

10am Tuesday 14th July 2015
 Nottingham City Council offices, Loxley House

Present:

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| Janice Bradley (Chair) | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) |
| Nick Crouch (Vice-chair) | Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) |
| Janet Valenti ((Mins) | Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) |
| Chris Jackson | Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG) |
| Sheila Wright | Nottingham Natural History Museum (NNHM) |
| Michael Walker | Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust/Notts Bat Group |
| Brian Dunning | Natural England (NE) |
| Rob Johnson | NBGRC |
| Bill Bacon | Butterfly Conservation (BC) |
| Edmund Hopkins | Nottingham City Council (NC) |
| Linda Davey | Notts Federation of Womens Institutes (WI) |
| Emily Aron | Nottingham City Council (NC) |
| Swati Nettleship | Environment Agency (EA) |

1. Apologies & Introductions

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| Imogen Wilde | Canal & River Trust (C&RT) |
| Ian Major | Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT) |
| Andy Hollis | Sherwood Forest Trust (SFT) |
| Chris Manning | Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB) |
| Lesley Sharpe | Farm Environment Advisor (FEA) |
| Ruth Tall | Natural England (NE) |
| Carl Cornish | RSPB |
| Frank Lucas | RSPB |
| Sue McDonald | Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) |
| Alex Smith | Greenwood Community Forest (GCF) |
| Jago Moles | National Trust (NT) |

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered her thanks to Nottingham City Council for providing the venue.

2. Previous minutes; accuracy and actions

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

All actions have been completed except for the following:

NottsBAG Delivery Group Work Plan

Monitoring and reporting

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

CJ needs updated SAPs and HAPs to report against. It was suggested we report on an organisational basis, there is data baseline available and should be straight forward. MW and CJ will meet to discuss mapping.

Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping

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

It was agreed to 'hold fire' as CJ needs to complete work on BOM mapping. This should be tackled at a later date.

Action 4: carry forward. JB to follow up ADC for funding.

This item will be updated on today's Agenda.

New SAP species

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

The Deptford Pink has been updated and the Black Poplar is on the website. It is hoped to get all SAPs updated by the end of the year.

Local Nature Partnership Update

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

RC was unable to attend today's meeting, an update was not provided. JB to feedback at the next BAG DG meeting about the LNP Board meeting.

Notts BAG Communication Strategy

Action 17: carry forward. Email CJ with comments on the Communication Strategy.

Chris has not received comments from the partnership. PP offered to look at the document which is quite lengthy with a view to shortening it. CJ to chase up.

3. NottsBAG Delivery Group Work Plan

JB suggested we need to keep this Work Plan, per-se. The Work Plan covers the period 2013 -2015, it will need a significant review at the end of the year. CJ agreed to update the document and produce it at the next meeting in October.

Action 1: CJ to update Work Plan and provide it for the next meeting in October.

It is key to have the HAPS and SAPs updated. CJ agreed to contact lead partners requesting they update text and set new targets, as best as we can. CJ will circulate for consultation/responses. He will provide them with a copy of Nick's updated SAP/HAP documents to use as a template to ensure everyone uses the same format.

Action 2: CJ ask lead partners to update text and set new targets and circulate for consultation. He will provide partners with document to use as a template ensuring people use the same format.

Unfortunately, we do not have data for hedgerows, we cannot get targets until baseline data is established. EA mentioned there have been hedgerow losses in LBAP. CJ confirmed there are no tangible targets, they have never been updated. EA volunteered to look at the hedgerow HAP.

Action 3: EA to look at hedgerow HAP.

CJ confirmed he is waiting for information from the BOM process, data is not yet complete although $\frac{2}{3}$ of the county has now been completed. CJ will use the best figures available to date and update in 2-3 years. JB agreed this was the best course of action.

4. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping

Rushcliffe

CJ is working on producing a report for Rushcliffe. CJ has combined data from East Rushcliffe, West Rushcliffe and Trent Valley reports which has been complicated. Comments have been taken from 2 consultations whilst collecting information and text from workshops. The report should be finished within the next 2 weeks.

Ashfield

CJ has provided Ashfield with costings for the BOM process. It is hoped to have a decision from Ashfield District Council by the end of this week as to whether or not they wish to proceed. It is looking quite positive.

EA asked if BOM mapping documents are used by anyone? JB confirmed BBC have integrated BOM mapping into their Green Infrastructure Strategy. The early version for Sherwood was used for the LPS bid and data was used for the Humberhead Levels Delivery Plan. Trent Valley data was used in the Minerals Plan. These documents have proved to be very useful, having many functions.

5. HAPs and SAPs target review

NC has updated the lowland calcareous grassland HAP. He would like RJ to look at the document for his comments on realistic targets. The finished document can be used as a template for upgrading other HAPs. CJ will circulate the document to partners once it is ready to go.

Action 4: NC to pass the lowland calcareous grassland HAP to RJ for comments.

Action 5: CJ to circulate the final document to partners to use as a template for upgrading other HAPs.

JB asked NC where he obtained information for updating baseline data? NC confirmed he used ground truthing and local knowledge, it is the best we have at the moment. At the 3-year review we shall update new polygons and baseline figures.

JB raised the question of the timescale involved for sending out to consultation? It was confirmed NC/RJ will get together next month with a view to getting 2 HAPs sent out early September.

MW asked if there was a template for SAPs. CJ suggested the Deptford Pink or Black Poplar SAPs could be used as a template.

MW referred to the Bats and Hedgehog SAPs which need updating. He is attending a conference in November and hopes to use information from that event.

Action 6: CJ to circulate the Deptford Pink/Black Poplar SAP to partners for use as a template.

JB asked if there are any volunteers to take forward any of the new SAPs? RJ will ask Mark Woods if he would be willing to write one of the plant SAPs proposed at the BigBAG ie Shepherd's needle or grass-wrack pondweed.

Nick reiterated the criteria for a SAP:

- Rarity
- Decline
- Someone to act on them

Action 7: RJ to ask Mark if he would be interested in writing one of the plant SAPs proposed at the BigBAG.

6. Updating the Notts SOCC list

NC confirmed there is nothing to update since the last meeting.

The documents are ready to go out to species specialists, but MW has not been able to 'road test' them with comments. He will look at the documents this week.

Action 8: MW to look at documents to be sent out to species specialists and get back to NC with any comments. The documents to be sent out as soon as possible.

The Notts SOCC list is a tool for identifying species under threat. JB is of the opinion it provides a useful aid-memoire to people to try to reverse the decline.

All previous Local Plans recognise LBAP species. EA suggested the SoCC list becomes more relevant to Local Plans. Perhaps we could write a short definition of the SoCC list and what it is for.

JB agreed, we should respond to all Local Plans using definition and wording they would like to see.

NC would welcome a volunteer to help with chasing gaps in information.

7. Local Nature Partnership Update

In the absence of RC at today's meeting, JB provided an update.

As far as the Natural Capital Project is concerned, this has been a huge piece of work for CJ, NC and the Records Centre across the LNP area. Having done that, we need to use the information, what do they do with this work? There will be a

discussion on how to take this forward at the next LNP Board meeting. JB asked if any partners could provide some thoughts on this.

NC suggested choosing 2 themes; habitats and minerals, there is still a degree of development work.

JB feels members of the LNP Board might struggle to come up with ideas on how to take this forward. All LNPs are struggling with their statutory roles in planning. There is a sub-group within the LNP looking at how to interact with planning and pieces of work they can respond to.

EA asked if the LNPs should be requesting further guidance from Government as to what they should be doing? There is a distinct lack of clarity from the Government, however, one thing is clear, LNPs will not be receiving any further funding.

We need to ask what do we want from the LNP? RC is our main link to the LNP but unfortunately, she has been unable to attend the last 3 meetings. JB will talk to RC to reiterate the importance of her attendance at future BAG meetings.

The LNP is in a position to help wildlife through planning, perhaps this is something we should be pushing for?

There needs to be more integration between the LNP and LEP, RC has connections with the LEP. How can the LNP engage with the LEP role, all are struggling to find a way.

JB referred to the EU Habitat and Species Directives who have provided a high level of protection to vulnerable habitats and species for the past 30 years, they are now under threat. The EU are currently reviewing the directives and people concerned should express their concerns to the EU via their consultation process.. Your support to defend nature is needed. For more information please google "Defending Nature".

The LNP could become more involved in BOM, there are still small sections to finish.

With regards to economic growth, the LNP could influence investment organisations in the LEP, not just planning policy.

The LNP could become involved in the next round of European funding perhaps for Sherwood & Trent Valley. Unless the LNP delivers something tangible soon, there is the possibility it could drift away.

JB confirmed Natural Capital data has been used in planning. The test will be in the Autumn when the ESIF bidding round is due. If the LNP is not ready with 3 or 4 projects to put in bids for, it will have failed at that hurdle. As a cross-sectoral partnership, they should have the weight to do this.

JB has a number of points to take to the next LNP Board meeting detailing what we expect them to do.

Action 9: JB to prepare a draft report to put forward to the LNP detailing what we would expect from them.

8. Communication Strategy

NC feels the document is too lengthy and suggested it could be shortened to 2 sides of A4. As PP previously offered to look at the document with a view to shortening it, it was decided CJ should go back to him on this point.

Action 9: CJ will send a reminder to PP asking him to shorten this lengthy document. The revised document will be available for the next meeting on the 15th October 2015.

This document indicates to the wider world of what we do, it needs to be an effective tool used by members of the BAG. Currently, it is not being used as well as it should be.

The brown 'hair' mentioned under Item 12 Partnership Surveys should read brown 'hare'.

9. Future Speakers

15th October : **Dormice - Lorna Griffiths.** MW to chase.
In the event Lorna is unable to provide a talk on the 15th October, SW will ask John Osborne.

21st January: **Slow Worms - John Osborne**

14th April: **Midia midas - Imogen Wilde**

12th July: **Updated SOCC list - Nick Crouch**

10. Partner Updates

Swati Nettleship - Environment Agency

EA contributions to planning applications have now been diminished. There are now restrictions on what they can say and can only give advice if the location is next to a river.

Funding has been sorted for Woodborough Brook to create a wetland. This will be used as a pilot for other landowners in the area to help with flooding situations.

Signs have been found at Dover Beck indicating water voles in the area. As a result, EA plan to carry out surveys. MW reported otters had been seen at Dover Beck and Cocker Beck. SN is hopeful that more otters will be sighted once the vegetation has died.

EA are working with RSPB on the River Idle to increase diversity. There is a trial on the Idle to amend maintenance regimes bringing in seeds from donor areas improving the area for ground nesting birds.

A reedbed habitat is being created at Dunham Lagoons. The lagoons are being re-shaped to re-shape diversity. A bid has been put in for SITA funding to extend to Littleborough.

Brian Dunning - Natural England

NE has received the first expressions of interest for the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme. They will be offering advice to applicants.

Rob Johnson - Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre (NBGRC)

NBGRC are still continuing survey work. There has been difficulty in getting access to some SSSI sites as land is privately owned but there has been an 80% success rate in gaining permissions.

Michael Walker - Notts Bat Group

MW and other NWT colleagues organised the Nottinghamshire Mammal Group Conference in May. A total of 46 people attended and many records came in via social media. JB agreed it was a very positive conference.

Many volunteers came forward for the Badger Vaccination Scheme, 15 people have now been trained to survey for setts and field signs

Linda Davey - Notts Federation of WI's

Two more talks promoting the work of the NottsBAG partnership are planned for the coming months.

Nick Crouch - Nottinghamshire County Council

Himalayan Balsam pulling has taken place at Sherwood Forest Country Park. It would appear we are now on top of this problem as there is a lot less of this invasive plant in the country park.

Nick continues to deal with planning applications.

Emily Aron - Nottingham City Council

Project officers are looking at city centre tree planting. They are not just looking at replacement planting, but need specific areas for tree planting and restoration of tree cover. They need to identify areas where tree planting can take place, probably on the edge of the city, not the city centre. NC are consulting with people for ideas on tree planting areas.

NC are also keeping an eye on tree loss around Nottingham Castle. They are looking at medieval heritage, heritage restoration and botanical restoration. Project Officers have been in communication with Mark Woods on this matter.

SW is concerned about tree felling at the castle as this will have an impact on moths.

Emily suggested this could be an Agenda item for the next meeting in October. EA is happy to give a talk to the partnership on this subject. It was agreed EA and JB get together for a 'brainstorming session' to discuss natural heritage and what it would mean.

A Biodiversity Checklist is now published on the NC website. The local list needs updating, EA has done what she can. Any feedback would be appreciated, preferably by the end of the summer.

Bill Bacon – Butterfly Conservation

100 reports of Grizzled Skipper sightings have been recorded this year. This has been an average year, however, more people have been looking out for this species.

The group have ideas on how to improve habitats.

There are now bat boxes at Bingham Linear Park, a single bat was found.

A Dingy Skipper was reported in the cemetery, near the Forest Recreation Ground, Mansfield Road. EA reported NC are planning a survey of the cemetery, it is good to have more data.

Edmund Hopkins – Nottingham City Council

Friends of Colwick Woods “saw off” a planning application for a car park. It was a bit of a struggle before the application was withdrawn, but turned out to be an easy win.

Sheila Wright - Nottingham Natural History Museum

Survey site visits have been carried out by Forestry Commission 20/30 year rotational coppice project at Carburton, on the edge of Clumber Park. Three rare moths were found on the site; the Great Oak Beauty, Beautiful Brocade and the Standard Buff.

11. AOB

None.

12. Date of next meetings

10.00am Thursday 15th October 2015, NWT offices, The Old Ragged School.
10.00am Thursday 21st January 2016, National Trust offices, Clumber Park
10.00am Thursday 14th April 2016, EA offices, Trentside
10.00am Tuesday 12th July 2016, Natural England offices, Apex Court