

Item	Actions
<p>1. Introductions & apologies</p> <p>Present: John Martin (RDS), Robert Moreton (Tortworth estate), Robin Marshall-Ball (BASC), Mark Smith (FWAG), Dan Merrett (B&NESC), Susan Stangroom (NSC), Stuart Hales (AWT), Amber MacCarthy (AWT volunteer), Lucy Rogers (Avon Biodiversity Partnership).</p> <p>Apologies: Nick Mould (Duchy), Bill Morris (NT), Tim McGrath (AWT), Alison Slade (SGC), Karen Renshaw (B&NESC), Mark Connelly (Cotswold AONB). Gordon Milward (Avon Gorge & Downs), Dave Villis (SGC), Jan Walters (BCC), Les Davies (Mendip Hills AONB), Matthew Buffon (HMP Leyhill), Mike Rogers (Hawk & Owl Trust), Nick Ward (BTCV), Sally Pattison (B&NESC), Craig Stenson (AWT), James Field (NSL&M project), Tim Corner (BRERC), Helen Hall (BCC), Samantha Jarvis (NSC), Rupert Higgins (Wessex ecological consultancy).</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reactions - JM will contact Ann Fay of British Horse Society 	JM
<p>3. Update on agrienvironment scheme (JM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing schemes still continuing, such as CSS, but can upgrade agreements and can transfer To ES under certain circumstances. Lots of applications for ELS but few HLS, still problems with computer system and rural land register. JM will send agri-environment newsletter to LR to distribute to group. 	JM
<p>4. Grassland project update (LR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have applied for funding from SITA and Countdown 2010. Have also approached HLF but they are not keen on the project. FWAG are leading the project. Have had to modify project to fit funding sources. Countdown bid unsuccessful and SITA have deferred decision until next round – they like the project but want to know what match funding we have, and what our plans are for long-term management of the site. FWAG, ABP, EN, BANES and AWT due to have a meeting asap to discuss how to take this forward. 	
<p>5. Graziers event August 2006 (LR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to organise a graziers event for graziers to meet and find out about successful ways of combining conservation and farming. Ideally as part of grassland project if SITA bid successful. Could include ideas about marketing and food and case studies. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR will be in touch with group to ask for ideas and contacts. 	
<p>6. Batscapes update (DM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batscapes is a 3 year project, ending Dec 06. Funded by HLF and EN, partners are BANES and SGlos, AWT and FWAG. Horseshoe bat conservation and community work. • Have found 34 new bat roosts, 16 of which are new HS bat roosts. • Target of 75% of land around maternity sites into stewardship – have achieved 60%. 45 farm visits and 20 agreements. • Concentrated on key sites such as St Catherines valley and Mendip edge. • Habitat management days eg woodland planting, connecting hedgerows. • Project has gone well, no plans to continue as no funding. Training wardens to continue looking for bat roosts after project ceases. • Horse shoe bat numbers limited by availability of dung on pasture for dung beetles, need cattle grazing. Bat numbers greater when farming is organic. • 	
<p>7. BARS (LR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR currently entering BAP onto BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System). Will contact partners if they need to have input into reporting on projects. • NSC also using BARS and BASC using BARS centrally. 	
<p>8. Review of Avon BAP actions and new projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAP should be dynamic document. Important to review actions to assess whether still relevant. • Group reviewed 'Species rich grassland' action plan. • Objective 1 – This is ongoing but difficult to measure. Grassland project should help to fulfil this. • Objective 2 – Ongoing except last action – exposing lowland heath under plantation in areas such as Goblin Combe. SH to talk to Fountain Forestry. • Objective 3 – Not being done. Last action – to set up road verge data base could be a potential project for Avon Biodiversity Partnership. • Objective 4 – Ongoing and grassland project should help to fulfil. 	SH
<p>6. Updates round the table</p> <p>JM – RDS have produced technical advice notes on grassland restoration and enhancement, including green hay. JM to send to LR to circulate. Green hay network could be useful part of grassland project.</p> <p>MS – Inundated with stewardship applications. Wilts/Avon/Glos FWAG merging – MS is new team leader.</p> <p>RMB – Farmland bird day to be held in August at Lower Stock Farm, Wrington .</p> <p>SH – Having difficulty with SPS and funding graziers. AWT having to pay for grazing eg Browns Folly.</p> <p>LR – Grassland project and NSomerset bat work – raising awareness and grilling horseshoe bat hibernacular.</p> <p>SS – Has been involved with NSomerset bat work. Wants to produce leaflet on</p>	JM

managing species rich grassland for horses.	
7. AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LR asked if partnership members could add a link from their website to the Avon BAP website.	ALL
8. Next meeting date Tuesday 19 th September 2006 at 10 am at Duchy of Cornwall Offices	