

**10am Tuesday 13th January 2015
 Rushcliffe Civic Centre Offices**

Present:

Janice Bradley (JB)(Chair)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Ruth Testa (RT)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Gaynor Jones Jenkins (GJJ)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)
Chris Jackson (CJ)	Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG)
Janet Valenti (JV)(Mins)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Abigail Smith (AS)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Brian Dunning (BD)	Natural England (NE)
Emily Aron (EA)	Nottingham City Council (NC)
Leila Mills (LM)	Nottingham City Council (NC)
Chris Riley (CR)	Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC)
Ruth Tall (RT)	Natural England (NE)
Sheila Wright (SW)	Nottingham Natural History Museum (NNHM)
Bill Bacon (BB)	Butterfly Conservation (BC)
Dan Widdowson (DW)	Environment Agency (EA)
Katie Swindley (KW)	Environment Agency (EA)
Paul Phillips (PP)	Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC)
Paul Bennett (PB)	RSPB
Linda Davey (LD)	Women's Institute (WI)
Rob Johnson (RJ)	NBGRC
Michael Walker (MW)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust/Notts Bat Group

1. Apologies & Introductions

Jo Waldron (JW)	Mansfield District Council (MDC)
Carl Cornish (CC)	RSPB
Jago Moles (JM)	National Trust (NT)
Andy Hollis (AH)	Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT)
Nick Crouch (NC)	Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)
Steve Fisher (SF)	Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC)
Richard Bennett (RB)	Canal & Rivers Trust (C&RT)
Kira Besh (KB)	Mansfield District Council (MDC)
Adrienne Bennett (AB)	Forestry Commission (FC)
James Dymond (JD)	Nottingham City (NC)
Chris Manning (CM)	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB)
Rosy Carter (RC)	Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LNP (LDNLNP)

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered her thanks to Rushcliffe Borough Council for hosting the event.

2. Previous Minutes, Accuracy and Actions

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

Action 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15: completed.

NottsBAG Delivery Group Work Plan

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

Updating the Notts SOCC list

Action 6: carry forward **(SW to provide NC with an updated list of moths).**

New SAP species

Action 7: carried forward as an Agenda item for today's meeting.

(Any ideas to be sent to CJ with rationale for species and identification of author)

Future speakers

Action 12: carry forward. **(IM to email Lawrence Bee to ask if he would be happy to provide a presentation on the *Midia midas* for the meeting on 14th July 2015). CJ agreed to chase IM.**

Action 13: carry forward. **(JB to discuss with NC re providing a planning summary)** JB suggested a planning summary might best be done as a separate half-day workshop rather than as part of a BAG Delivery Group meeting. After a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed this would be the best course of action. JB suggested NC/JB/Liz Newman/EA could take this forward.

3. CAP Greening & NELMs - Brian Dunning (Natural England)

Brian Dunning (BD) provided a presentation on CAP (Common Agricultural Policy). CAP is a system of agricultural subsidies and programmes covering farming, environmental measures and rural development. The new CAP schemes will be implemented in 2015.

The presentation provided an update on the Agricultural Environment Scheme which was launched this year and how changes to CAP will affect farmers and protect the rural environment.

The previous title 'NELMs has now been changed to Countryside Stewardship, the priority is biodiversity. BD provided an overview of how Countryside Stewardship works, including information about:

- The 3 main elements (Higher Tier, Mid-Tier and a range of capital grants)
- When agreements and payments will commence
- What funding will be available 2015 onwards

Greening is the requirement to follow specific environmental farming practices, there are 3 greening requirements:

- Crop diversification
- Maintenance of permanent grassland
- The need to establish Ecological Focus Areas on 5% of arable land.

The current Single Payment Scheme (SPS) will be replaced by the Basic Payment Scheme.

BD confirmed more information will become available as the year roles on. If anybody has any questions on CAP, please contact Ruth or Brian who will be happy to be of assistance.

A copy of this presentation is available in pdf format, BD offered to send this to CJ for circulation to the Group.

Action 1: BD to provide this presentation in pdf format to CJ for circulation to the Group.

JB thanked BD for his presentation.

4. NottsBAG Delivery Group Work Plan - JB

CJ provided an update.

Monitoring and reporting

The revision/writing of HAPs as necessary to further the conservation of priority species and habitats has yet to be done. The target date of March 2015 has therefore been put back.

It is hoped to have a report on Habitat Action Plans. CJ will circulate the spreadsheet again for data collection and is happy to meet people to offer his assistance.

Action 2: CJ to circulate spreadsheet for data collection. All completed spreadsheets to be sent to CJ for collation.

Education, training and outreach

JB commented these are mainly generic ways of working and communicating with each other, that we are hopefully doing all the time, but it is useful to be reminded of it on the work plan. A tremendous amount of work is done through BAG and it is useful to look at the Work Plan to see how we can best work together.

5. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping - JB/CJ

JB mentioned this is a huge piece of work which has been spectacularly done with a high degree of accuracy and detail and is well worth investing in. However, this piece of work is still in transition.

CJ explained that the original Phase 1 is paper-based, once it is digitised it can be used on GIS.

Once we have connectivity maps, they are taken to the BOM workshops. Partners draw on the maps/use post-it notes indicating areas of work and aspirations for better habitats. Reports have been generated from the workshops identifying areas of activity.

Rushcliffe West BOM: a draft report has now been circulated. Comments have been received and will be incorporated into the final report.

Rushcliffe East BOM: Funding has now been received from RBC and a workshop is scheduled for 11 February 2015 at Cropwell Bishop. Invitations have been sent out, all are welcome to attend.

Broxtowe Borough Council BOM: A draft report will be circulated to partners for comments.

Bassetlaw & The Idle Catchment BOM: funding has been received from EA to digitise Phase 1 of a BOM for Bassetlaw (except area covered by NIA funding) and the Idle Catchment (north of Sherwood). DW confirmed he has approved payment today. Geo-rectifying has been completed.

Sherwood BOM: The process was changed with Trent Valley which was finished last week, the methodology was changed reviewing outcomes from the Sherwood workshop. Drafts should be available by the end of March.

Trent Valley BOM: A draft report has been circulated for any amendments. NC has taken on this piece of work which has not moved forward yet.

Central Newark and Sherwood and Gedling have been finished? PP And JB to contact Newark & Sherwood and Gedling for contributions.

Action 3: PP and JB to contact Newark & Sherwood and Gedling for contributions to BOM mapping.

Magnesian limestone area: JB had contacted ADC for funding but had not heard any definitive response.

Action 4: JB to follow up ADC for funding.

JB thanked partners RBC and EA for funding substantial areas of work. BBC have integrated BOM mapping into their Green Infrastructure Strategy, it is good to see BOM data being used.

JB suggested if there is any further funding available for BOM mapping, please let us know.

6. New SAP species - CJ

Following on from last year's Big BAG Forum, a total of 7 species were suggested for a Species Action Plan. As a result of the same question to members of the wider NottsBAG partnership about SAP species, another 3 have been proposed:

Green Hairstreak
Dormouse
Grade 1 moths

To take any of these forward, we need to consider:

- Is there a conservation need for it?
- Lead author?
- Lead role?

Green Hairstreak

This is a scarce butterfly, which is a local rarity and uncommon in the north of the county. BB confirmed Butterfly Conservation would be happy to create a SAP to support this species. Bill confirmed he had spoken to Richard Penson who will help to create a draft SAP. CJ asked if the partnership felt this should be taken this forward? All agreed this would be a good.

Dormouse

There was a release of Dormice in 2013 to Treswell Wood and a second into Eaton wood in 2014. The hope is to create a viable population in these woods and in the surrounding area. JB confirmed there is now evidence of breeding at Treswell Wood and so far this year 40 dormice have been seen (post release) at Eaton Wood. There have been talks with landowners located between the 2 woodlands with a view to creating better managed hedgerow links. A hedgerow survey is currently being carried out, a SAP will reinforce the work done there. NWT is happy to act as potential Author.

All agreed that NWT take work forward work to create a Dormouse SAP.

Grade 1 moths

SW will move this forward and produce a draft by the end of the year. Reports and photographs are received from members of the public. It will, however, be necessary to do some survey work, especially at Clumber. SW stressed the importance of having partners on board.

Any comments would be most welcome.

Willow Tit

CC was put forward as the lead author for a Willow Tit SAP. CJ has circulated the draft SAP to partners on behalf of CC, extending a message to partners asking them to get involved to make it happen. Unfortunately, CC or CJ have not received any responses from partners to survey sites as yet.

Action 5: If anybody is able to assist in surveying sites, please contact CC.

CC hopes to run another workshop at Brierley Forest Park and would appreciate BAP partners joining him. We need to know where Willow Tits are.

Action 6: CJ to circulate flier to partners re workshop at Brierley Forest Park.

Black Poplar

A draft SAP has been produced by lead authors, NC and Emma Woodrow. This has been circulated by CJ for comments. Sites are needed to plant and take cuttings from. Please contact NC with comments.

Action 7: Please contact NC with comments on draft Black Poplar SAP and potential sites for planting.

Early Marsh Orchid

CJ has received 1 comment – do we take this forward? We need to decide on species not to take forward, and have rationale to take forward.

Slow worm

John Osborne was nominated for the slow worm SAP. Nottingham City has records on slow worm. SW confirmed we have a good idea as to where they are located due to recorded sightings from the public. CJ suggested partners could help to action this SAP.

SW agreed to contact John Osborne to ask if he would be willing to produce a SAP.

Action 8: SW to contact John Osborne to see if he would be willing to produce a Slow Worm SAP.

Early Marsh Orchid/Shepherds Needle/Grass-wrack pondweed

Action 9: RJ will talk to Mark with a view to him taking this forward.

Hedgehog

JB agreed that NWT would take this forward. CJ mentioned that NTU (Nottingham Trent University) are undertaking research on this subject and suggested NWT contact them. A SAP would be very useful.

Updating the existing SAPs has not started. Abigail Smith will be updating the Grizzled Skipper Action Plan which Bill will be asked to approve.

Action 10: CJ to circulate updated SAPs as they get updated.

7. Updating the Notts SOCC list - NC

NC provided CJ with an update.

Information is ready to go out to county recorders/experts seeking their input into an update of the county SOCC lists. This will go out shortly and consultees will be given a month or six weeks to respond. NC will require help identifying certain consultees and will speak to the NBGRC and Michael Walker, about this.

A list has been drawn up with the request for partners to contribute and list species. There are common species but it needs to be more specific concentrating on conservation rationale and rarity.

NC has provided JB and CJ with a list of proposals on how to update this list, both were in agreement. It is hoped to circulate the list to species specialists, including SW, fairly soon. NC will contact specialists within the next few months.

Action 11: NC to circulate SOCC list proposals for specialist comments.

8. BigBAG Annual Forum Event (planning the next one) - CJ

PP provided an update on the BigBAG Annual Forum 2015.

This year's theme has been proposed as Nottinghamshire's priority habitats following on from the focus on species in 2014. . The venue will be Brackenhurst, preferably on a Wednesday in late March. CJ will advise partners of the confirmed date.

Action 12: CJ to advise the group on the agreed date for the BigBAG Annual Forum.

A working group to include JB/PP/CJ/SM/JA/LD are meeting Wednesday 14th January to discuss the programme for this event. We need to decide on a format for workshops and seek facilitators.

It is proposed speakers will provide a talk on habitats and how we have performed against the habitat targets. PP asked if anyone around the table would be able to provide a presentation.

Action 13: If anybody has any ideas on habitats or is happy to provide a presentation, please contact PP.

It is appreciated that Brackenhurst provide rooms free of charge and we should offer them our thanks.

CJ suggested we should encourage people to bring along displays on habitats to promote sites.

Perhaps we should approach landowners to provide a presentation, this would be very useful. RT offered to contact landowners.

Action 15: RT (NE) to contact landowners to ascertain if anybody would be willing to give a presentation.

SW suggested asking Michael Copleston to provide a talk on Budby Heath.

JB referred to OMHOPDL – this is a very important habitat type. Perhaps we could look at getting a speaker?

JB thanked PP for this update.

9. Local Nature Partnership Update - RC

As RC was unable to attend today's meeting, she provided CJ with an update on the LNP.

NELMS/Countryside Stewardship.

The LNP Board member from NE has indicated that no further essential involvement of the LNPs is required but we can talk to NE about the role we would like in the future. No idea what that role could entail as yet. Any ideas from BAG would be gratefully received.

It was agreed that there is a not direct role for the LNP in Countryside Stewardship delivery.

Action 16: RC would welcome ideas from this group as to the LNP's role in the future.

Natural Capital

The LNP have set up a Natural Capital Group that is collecting and collating data on natural capital in the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire area.

Members are from:

- British Geological Survey
- Derbyshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission

And are collecting data on:

- Minerals
- Subsoil assets
- Land
- Soils
- Freshwater
- Atmosphere
- Species
- Ecological communities

DCC has offered to act as a central data collection hub producing maps of data as required.

LEP funded projects

Trent Valley Steering Group has been set up with members from DCC and NCC. The first meeting is 13th January 2015.

Sherwood – HLF funding puts it in a good position for ESIF funding. RC potentially to act as intermediary between LNP Board and Regional Park Board depending on who takes over from JE as Chair of RPB.

JB confirmed Patrick Candler has been voted to take over from JE as Chair of RPB.

A sustainability group has been set up (LNP, LEP plus others) to:

- Report on sustainability in the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire area.
- Identify how we can improve the sustainability of LEP funded projects.

LNP will push to include measures of biodiversity in both areas of work. JB suggested this group could be of assistance and offer advice to RC.

RC is on a working group that is advising Defra on updating its mandate for the work of the LNPs.

LNP strategy work is ongoing. First version is due mid-2015 (dependant on progress of NC group as its data will inform our strategy).

The following comments were made on this update:

There is communication between the LBAP and LNP as RC provides feedback from the LNP. However, our message doesn't seem to get back to the LNP, perhaps RC could look to improve this situation.

JB is of the opinion that now projects are being developed, we can have some input, CJ and JB will come back with more information. The LNP needs to be aware of what we do. JB has discussed this with Heather Stokes who will talk to her equivalent in Derbyshire.

JB confirmed she will be attending the next two LNP meetings now that JE has left the Board and will find out more. It will be good to feel more engaged and involved and see how our expertise can be called upon. It would appear we have been missing a trick, there has been a lack of communication with the LNP.

10. Future Speakers - ALL

Any ideas for future speakers would be most welcome.

NC will provide a talk on Black Poplar at the next meeting, 23rd April 2015.

Lawrence Bee will be asked to provide a talk on the *Midia midas* at the meeting 14th July 2015. (IM will need to follow this up with Lawrence).

There is potential for speakers on new SAP species?

11. Items arising from the Partners Updates

JB thanked everyone for providing updates, it is useful to know what partners are doing. If any questions should arise from these updates, please contact the relevant partner.

12. AOB (all)

Notts BAG Communication Strategy

The overall feeling is this document needs updating and shortening, it is too lengthy. CJ suggested it could be simplified and reduced to possibly 2 sides A4 providing standard practice across the partnership.

It would be appreciated if comments are provided to CJ within a month of today's date i.e. 13th February 2015. PP, CJ and JB will discuss how to collate, although due to CJ's massive workload, he will not be given the task of collating the information. The Steering Group will decide how to cover this.

Action 17: Email CJ with comments on the Communication Strategy by 13th February 2015.

Humberhead Levels NIA

This NIA spans across parts of Yorkshire & Humber, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw and north Notts).

JB confirmed this is an important area as it contains SSSIs. The NIA has now entered its final quarter, by the end of this quarter, it will have exceeded all targets with further funds coming in. Unfortunately, NE will not be providing future funding for NIAs, however, the Humberhead Levels Partnership will continue.

Notts BAG mailing list

The following have requested their details are added to the mailing list:

Katie Swindley (EA)
Chris Riley (BBC)
Leila Mills (NC)

13. Dates of next meetings

10.00am Thursday 23rd April 2015, EA Offices, Trentside
10.00am Tuesday 14th July 2015, Nottingham City Offices, Loxley House
10.00am Thursday 15th October 2015 NWT offices, The Old Ragged School

Action 18: January 2016 - CJ will talk to Jago Moles (NT) to see if they can have a meeting on a Thursday (they generally have team meetings on Tuesdays).