

Biodiversity South West Steering Group
Renslade House, 8th May 2008

Attendees: Naomi Brookes, Emma-Rose Herrera (Chair), Basil Greenwood, Ray Perrins, Simon Brenman, Justin Milwood, Phil Tolerton

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Management Group - ERH, SB, BG</p>	
<p>Work Programme –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columns should be added to work programme to record progress • Should there be a differentiation between day job and other work? • Should there be a work plan for the year? • What are the key pinch points/delivery areas for the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communications – use the website to ensure this is more effective but important to ensure this is up to date with meeting papers etc and used alongside regular email updates etc. ○ Delivery - Don't take on new projects but focus on work as a hub ○ The LBAPs deliver on ground with RBAP as support. There is more to do in supporting LBAPs and facilitating work by helping to guide delivery of landscape projects etc ○ Funding – need to explore funding as HLS will not deliver all aspirations so need to develop other examples. Need to develop a Strategy for Funding which will outline most effective way to attract more funds to region. Needs to be sensitively taken forward as there could be perceived issues with statutory/NGO competition for funds. There is a need however to take a strategic approach whilst not compromising innovation. SB will research RSWT protocol on fundraising to see if there are lessons for BioSW in its enabling role. NB to consult and draw together paper on Strategy with Steve Clarke. • This year's focus will be used to support and consolidate previous work and to strengthen and enable LBAP delivery. Priority area of work should be engagement with LBAPs. Nature Map is key delivery tool, but some LBAPs are not using this in this way as seen as regional initiative, NB to gain view of LBAPs in this area. There is a need to demonstrate progress against BAP and therefore need to move away from process to delivery. BioSW role is as enabler for this delivery and this will mean different things to each LBAP, which is an area that needs more consideration and development. • NS no longer in post so need to consider work programme for NB and possible mechanisms of support. Explore idea of long term volunteer support. • Budget – NB presented draft budget for 2008/09. NB to work with Kate Cox to flesh out detail. NB also to work with Kate to secure BioSW subs from NGO partners. BG will contact FC, SB to contact National Trust and ERH to approach Water companies. In letter need to highlight what we have done and what needs doing. 	<p style="text-align: center;">SB NB NB NB NB NB BG SB, ERH</p>

Steering Group Meeting	
Apologies	
Mark Robins, Roger Covey, Imogen Davenport	
2. Minutes and Matters Arising	
Minutes signed off.	
3. Partnership Business	
<p>ERH fed back to group discussions from management group around work programme and funding strategy. Key points –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed strategy and targets in organisational delivery • LBAP questionnaire shows need for better links regionally and locally. NB to prepare response to some of questionnaire answers and circulate to LBAPs. BioSW role is one of enabling strategically. • Climate change adaptation is a key piece of work. • Need to ensure we have the tools we need for Nature Map by bringing together past work and translating etc • Possibility of developing a marine NM, but needs re-sourcing. • Continue to develop sector groups as these seen as best engine for purpose. NB Support for sector groups’ essential but essential to consider admin that goes with this. Group need to consider their role as taking strategic overview, enabling delivery, informing key thinking and monitoring. There is a need to review membership of the Working Groups to ensure it remains appropriate. • There is a need to review Food and Farming Group (SWEFF), NB and PT to discuss with Tim de Winton. Also a need identified for a refreshed Water and Wetlands Group. Group identified Lisa Schindeau as possible chair. NB to approach and discuss with Lisa. • Need to ensure network is functioning well. • Regional Work Programme will be worked up by Management Group and presented at next Steering Group. • Core Services, MoA and TOR need to be updated to reflect changes in partnership and funding. The Core Services would seem to be relevant still. NB to update group if there are national changes. Group to send comments on MoA to NB for inclusion in new MoA. The TOR, MoA, work plan need to integrate and be complimentary. • NB to produce Strategy for Funding for next meeting and to discuss with Steve Clarke. The Strategy will need to reflect role of partners, the needs of LBAPs and outline resource needs for areas to meet BAP targets. 	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>Man Grp</p> <p>All</p> <p>NB</p>
4. South West Nature Map	
<p>NB fed back to group on visioning workshops. Group felt a useful product was needed from this work, for example a toolkit for LBAPs to use. Take this framework for delivery to the Nature Map Working Group to outline the next steps. Bring into this thinking the profiles also developed by Avon and Devon. Focus should be on the translation of SNAs and visions into delivery using local knowledge and experience. Report should capture experience from trial. This needs to make recommendations and how used. Also needs to be considered in monitoring.</p> <p>A prioritisation process for Nature Map was discussed. Drivers for this might be the SWCCIP adaptation work on vulnerability. Sensitivities for meeting habitat targets need to be considered in this work.</p>	
5. Communications and Advocacy	

<p>NB reported that site is ready to go out for consultation. Consultation will be to LBAP/LRC and BioSW key contacts to try out different aspects of the site and content. It will run for three weeks. NB to action. NB and PT will draw together note on farming and Nature Map. NB to consult Chrissie White on BioSW site. Also to consult on links from NE website to BioSW site. All to investigate links to and from their own sites to BioSW.</p> <p>Newsletter for partnership will follow website news pages and should be electronic. All to send items to NB for news page to form first items for newsletter.</p>	<p>NB PT/NB NB/All</p> <p>All</p>
<p>6. LBAP work update</p>	
<p>Group reviewed feedback from LBAP questionnaire. There is a need to draw out key messages and provide feedback on what we will do to address these. NB to prepare summary and feedback and circulate to LBAPs. There is also a need to ensure organisational staffs who are LBAP contacts are on message. A review needs to be completed to assess who are the key contacts on LBAPs. NB to follow this up.</p> <p>Key to future work with LBAPs is focus on delivery of targets. Contact should be maintained with all LBAPs and in particular those where parts of the region are strategically able to deliver key targets. This will enable us to target our support.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>
<p>7. National update – habitat targets</p>	
<p>NB presented paper on habitat targets and ways of taking this work forward – attached. Parts of the group felt a distinction needed to be made between restoration and expansion targets to help develop organisational targets. Also felt that there should be a move towards discussion about delivery and that although national disaggregated targeting useful, we do not want to be distracted from actual delivery. PT felt particularly that BioSW targets can not be met and that we should not set ourselves targets that we will fail to meet. There needs to be a golden thread of what we can realistically achieve and deliver on ground.</p> <p>SB felt that aspirational targets can be used to show need for resources and that we would need to consider what is to be achieved through lower aspirations. Partnership has already signed up to BioSW targets published in 2006.</p> <p>Group agreed that recommendation 1 in presented paper offered best way forward. NB to prepare response and send. BioSW would accept nationally disaggregated targets but with an understanding that they are a minimum target, and that we will continue to advocate the BioSW aspirational targets. There were some concerns about some of the targets, for example the wood pasture targets which were not based on data, so will need refining as and when data becomes available. There may be a need however to revisit the Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh BioSW targets to determine if it stands.</p> <p>Other recommendations from paper need to be discussed at the next meeting. All to send thoughts back to NB prior to that. Need to develop a strategy for delivery of habitat targets and organisational sign up to annual delivery targets. A sub group should be set up to determine how this can be achieved. NB to action.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>All</p> <p>NB</p>
<p>8. Partnership Working</p>	
<p>Following on from the successful partnership meeting in March a second workshop is planned for October. The focus for this workshop will be Climate Change Adaptation. It is suggested that this be a joint event with SWCCIP and new NE Climate Change Manager – Simon Bates. NB to organise, and make recommendations about budget.</p>	<p>NB</p>

<p>NB also reported back on NERC Duty project running across region. Workshops with Local Authorities progressing well. Marine NERC guidance being prepared and will be out in June.</p>	
<p>9. Report back from Working Groups</p>	
<p>Group felt that this should be moved to top of agenda to ensure plenty of time set aside for this.</p> <p>BIRG – RP reported that both he and NB attended recent SWLRC meeting. Agreement that LRCs should be more involved in BIRG and will help drive agenda. They were generally supportive of the concept of the Regional Monitoring Project, but need to flesh out details. Devon County Council has commissioned a county biodiversity monitoring project and this may be used as basis for regional project. Will be topic for next BIRG. RP to approach regional monitoring group for RSS about the Regional Monitoring Project. RP also to discuss with Helen Thompson at GOSW in relation to LAAs.</p> <p>Forestry and Woodlands Group – agenda for next meeting will discuss case study exemplars, targets, and wet woodland.</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>10. AOB and DONB</p>	
<p>Thursday 18th September 10.30am Management Group. 11.30am – 3.30pm Steering Group. Location – NE, Renslade House, Exeter (note offices will now be on 8th floor.)</p>	