minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting.

Account of previous actions from the previous minutes of the group meeting from the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Action 1: There has been no further contact between CJ and Whatton Prison since the land management recommendations for biodiversity were submitted. A new Service Director has been appointed at the prison and advice notes have been produced although the ground staff there want to use the land for allotments.

Action 2: No action taken as CJ's meeting with Eon's Environment Officer has fallen through.

Action 3: No action taken as Erin has not had time to contact Severn Trent.

Action 4: Action ongoing, CJ has sent out a message throughout the partnership to clarify with the partnership the latest stage that the 6C green infrastructure mapping is at. The data for the mapping was obtained by NE and NWT and this has been developed by a consultancy into biodiversity opportunity maps and these can now be viewed on the internet. Members of the steering group have noticed errors in the data that has been created. CJ is compiling map layers of LBAP habitat that he is hoping may be able to feed into this mapping process in the future.

Action 5: Action complete, CJ has met with James Diamond from Nottingham City Council, who will be attending the next Implementation and Monitoring subgroup meeting.

Action 10: Action ongoing, CJ is reviewing the LBAP document, and will be searching the document for out of date sections.

Action 11: Action ongoing, CJ still working on the new reporting form for LBAP partners.

Action 12: Action ongoing, CJ has contacted Gordon Ellis for Barn Owl mapping in Nottinghamshire. BAG has offered to map the locations of barn owl boxes and is hoping to digitising this information, at the time of the meeting there has been no response from Gordon Ellis.

Actions from the previous minutes of the group meeting.

Action 1: Action complete, Charles Langtry from NWT has passed Japanese Knotweed records onto CJ.

Action 2: Action complete, CJ has met with Laura from Nottinghamshire County Council's finance department and the £10,000 budget shortfall in the BAG budget has been rectified (for the time being). Letters have been sent out to all the Notts local authorities requesting contributions to the BAG.

Action 3: Action complete, CJ has produced and circulated the communications strategy to the Awareness subgroup, an annual work plan is to follow. A strapline to be used by BAG partners (on their publications etc.) is to be developed.

Action 4: Action ongoing, after discussion between CJ and Warren Priest from NE, the funding strategy hasn't moved forward.

Action 5: Action complete, EMBP species workshop date passed onto partnership.

Action 6: Action ongoing, Caroline Harrison has been in touch with Dan Abrahams, who will be informing NE officers in Notts of how to collect relevant HLS/hedgerow etc data.

Action 7: Action ongoing, CJ waiting on data from Rebecca Brunt from EA who needs approval to pass the data on.

Action 8: Action ongoing, CJ has received mapping information from PP and further work is being done with partners for mapping their estates for the LBAP.

Action 9: Action not done.

Action 10: Action ongoing, Richard Yarnell is due to give a speech on hedgehogs at the October Implementation and Monitoring meeting and is looking for volunteers for a year long hedgehog monitoring project.

Action 11: Action ongoing, RB is still compiling details of EA funding requirements for CJ to circulate.

***Action 1: CJ to contact the new Service Director of Whatton Prison and re-submit advice notes.***

***Action 2: CJ to contact Eon.***

**3. Biodiversity Officer update and work plan prioritisation**

CJ updated the steering group on the main areas of work undertaken by the partnership. The main issues discussed included feedback on the latest website developments, the LBAP mapping project, funding applications from BAG [partner

organisations, the priority habitat and species, the Japanese knotweed survey (160 records to date).

#### **4. Communications and Funding Strategy**

A communications strategy has been completed and approved by the Education and Awareness subgroup and work is ongoing on a Funding Strategy for BAP implementation.

With regards to funding for the BAG itself CJ reported that a funding request letter had been sent out to all local authorities in Nottinghamshire and the city requesting a modest contribution to the BAG. Responses have been requested for the end of July 2009. Further work is being undertaken by KG from NCC on a bid for the Teversal and Linby trails for which the deadline is next week. £1,000 has been received from FC and the EA as contributions to the work of the BAG.

NC reported that a bid for SITA funding for an NCC heathland site at Rainworth (Ransoms Heath) was currently being considered. Warren Priest had confirmed to CJ that this bid had passed the regional stage.

#### **5. LBAP document update**

CJ informed the Steering Group that a workshop had taken place on 16<sup>th</sup> June aimed at the lead partners of the local Habitat Action Plans. The workshop aim was to clarify and agree the role for lead partners, to look at the local names of the HAP's and ensure that they were the most suitable for the partnership and for reporting through to the UKBAP, and to finally begin to look at setting habitat definitions for each LBAP habitat.

CJ updated the group on the progress made to date with regards to LBAP habitat mapping. Partner mapping layers are being worked on with a layer for NWT almost complete. Other partner layers are being worked on for the National Trust and Center Parcs. Katherine Garton is working on a layer for NCC and CJ is hoping to start soon on work to map the estate of the first district council (Rushcliffe).

With regards to individual habitat types the canal layer is complete with layers for rivers and streams to follow shortly while a new volunteer Derek Wilson is starting to compile a layer for Lowland Calcareous Grassland.

CJ has requested information on the extent of the highways estate managed by Amcotts on behalf of the HA.

NS raised the issue of the problems with the heathland register with regard to private land and using data which hasn't been given permission to be used under the Freedom of Information Act.

JB added that the phase one data obtained through opportunity mapping four years ago can be compared to this year's mapping information.

CJ mentioned that he has downloaded many national data layers.

JB followed on from this by noting the high level of classification on the national layer so heathland sites may not be shown on the layer data.

NS briefed that the orchard HAP is now complete with lead partner information to be added and then circulated through the partnership. While KG and NC from NCC are

working on completing the SAP for black poplars (NC is mapping the locations of trees in Notts).

Erin McDaid is producing information on this years priority habitat hedgerows and the priority species the Small Eggar and the Scarce Vapourer moths.

***Action 3: CJ to chase up data from Amscott.***

***Action 4: Erin McDaid to produce press release on the priority species in consultation with Sheila Wright and send out to the media.***

## **6. Regional Species Workshop**

CJ informed the group that a regional species workshop was scheduled to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> July. CJ was unable to make this meeting as were a number of other people in the BAG partnership so CJ was seeking to work with WP to try to move the date to allow species experts from Nottinghamshire to attend.

The meeting aimed to compile a complete list of UKBAP species that were present in the region and then to look at adding any regionally important species to the list. With this in place the aim would then be to identify species priorities for the East Midlands and actions that could be undertaken to assist these species.

***Action 5: CJ to consult Warren Priest from NE to clarify what information is wanted for the regional species workshop and to obtain second date for those who can't attend the workshop.***

## **7. LBAP Future Roles Workshop**

CJ informed that a workshop had been held in Reading on the 9<sup>th</sup> June to look at the future role of the UK Biodiversity Partnership (especially with respect to LBAPs). Fifty biodiversity officers and LBAP Chairs attended (although CJ had been informed that he should not go to this event as an equivalent event would be held in the north of England later in the year. CJ believes the role of LBAPs may in the future look to coordinate a more landscape scale approach to BAP gain with the emphasis on LBAP officers to assist with the building of landscape scale projects.

Dissatisfaction had been expressed with BARS, and the lack of resources and absence of NE overseeing the LBAP's, while the future of MOA's remained uncertain. The second meeting in the north of England is due to take place in Leeds possibly in October or November.

## **8. Update from the Implementation and Monitoring subgroup**

JB briefed that following Tuesday's workshop, HAP updates are being worked on with the HAP updates due in time for the next BAG I&M subgroup meeting. At the Lead Partner workshop, BARS had occupied part of the discussion and she informed all that Charlotte Gault will be feeding back to the UKBAP in the hope of a response from Pete Brotherton.

NS agreed that a decent database is required to monitor biodiversity while the lottery monitoring forms need reviewing to match up with BARS reporting.

The Species of Conservation Concern list is in need of an update and it was suggested that SINC data, BAP species and habitats and the BAP SoCC list all

needed looking at to establish a relationship between them and what is being done on them throughout the partnership.

The need for the coniferous woodland HAP is in the process of being discussed at the subgroup with further debate to be had at the next I&M subgroup meeting. At the previous meeting it had been suggested that the HAP could be replaced by an advice note especially in the light of the FC open habitat strategy. A suite of SAP's could be used to pick up any important species that may require action that had previously been covered by the Planted Coniferous HAP. A final decision will be made on this at the next meeting.

**9. Feedback from the Awareness subgroup**

CJ related that the subgroup meeting covered the Japanese Knotweed survey (including Greenwood's workplan for promotion), the priority species and habitats and suggestions for the BigBAG and Bioblitz events were discussed. The Communications Strategy was circulated for comment.

**10. AOB**

NS reported that she had received an email from NC showing that the SINC Panel meeting now conflicted with the Evidence and Data meeting.

PP announced that the Options and Issues paper for LDF Process for Greater Nottinghamshire had been produced with a section on biodiversity for which each district council will be doing their own consultation. In addition PP indicated that a planning application had been submitted for the Clifton Gateway which would create 5,500 houses plus employment in the area.

**11. Date of Next Meetings**

**10am Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Chalfont Drive**

**10am Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, SFT Offices, Edwinstowe.**

**10am Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010, EA Offices, Trentside.**

**10am Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010, FC Offices, Sherwood Pines.**