

Avon BAP Steering Group Meeting
 11th April 2006, 10.00pm – 1.00pm
 BRERC Ashton Court Visitors Centre
 Chair: Kate Jeffreys (EN)
 Minutes: Lucy Rogers



Item	Actions
<p>1. Introductions & apologies</p> <p>Present: Kate Jeffreys (EN), Alison Slade (B&NES), Helen Hall (BCC), Rachel Sharp (AWT), Melissa Clarkson (EA), John Martin (RDA), Karen Renshaw (B&NES), Neil Maddison (Bristol Zoo), Steve Grainger (AWT), Lucy Rogers (Avon Biodiversity Partnership), Rachel Fickweiler (SW Biodiversity Partnership).</p> <p>Apologies: Michael Legg (JSPTU), Sam Jarvis (NSC), Allan Davies (JSPTU), Tim Corner (BRERC), Susan Stangroom (NSC), David Villis (SGC), Rob Spence (FC).</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon BAP bird list – LR talked to Tim Corner and Richard Bland about birds included on list. BRERC set up and maintain the Avon BAP species list, using a number of criteria. The advantage is that the list is easy to update. LR has now added these criteria to the website. The problem that Richard Bland has with the criteria is that it includes all rare species, including occasional visitors such as Osprey. Group suggested could add filter to exclude migratory birds. LR to talk to TC • MC has discussed attendance at the Water and wetlands focus group with group members. Group happy to continue with meetings, pool of people available to attend are small, but are the right people. Attendance was good at the last meeting. • JM advised that if group want FEP/HLS training RDS offer training courses, and it would be best to contact RDS directly. • Reaction - RS has not obtained regional Coastal and Marine minutes from SW Biodiversity partnership, so hasn't forwarded them to group, as the SW Biodiversity website is not up to date. Once it is RS will forward minutes to group. • BARS – Avon LBAP co-ordinators have received BARS training, but no provision to train others. Training course was run well and very helpful. LR currently entering BAP onto BARS. Will contact partners if they need to have input into reporting on projects. • Planning – LR has circulated planning reports recommended at recent LDF workshop run by Mike Oxford. Will also circulate Mike Oxfords presentation. • SW Targets – Latest draft has been circulated. SJ and TC have discussed methodology. 	<p>LR</p> <p>RS</p>

<p>already exists such as LBAP and UK BAP conferences, training and BARS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be useful to have centre that offers all skills that coordinators need, but training would have to be subsidised. Could also be useful to have somewhere that helps with sustainability of project funding. • Is there enough of an audience with LBAP coordinators? Should include volunteers. • Need to consult nationally. Both Kathrina Mannion (Defra's Local & Regional Biodiversity Policy Advisor for England) & Donna Radley (English Nature's England Local and Regional Biodiversity Co-ordinator) had queries about how it would add value. • NM will consult with group further and keep group informed. The HLF application is at the 2nd stage, having got through the 1st stage before Christmas. 	
<p>6. Green Infrastructure work (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI project has been undertaken by AWT, FoA and BRERC. Funded by CA. Green Infrastructure is strategic network of green and blue space available to the public. Avon study has mapped Avons GI, plus looked at two case studies: 1. How to improve the GI of a residential area in Bristol with little green space – Avonmouth, and 2. How to incorporate GI in a new development – Locking parish. • Hope to get more funding to produce executive summary. Intended that used by developers and planners and is being backed by RSS. Will hopefully consolidate existing data sets rather than duplicate what is already done by UA's. • Has not been done else where, although other case studies have been carried out. • RS to circulate final draft and present GI to WoE subgroup meeting. 	RS
<p>7. Progress with Grassland project bid (LR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countdown bid unsuccessful, although were placed on reserve list. SITA bid unsuccessful, although board have asked for further information (long term management of sites and match funding) and have deferred decision until next round. Those involved in grassland bid are meeting today to discuss way forward. • Would be interesting to know who got SITA funding. Some organisations have much less capacity for putting bids in and finding match funding. SITA are aware of this. • Grassland management needs proper funding, NE could lobby for this. 	
<p>8. Progress with Pond project bid (LR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLF bid unsuccessful. HLF feel that it is a project they can fund but have asked for further information. RS and LR to visit HLF in May to discuss way forward. • Are also meeting HLF to explain Avon Biodiversity Partnership and LBAP coordinators role as HLF perceive recent application for grassland project (led by FWAG) and application for pond project (led by ARAG) as from the same organisation (Avon Biodiversity Partnership). 	
<p>9. Update on SW biodiversity Partnership work (RF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature map nearly complete. Working on communication of map. Map will be on SW observatory site. Promoting at local level. Incorporated into RSS, and LDF guidance. Rebuilding biodiversity completed and CD available now. • SW target review complete, was undertaken in response to UK target review. Feeding into RSS. If anyone wants to feed back then please do so through SW Biodiversity Partnership rather than RSS. • UK targets review behind schedule. In consultation phase. Group could respond to species or habitats that are important for Avon. See 	

<p>http://www.ukbap.org.uk/GenPageText.aspx?id=98</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding – SW Biodiversity Partnership have input to SITA selection process, but not HLF. RF will look into HLF selection process. • New regional EN post – Biodiversity Information manager, based at SW Observatory. Post to coordinate biodiversity information in SW. RF will send round his contact details. 	RF
<p>10. Updates round the table</p> <p>Alison Slade SGlos have produced Biodiversity Planning Guidance document for developers. BAP being written and circulated for comments. Avon RIGS have produced some geology leaflets. BANES action plan finished.</p> <p>John Martin RDS involved with transition to NE, and national work on restoring grassland.</p> <p>Neil Maddison Community Owls project with Hawk and Owl Trust launched next month.</p> <p>Rachel Sharp AWT 4 new members of staff (2 in new ashlands reserve), a fundraising manager and an audience development officer. New consultancy business going well. Also involved with school building design, Radstock railway sidings, Hengrove Park, Batscapes, and North Somerset Levels and Moors project. Looking for funding for White-clawed crayfish translocation and applying for SGlos aggregate levy money. Marine Bill now out for consultation.</p> <p>Kate Jeffries EN involved with transition to NE. Also working on Green infrastructure.</p> <p>Helen Hall Bristol BAP progressing. Has written 1st draft, will write HAPs and SAPs soon. Writing management plan for both sides of Avon Gorge, are going to introduce grazing. Swamped with planning applications eg Avonmouth. Working to ensure parks managed sympathetically.</p> <p>Melissa Clarkson EA involved in Bristol and Avon catchment floodplan, Broadmead site, and protecting water courses from tree felling.</p> <p>Lucy Rogers Pondways and Grassland bids, Estuary leaflet and Severn estuary Partnership, Bat grill project in N Somerset, BARS, dormice, and actions from focus groups.</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucys post – Budget OK. RS will circulate LRs work plan for comments. 	RS
<p>9. Next meeting date June 20th 10.00 - 1.00pm, venue tbc</p>	