

**Biodiversity South West  
Nature Map Strategic Working Group**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007  
Renslade House, Exeter**

<b>Attendees</b>	Basil Greenwood (Chair), Phil Tolerton, Simon Bates, Ray Perrins, Naomi Brookes, Neil Sherwood
<b>Apologies</b>	Colin Studholme, Tim Corner, Simon Brenman
<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	NB to send out another email asking for examples of where Nature Map is being used.  <b>ACTION: NB</b>
<b>Update on ES targeting</b>	<p>The regional share of the Environmental Stewardship (ES) budget for 07/08 has increased from 17% to nearly 20% due to a new financial equation that takes into account ‘environmental assets’ (for example, SSSIs, SMs, and areas of AONBs and National Parks). This level of funding should continue into the future. The SW has one fifth of the budget in England because of the high number of assets.</p> <p>Phase 1 of ES targeting finished at the end of July 2007. There was a new spatial approach for Phase 1 based on well established National and regional data as well as the judgement of specialists, Nature Map was used in this phase. This resulted in a map of high priority areas for multiple benefits. The key message is that the first priority will be the PSA target on SSSIs and the second priority will be high quality applications from the identified high priority areas, with the possible exception criteria for habitats that are not spatially aggregated (for example lowland meadows and orchards). High priority areas make up 40% of the region. A map of high priority areas should be on the South West section of the Natural England website shortly.</p> <p>There is a concurrent review of progress and an assessment of whether ES is working. No large changes are envisaged for HLS, apart from a simplification of the Farm Environment Plan (FEP). ELS requires fundamental reform to deliver more for the environment but this will take time.</p> <p>Phase 2 of ES targeting has been extended and will be rolled out in September 2008. Regional consultation will be taking place between January and March 2008 (including a workshop). There will be a ‘ruthless prioritisation’ on what contribution HLS makes to objectives, including BAP priorities.</p> <p>Stage 1 – Mapping – development of methodology incl. producing a National Map inc. BAP habitats.</p>

	<p>Stage 2 – Refining – January to March 2008 to refine the National map with regional data that meets robust criteria. National work stream groups will decide on the relevance of the data.</p> <p>Stage 3 – Dry pilots to run in summer 2008.</p> <p>Stage 4 – Implementation by September 2008.</p>
<p><b>Regional consistency of Nature Map</b></p>	<p>NB circulated the first draft of the position statement for Nature Map to the Nature Map Strategic Working Group for comments.</p> <p>Please send comments on the position statement to Naomi by the end of October.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: ALL</b></p> <p>A process for changes needs to be formalised and a process put in place. LBAPs will need to work with LRC's and changes to SNA boundaries need to be signed off by the Nature Map Strategic Working Group. Any amendments would need a brief written justification. It is vitally important to keep a strong regional Nature Map by keeping decisions consistent and to ensure work captures regional habitat priorities.</p> <p>In any guidance that we produce we need to be clear where to find the 'official' map.</p> <p>BG suggested producing a diagram on how Nature Map was produced and also how changes are made.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: NB</b></p> <p>LDF's require identification of important local sites. Nature Map does this, but some counties want to also capture local priorities or 'Local Network Sites' (areas of importance to nature outside of SNAs) that are identified within the county should be signed off by the Local BAP partnership. The position statement needs to capture the step change between Nature Map/SNAs and there local network sites – and definitions for both.</p> <p>Connectivity work was discussed – Nature Map does capture this and if local groups want to progress this should it be included on Nature Map? This will be discussed more fully within the climate change work programme, be needs to be mentioned in the position statement.</p> <p>Actions needed are:</p> <p>(1) Terminology</p>

	<p>(2) Decision Tree  (3) BioSW Ratification  (4) Version Control</p> <p>Once this work is completed the position statement should be circulated to the wider partnership for consultation.</p>
<b>County Work update</b>	<p>Gloucestershire LBAP decided that the county map was wrong and they are currently consulting on proposed changes.</p> <p>Devon has decided to pause work on their county map, which they refer to as Devon Biodiversity Network. This was due to the members of the LBAP being unsure on the purpose of the map. Craig Dixon has been tasked to produce a justification for the map.</p>
<b>Visioning Workshops</b>	<p>The Visioning Workshops are progressing well, an update paper was given to the meeting (attached as annex 1). Terms of reference have been agreed with John Waldon for facilitating the workshops.</p> <p>5 of the 6 remaining counties (Devon have completed theirs) have selected an SNA and 3 of these have now started to progress visioning workshops and have dates set. Naomi is meeting Gloucestershire LBAP 4th October to outline project and determine if they wish to undertake a workshop. Important lessons already being learnt in developing the right 'atmosphere' for workshops and this type of visioning exercise.</p> <p>Additional funds available to help run workshops in Cornwall and Dorset (through NE projects). Cornwall have expressed a desire to undertake a second visioning exercise at another SNA and have funds to do so (as part of project being undertaken at Penwith). This has been considered and will progress at end of project if appropriate. John has agreed to this work.</p> <p>Aim to have majority of workshops completed by Christmas, but there will need to be provision for some to be held after this date due to staggered approach being taken to setting them up.</p>
<b>LBAP Conference</b>	<p>NB gave a presentation on Nature Map at the LBAP conference which was very well received.</p> <p>London area are looking using Nature Map methodology to produce their own map. NB will set up a meeting with Tim Corner to present the methodology to them.</p> <p>Phil Lewis, Biodiversity Unit in Defra requested examples of Nature Map implementation to possibly use in a speech</p>

	<p>on landscape scale work by Biodiversity Minister Joan Ruddock.</p> <p>The need for a marine map was mentioned at the conference. Nature Map is a terrestrial map, a marine map is being considered, but the 3D nature of marine environments could make this difficult. NB will discuss this with Roger Covey who is keen to progress a marine version of the map.</p> <p>The LBAP conference highlighted the need to use appropriate language when discussing biodiversity issues with the general public. Internal communications between biodiversity organisations also needed to improve.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p>	<p>NB and NS met with Alex Webb new manager of the South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership. It was suggested that Mark Robins, Tony Richardson, Naomi Brookes and Neil Sherwood meet with Alex Webb to discuss where we can collaborate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: NB to set up meeting</b></p> <p>A student at Bournemouth University is doing a PhD regarding climate change and connectivity at a regional scale. They are keen to link this in with Nature Map.</p> <p>BG said that impetus was needed on the climate change work and that there was a need to get messages straight for all audiences. The ecosystems approach included biodiversity.</p> <p>There is a need to use National specialists more to help with this work, get them down to look at the map and also to sell Nature Map as part of the solution within a climate action plan (expressed in simple language). We also need them to take a view on connectivity work. NB to work with Alex Webb, Mark Robins and Tony Richardson to set these workshops up.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: NB</b></p> <p>Risk assessments were needed on habitats, particularly heathland, woodland, coastal and grassland. These risk assessments could be completed by getting experts together in a room to discuss the issues. Broad habitat headings could be discussed (e.g. grasslands) and they could be scored as high, medium or low in terms of climate change risk. Ideally a questionnaire to this effect would be sent out prior to a workshop. Then what the risk actually is can be discussed along with potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>Nature Map gives us a tool with which we can focus our resources and the group felt that broadly speaking Nature</p>

	<p>Map is the right tool, but other considerations need to be captured. For example, it was pointed out that slope, aspect and management practices will have an effect on habitats in relation to climate change, as did connectivity between SNAs.</p> <p>How climate change is likely to effect biodiversity should be included in the Nature Map section of the Biodiversity South West website (generic information about likely change). We would also aspire for each SNA to have a climate change check.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACTION: NS to ensure climate change inclusion in redevelopment of BioSW website.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that a large workshop/conference would be held in March 2008 regarding climate change. PT said that he would be keen to be involved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: NB and PT</b></p>
<b>Communications and Advocacy</b>	<p>A review of the Biodiversity Advocacy Plan has yet to take place.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: NB</b></p> <p>The Development Plan for NB and NS should be circulated for comment. It should highlight what has been achieved and future priorities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION:NB</b></p> <p>LDF Planner Guide should be sent to District Planners. Paul Wynne should be able to supply press contacts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: NB</b></p> <p>The Regional Data Project – BIRG will pull together a feasibility study of priority habitat in RSS using samples to look at the quality of the habitat.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: RP and NB</b></p> <p>There is an opportunity to work with the RDA in relation to growth points in the SW.</p>
<b>DONM</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2008 in Taunton.

## Annex 1: Update on the Nature Map Phase 2 Project – Visioning Workshops

- Project progressing well – TOR agreed with John Waldon for facilitating workshops.
- 5 out of 6 remaining counties (Devon have completed theirs) have selected a SNA and 3 of these have now started to progress visioning workshops and have dates set. Naomi is meeting Gloucestershire LBAP 4<sup>th</sup> October to outline project and determine if they wish to undertake a workshop.
- Important lessons already being learnt in developing the right ‘atmosphere’ for workshops and this type of visioning exercise.
- Additional funds available to help run workshops in Cornwall and Dorset (through NE projects). Cornwall have expressed a desire to undertake a second visioning exercise at another SNA and have funds to do so (as part of project being undertaken at Penwith). This has been considered and will progress at end of project if appropriate. John has agreed to this work.
- Aim to have majority of workshops completed by Christmas, but there will need to be provision for some to be held after this date due to staggered approach being taken to setting them up.
- Summary of progress in each county below:

County	Outline	Date of Workshops
Avon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNA chosen – Lansdowne SNA on the northern fringes of Bath which presents opportunity to explore urban fringe issues.</li> <li>• Falls in WTs Living Landscape Project so will contribute to this.</li> <li>• 2 workshops will be held; 1st to agree broad vision for SNA (have good basis from which to work due to BAP Atlas prepared by BRERC), 2<sup>nd</sup> to sell this concept to other organisations and partners in Avon area.</li> <li>• Invitations for 1<sup>st</sup> workshop circulated and set up. 2<sup>nd</sup> to be organised for late 2007.</li> <li>• Mixed audience invited to 1<sup>st</sup> workshop inc. rep’s from biodiversity, LA’s ecologist and planner, farming community, RIGS, landscapes, LRC, racecourse and local naturalist group and community officer.</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> workshop - 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct @ Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution rooms in Bath
Cornwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area approach taken which captures 3 SNAs. This work will help develop biodiversity/environment input into China Clay Area Action Plan that being developed and area has a wider community identity as China Clay area.</li> <li>• 3 stage approach required – 1 - review past biodiversity mapping work and update into draft vision with key biodiversity practitioners; 2 – Wider professional community to refine and buy into this vision (inc. Imerys, planners, mineral planners, LA’s, historic env, landscape etc); 3 – taking to community for agreement (this stage will not be undertake through this project however LA are currently preparing Parish Action Plans and this</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> October @ CWT offices 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec @ location tbc

	<p>would provide an ideal vehicle for delivery and communities officer on board with this).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will have useful lessons for fitting into wider strategies and working with business/industry as well as the longer term implications of community buy in.</li> <li>• Invitation for first workshop circulated. 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop to be organised after this date.</li> <li>• Additional funds may be available to progress this workshop from NE.</li> </ul>	
Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 SNAs selected in the Brue Valley (part of the Levels and Moors).</li> <li>• Obviously this is an area with some history behind it, however, NE, WT, County Council and IDB were all behind workshop.</li> <li>• 2 workshops will be organised; 1 – to outline wider environmental vision for this area by bringing together key biodiversity players to help develop partnership approach and develop outline vision. 2 – Will test this vision with wider audience but will focus on professionals and possibly landowners. Aim is to develop clear vision so that all organisations are giving landowners etc the same message and to have a clear way forward for this area.</li> <li>• Invitation list being drawn up for both workshops and agenda etc being developed.</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> workshop either 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop – 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Nov.</p>
Dorset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LBAP partnership have identified three possible SNAs, but have selected a chalk grassland SNA in the upper NEMO catchment.</li> <li>• This lies in a NEMO area and we will be working with Chris Bolton to develop this workshop. This will mean a broader event looking at including a range of sectors and how biodiversity might fit into this. Good chance to explore both fit of NM into NE objectives and vice versa.</li> <li>• Lies in Living Landscape Project area and will also input into this.</li> <li>• Details yet to be determined.</li> </ul>	
Wiltshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNA selected in living landscape project area which already includes partners from BRC, NE, WT and RSPB.</li> <li>• Chance to input into project.</li> <li>• Workshop to be developed at a meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> October.</li> </ul>	

## NM Leaflet

- Obtained quote from Fiona Waldon for completing leaflet. This could be achieved for an estimated cost of £90. Printing will be £491.00 for 5,000 leaflets.

- We have asked Fiona to go ahead with this work, and will send her changes that need making within the next few weeks.

#### **LDF Document**

- Press release lined up and ready to go, just waiting for press contacts from different sources. Also need a quote from a key planner or other similar contact.
- Cover letter prepared and documents ready to circulate to head planners – this will be completed in the next few weeks.

Naomi Brookes 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2007