

Avon BAP Woodland Group Meeting
 10th May 2007
 10 am – 12.30 pm
 Bower Ashton Training Centre



Chair: Jim Fry
 Minutes: Matt Hamilton

Item		
1	<p>Introductions & apologies</p> <p>Present: Jim Fry (FOA), Matt Hamilton (ABP), Richard Ennion (BCC), Norman Healey (The Deer Initiative SW), Stuart Hales (AWT), Lorne Campbell (FE), Tim Corner (BRERC)</p> <p>Absent: Rob Spence (FC), Lucy Rogers (AWT), Robin Marshall-Ball (BASC), Bill Morris (NT), Sally Pattison (BANES & SGlos), Mark Minkley (BANES), Mathew Bufton (HMP Leyhill).</p> <p>JF was introduced as the new chair of the group, following RS's promotion</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC reported that the BAP Atlas was nearing completion, and that the idea is being taken up by other regions in the South West • MH to e-mail an example SNA map to the group • TC reported back from the climate change conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The FC have started to investigate whether they should be sourcing their tree stock from warmer habitats to take account of climate change ○ It was highlighted that the South West is particularly vulnerable to climate change as organisms have only one migration route into/out of the region. • JF reported that the Avon Catchment Project have proposed the planting trees along catchments on floodplains to reduce the risk of flash flooding. • RE reported that BCC have been developing a protocol for assessing whether SNCIs are in favourable condition, based on SSSI condition assessment. At present they are only surveying BCC owned SNCIs (~50), but they hope to have finished all of them by the end of they year. The surveys (carried out by BRERC and Phil Quinn) should include an indication of condition, future management recommendations and will act as a benchmark for future monitoring. RE to update group at next meeting. • RE reported that the Green Spaces Strategy should be out for consultation in June. 	<p>MH</p> <p>RE</p>
3	<p>Further Potential Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the group was discussed and it was decided that a wide base of knowledge (and therefore partners) was beneficial to the group. It was also decided that it would not be necessary for all partners to attend every meeting 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential partners were discussed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH to see if RMB had received any response from the CLA MH to approach the Woodland Trust, Fountains, and possibly the NFU and Vincent Wildlife Trust. RS has approached Confor (Confederation of forestry industries) but has received no response, MH to approach again. 	MH MH MH
4	Woodland Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JF reported back on the Woodland map – it is being used for many different things from Green Infrastructure to growth points. The map can be refined with the new data from EWGS that is always coming in. JF to do this. The group discussed how best the woodland maps could be used and the following ideas were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting landowners in areas identified by the map as priority and encouraging them to join up to WGS. Question mark over who could do this. Perhaps draw up a list of people who could target different areas e.g. JF – FoA, RS – AONB etc. Draw up a list of contractors who could undertake forestry improvement works and ‘matchmake’ them with landowners. Would need to ensure that there is money there for the work. A mail drop of priority areas to pick up quick wins. It was decided to make this an agenda item for the next meeting when the updated map is available. NB – important to have FC representation at this meeting to supply info on WGS. TC reported that BRERC had not been able to get a license from FC to use their maps that enabled third party use. It is an issue that has been raised regionally and nationally and there is little that this group can do to help. 	JF MH/ RS
5	Veteran Tree Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH reported that an outline project brief involving appointing project officer, advising landowners on care of veteran trees and volunteer recording of veteran trees had been drawn up by Rachel Sharp before she left AWT. The group considered it was important to pull together all existing information on veteran trees especially from LAs. MH to approach LAs and TC to pull together all existing info on veteran trees in Avon. MH to update the project brief and send it round for the group to comment on before it is finalised 	MH/ TC MH/ ALL
6	BARS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH reported that volunteers from the AWT had been collating progress reports on BAP Actions. They have received and input onto BARS progress reports from almost all partners. They are now starting to archive those actions that are part of partners ongoing work so as to concentrate on actions that have been bought about by the BAP RE to ensure BCC SNCI data is put onto BARS 	RE

7	<p>Updates around the table</p> <p>NH – Deer Initiative conference details will be available soon. The proportion of his time spent on disease surveillance is being increased to 40%. A new sampling system being used on tree private estates has provided evidence that the incidence of bovine TB in deer is very low. The deer initiative are examining how the new offal disposal rules from the EU will affect them. Projects to get SSSI ASNW within National Parks into favourable management have begun.</p> <p>LC – carried out maintenance works in Leigh Woods to remove Sycamore, but no conversion of plantation to broadleaved woodland has taken place in the last six months.</p> <p>TC - attended a meeting on climate change proofing Nature Map, and the feeling was that NM is already climate change proofed.</p> <p>SH – successfully bid for funding from Aggregate Levy for Weston Big Wood Reserve. This has led to reinstating coppicing regime and production of charcoal. AWT Reserves are easing out of WGS, and are looking into EWGS.</p> <p>RE – BCC have commissioned Woodland HAP from Rupert Higgins.</p> <p>JF – The Wildlife Trust and FoA have received funding to map the Green Infrastructure in the West of England.</p> <p>BM - details of veteran tree survey at Leigh Woods have been passed on to BRERC and Jim Fry. Main woodland work this winter has been continuing to halo around the veteran trees at Leigh Woods concentrating this year on Stokeleigh Camp and the area to the NE below the Parish Wall.</p> <p>MH – expanding the Avon BAP update to a newsletter for partners, decision makers and the public. It should be a partnership newsletter, giving all members of the partnership a chance to publicise the good work they have done for the Avon BAP. Please submit articles to MH by early June for inclusion.</p>	
8	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH reported that the SW were trialling deer collision pillars that make noise and flash in response the presence of car headlights and deer. • TC reported that BRERC are co-ordinating efforts to review the Avon BAP notables list. 	
10	<p>Next meeting date</p> <p>Thursday 27th September from 10:30 – 12.30 at Bower Ashton Training Centre.</p>	

