

**Nature Map Working Group Meeting
Thursday 8th March 2007 10.30 to 1pm
Natural England, Renslade House, Exeter
Chair: Basil Greenwood**

Minutes

Present: Basil Greenwood (Natural England), Simon Brenman (South West Wildlife Trusts), Naomi Brookes (Biodiversity South West), Mark Robins (RSPB), Ray Perrins (South West Observatory), Phil Tolerton (Natural England), Tim Corner (BRERC), Simon Bates (NE), Colin Studholme (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust).
Karen Lloyd (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)

Agenda Item	Action
1. Welcome and Apologies	
Richard Ormerod (GOSW)	
2. Update on Progress	
<p>See attached note that was circulated at meeting. It was suggested that the Nature Map/LDF guidance be placed in the EiP library.. Copies should also be offered to LGA and Regional Assembly. BG to follow up</p> <p>A climate change proofing NM workshop is scheduled for 23rd April, to be run in conjunction with SWCCIP. Tony Richardson as chair of the SWCCIP Biodiversity Group is pulling together format of day. This will look at impact and risk for regional habitats and species and ensure NM fit for purpose.</p> <p>PT reported that there will be a review of Environmental Stewardship and targeting that will take a geographical and spatial approach. Consultation will take place in the summer.</p> <p>TC expressed concerns that Local Authority councilors do not know much about NM, and therefore can't action it. Also concerned that it is only seen as a regional initiative that refers to open countryside and therefore not relevant to more urban Local Authorities. TC asked if group could produce some documentation regarding NM to address this? It was felt that some of the NM Phase 2 Project (see later notes) may cover this. Plymouth LA is using NM as is Dartmoor NP who want to put it into Core Strategy diagram. In Gloucs it is in LAA, linking open urban spaces to countryside. CS to send copy to NB.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CS</p>
3. BRERCs SNA Project Activity	
<p>TC reported on work completed by BRERC on behalf of BANES Authority (and others?) to help with LDFs. There are 88 SNAs in Avon. Avon has phase 1 data for every field unit digitised and BRERC used this to help with identifying to field level potential for maintenance/creation/recreation in SNAs. Form for each LA to summaries this information was provided. Now producing evidence sheets to capture information through survey to ground truth. Have completed all BANES SNAs. There has been a relatively small time and cost element to this project but have been paid by LAs and Avon LBAP to produce. TC now wants local planners and wildlife experts to agree how it should be presented. Also want help with targeting on ground and how planners develop through</p>	

<p>LDFs. This project should also help with updating information on Priority Habitats. There is a need to develop a common methodology across region to complete this work. LRCs so far have not progressed this much themselves but TC is presenting this to SWLRCs to showcase BRERC methodology to map current and potential extent of habitat in each SNA. TC to feed back to this group. Gloucestershire have also been refining some SNAs and going through a characterisation process which takes into account landscape designations.</p> <p>There is a message to BRERC work – you can map priorities in SNAs. This work was debated and group agreed that BioSW responsibility is to ensure that regional consistency is retained whilst ensuring local flexibility. There is a need to produce guidance on need to retain consistency of NM and also to capture local energy being devoted to it. Guidance would need to develop definition of criteria to identify habitat of high potential for restoration that take on board more than just phase 1 i.e. hydrology, as some counties do not have this data and therefore criteria will vary between counties/SNAs. All to consider how to progress this. PT volunteered to work with TC and NB to help shape and develop principles for developing methodology for identifying habitats for potential restoration.</p> <p>There is also a need to connect people who are doing this work, maybe via a workshop which will enable a NM network to be set up. Await outcomes of LRC discussion.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>ALL PT/NB /TC</p>
<p>4. NM Phase 2 Project – Funds received from NE</p>	
<p>BioSW received £20,000 from NE underspend to undertake Nature Map Phase 2 Project, see attached outlined. SB and NB gave overview of project. The biodiversity community has produced NM and now need to implement it. Recognition that NM has to be a joint initiative to be successful and will need to work across sector interests and be integrated into all sorts of mechanisms for delivery. We need to know how it fits with other strategies to do this. This project is the development phase of implementing NM and there are no expectations on workshops leading to delivery, instead it will focus on the process required to produce a vision for one SNA in each county for year 2050 and steps needed to achieve this. This will give a chance to engage with other sectors to discuss integration with their remits. Group felt that the legacy of the workshops needs to be planned for. And that one of the outputs would come from the workshop itself. There should a toolkit from us in how to take this forward.</p> <p>Running 7 workshops is ambitious, but money needs to be committed by the end of March. Need an agreement with LBAPs and LRCs. Should use opportunity to have a range of situations and hosts for each workshop. There will be lessons from each workshop which will be captured. The LBAPs to decide SNA to choose but will steer choice with reminder about integrated approach needed. An independent facilitator will need identified to lead workshops. All to feed ideas of Facilitators to NB.</p> <p>CS concerned that they have just held four workshops to refine SNAs and now trying to get sign up to SNAs and he fact that all projects should focus on this, not vision workshops. There will be opportunity for some flexibility in delivery. Group wanted to ensure that there is enough money at each event for LRCs to provide map data and time.</p> <p>A new website will also be developed as part of this project to include an interactive web</p>	<p>ALL</p>

<p>based NM, and this will be put out to tender soon. Note to remember that the whole community has not been consulted on NM and therefore this work needs to be pitched correctly. Budget for entire project is £5,000 for website and £15, 000 for workshops. Simon Bates to work with NB to deliver this work. Also NB to identify an LBAP to help with website design to ensure it meets their needs.</p>	<p>SB/NB NB</p>
<p>5. Fit between Nature Map and Landscape Designation</p>	
<p>Pt reported on a comparison mapping exercise between NM and other designations. There is a need to ensure there are synergies with other interests and designations, particularly in targeting Agri-Environment Schemes. PT presented maps which overlaid ESAs, AONBs, Protected landscapes, SAMs, Catchment Sensitive Farming areas etc and Nature Map. This map showed good coverage over the region and fit with NM. Need to work with other interest to show full integration and commonality between all these strategies. For example Dartmoor Vision has tried to do this. PT will give NB a copy of this integration map. Need full stake holder dialogue and for us to listen to how people are using NM and also about getting things done. EH are also undertaking Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping.</p>	<p>PT</p>
<p>6. Advocacy and Communications – supporting implementation of Nature Map</p>	
<p>Need to strengthen base of local advocates and build on this, what do people need to advocate NM? In Gloucestershire there has been a shift in thinking with sign up through their refinement workshops. BRERC use NM everyday and tell people if their site is in an SNA. Need more information about NM (both concise and comprehensive) to inform people. Also need a bit on the BioSW website about NM and farmers etc. FAQs also need to go up – NB to draw together with BG. IN Wiltshire when they launched the Rebuilding Biodiversity Project they invited landowners and received good feedback.</p> <p>Suggest that in the leaflet substitute regional map with county map. It was felt that there was a need for a sectoral list of contacts to build on local advocates list – who to do?</p>	<p>NB/ BG</p>
<p>7. Local Issues – refinement of Nature Map</p>	
<p>Prioritisation of SNAs not been taken forward, it needs a scoring methodology. All need to draw together what know ongoing in all SNAs.</p> <p>How aggregate the refinement of NM from local level up? There was concern that SNAs could be added that don't use methodology. There needs to be a formalized/standard approach to this. BioSW are the guardians of NM and need to say how it can be refined. However, LBAPs own NM and therefore only ones who can authorise change within a county. Local intelligence can revise the map but need to get the same approach applied at regional level. Gloucestershire for example are using same methodology but have more information now and species will also be taken into account. At some point changes will need to taken account of at the regional level but agreed this would be in 5 years. The current iteration will stand regionally as an overview but there is scope to record detail/refinement locally. This requires further discussion at next meeting. All to consider.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>8. AOB</p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>11. Date of Next Meeting</p>	
<p>Wednesday 27th June 10.30 at Avon Wildlife Trust.</p>	