



**West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership
Data & Monitoring sub-group**

Notes of Meeting May 22nd 2008

Present

Bethan Ledger (EA)
Claire Edwards (NE)
John Walker (RO)
Richard Alexander (NE)
Dave Lowe (LRCs)
Ali Gliasher (Staffs CC)
Dan Wrench (Shreopshire CC)
Steve Holdsworth (FC)
Sue Lawley (Staffs WT)
Phil Vincent (Worc CC)

1 - Review of notes from last meeting (7th Feb)

1 - Defra Innovation Project

Action: JE to seek further clarification of the work programme and details of the Workshop and circulate to group.

Action - Completed

2 - HLS Targeting (biodiversity data)

Action: JE to check on responses to NE and to contact LRCs (Dave Lowe) and LBAPs to seek view on regional data sets that may be available and to coordinate response.

Action - Completed

3 - Priority habitats (top 10 list)

Action: JE to prepare guidance paper for use by LBAPs

Action – Still to progress

4 - Priority Species (TOPCONS spreadsheet)

Action: BM to discuss with DH.

Action – Still to progress

4 - Work Plan for 2008/9

Action – For discussion at this meeting

2 – Future Group Activities

A - Tasks for this year – It was agreed that the RSS Targets & Indicators Review work should be considered as part of the groups work due to the technical issues

B - Future Meetings – It was agreed to continue with existing format

C - Chair for Group – The LRCs have discussed this but can not take on the role, We need to continue to pursue a new chair to guide this group.

Action: All to consider suitable candidates

3 - Regional Habitat Data Project

The project summary was discussed and all agreed that this summarised the position at present. A round table discussion then pursued on the data available for the initial GIS layer

- Staffs – Staffs Moorlands BEA (excluding the NP area) completed and ready for use
- FC – private estate (13,000ha.) all mapped to NVC and ready for use
- SH to check on the situation regarding the private estate as there is a national project that may have useful information.
- Worc CC – Habitat Inventory almost complete and will be available for use.
- Others? – Warwickshire Phase 1 information & Herefordshire Millennium Map may also be available?

It was agreed that arrangements needed to be established between data providers (LRCs & others) and Natural England, Regional Observatory and the Regional Assembly.

Action – CE to re-circulate draft agreement for comment

There was also a need to consider future training and minimum standards needed to be established to ensure that future data collection included reference to the classification of BAP habitats. The EA agreed that their £5k contribution towards this project would probably be best used to take forward the development of this second stage. The WMBP steering Group had also allocated a further £5k towards this project.

Action: JE to prepare brief for work

SL raised the issue relating to LRC data collected from private land as in some instances this was collected on the understanding that it would only be used by the LRC.

Action: SL to investigate further

The final holder of the GIS layer for public access was discussed and whilst it was originally thought that the RO would be the best organisation to hold this they now thought that it would be better to

simply display graphical information that interpreted the data e.g. pie charts for each habitat in each county.

Action: Decision required on this issue by the group – All to consider

RA thought that there were lessons to be learnt from the South West Region regarding regional data handling and in particular the use of the Intergrated Habitat System (IHS).

4 - Defra Innovation Project

Report from ADAS was circulated and the future work programme was discussed.

Action: LRCs to liaise with RA to take this forward

5 – National Inventory work, implications for West Midlands

Richard Alexander announced that there was likely to be some additional funding from the national NE pot that could be used for developing inventories and would circulate further information next week about this. He would be looking for bids or between £5k and £30k.

Action: RA to circulate information, JE to liaise with LRCs and prepare a bid

Date of Next Meeting

September 11th 10.00 am