

Avon BAP Woodland Group Meeting
 14th September 2006
 10 am – 12.30 pm
 CREATE Centre



Chair: Rob Spence
 Minutes: Lucy Rogers

Item		
1	<p>Introductions & apologies Present: Rob Spence (FC), Lucy Rogers (ABP), Richard Ennion (BCC)</p> <p>Absent: Robin Marshall-Ball (BASC), Rachel Sharp (AWT), Bill Morris (NT), Norman Healey (The Deer Initiative SW), Jim Fry (FOA), Stuart Hales (AWT), Sally Pattison (BANES & SGlos), Lorne Campbell (FE), Tim Corner (BRERC), Mark Minkley (BANES), Mathew Bufton (HMP Leyhill).</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reaction -RMB will chase CLA to get representative to attend meetings RMB ▪ RS has contacted FTA and waiting to hear back. ▪ Reaction - RMB approached police no success yet due to data protection issues, but will try other methods. RMB ▪ Reaction - BM to pass info that he has on veteran trees to BRERC and JF. BM ▪ Reaction - JF to investigate getting data from BRERC to add to map. JF ▪ Reaction – all to send JF & BRERC any info they may have on vet trees and WP&P ALL ▪ RE – audit of woodlands to determine conservation status – ongoing and will report at next meeting. RE ▪ Reaction – LC to investigate whether can record on BARS work thinning and felling to convert from plantation to native woods and improve wildlife habitat. LC ▪ Reaction – Woodland mapping – All to feedback to JF on improvements. JF will circulate file. ALL JF 	
3	<p>Avon BAP Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LR has drafted TOR to be able to give to new partners joining who may not know anything about BAP work. ▪ There are now over 40 partners with the most recent being the MCS, UWE, SEP and Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers. ▪ LR has circulated TOR to Steering group and all have fed back comments. Includes details of how Avon BAP relates to UA BAPs, structure of Partnership and what is expected of partners. ▪ All new and existing partners will be sent a letter with new TOR and asked to sign up to actions and endorse the BAP and partnership approach. 	<p>LR/ ALL</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Mapping next steps – Need to ensure that mapping work already done by JF and RS goes to BRERC. LR to check. Mapping work already done, combined with local knowledge does direct us.</p> <p>Nature map update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SW Nature Map shows the best areas to maintain and expand (through restoration and/or re-creation) terrestrial wildlife habitats at a landscape scale. Should be available on internet soon. • Nature Map was produced by the SW Regional Biodiversity Partnership. It selects landscape scale blocks of land, known as Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs), to improve habitat networks and to sustain wildlife within them. <p>NM is expected to be used by the region’s decision-makers, organisations and businesses to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify major biodiversity concentrations and where targets to maintain, restore and re-create wildlife can best be met • Assist in targeting Environmental Stewardship Scheme • Focus for biodiversity partnerships and projects in the region • Develop projects that help biodiversity to adapt to climate change • Formulate sustainable choices for development - through Local Development Frameworks and the Regional Spatial Strategy • Support from nature conservation organisations to landowners and managers <p>Mapping SNAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Avon BAP has set targets and actions (currently on BARS), but not specified locations. ▪ Nature map has designated areas of important biodiversity (SNAs) in Avon. ▪ SWRBP has also set habitat targets for Avon using Nature Map as a tool for maintenance targets. Restoration targets drew on other information as well. ▪ To help focus our effort in meeting targets and actions in Avon, and clarify things, could we take NM one step further to produce a ‘BAP atlas’ of Avons SNA’s with areas of priority habitat that need maintaining and restoring. This could focus our effort. Each focus group could contribute to producing BAP atlas. ▪ FC would not have time to do this, but could be long term aim of group. LR to see what capacity other Focus Groups have for this work. 	<p>LR</p> <p>LR</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Focus Group development plan and targets</p> <p>Now that first priorities have been achieved, need to agree priorities for future. Can use BAP as starting point but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to prioritise ▪ A lot of the actions are ongoing (and therefore don’t need our help although they need reporting on), need to focus on what the ABP 	

	<p>should be doing to fill gaps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to plan for next 1, 5 etc years ▪ Need to know what targets are and who is responsible. ▪ Partners should feel ownership. ▪ Need to use existing initiatives such as Avon BAP targets, SW targets and NM in an integrated way to direct work at the local level. <p>Targets and work being done to meet them can now be easily accessed from BARS (see below).</p> <p>Our Avon BAP targets should be used as an approximate bench mark, as we know some are ambitious.</p> <p>FC can report back quite easily on broad targets, as can tell hectareage of new planting based on claims paid out. However, more difficult to address targets at local level than national and regional level.</p> <p>Three Avon BAP action plans relevant to Woodland group – ‘Woodland’, Wood pasture, parkland and veteran trees’ and ‘Dormice’. All targets are being addressed by ongoing work.</p> <p>So highest priority currently is funding for parkland and veteran tree work. Discussed best way to record veteran trees when found in the field. Currently it is BRERC, but a Veteran Tree project could help.</p> <p>FC priority is ancient woodland priority areas, in Avon the Southern end of the Cotswolds – Lower woods, Badminton and Chipping Sodbury. FC will target these areas for funding.</p> <p>BCC/RE currently addressing 5.5 obj 1 of the Woodland action plan – ‘Increase the area of woodland managed well for biodiversity in avon’ by working on quality of SNCIs. Applying for funding for Natural Green Space – will answer this target.</p> <p>All to report back on work on targets via LR and BARS</p>	<p>ALL/ LR</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>BARS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Now have all Avon BAP targets and SW targets for Avon on BARS. Can also add details of SNAs once calculated. ▪ Can get print outs of targets etc. All should be able to access this info. Must use this to keep track of progress against BAP and use to direct work of Woodland group. ▪ Intend to use BARS as up to date action plan, and avoid writing more SAPs. ▪ Working with other UAs closely, each has access to each others BARS data. ▪ LR will tackle BARS one action plan at a time and contact partners to ask about progress. ▪ LR to add Richard Ennion to BARS 	<p>LR</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Review of Avon BAP actions cont – Wood pasture, Parkland and</p>	

	<p>veteran trees.</p> <p>EN are the lead partner for 'Wood Pasture' rather than FC. Agreed that all actions and targets ongoing but need to add partners to some actions.</p>	LR
8	<p>Updates around the table</p> <p>RE – Green Space strategy relating to priority habitats including woodland. Wood school, set up by FOA – education funding for LNR programme on sites with woodland.</p> <p>RS – English Woodland Grant scheme – prospectus 2006 for SW England available, showing grant budgets available in SW England in 2007/8. SW Regional Woodfuel framework – highlights potential of wood as renewable fuel for heat. SW Regional woodland and forestry framework – implementation plan – Working with RDS on energy crop schemes – FC contracted by DEFRA to undertake site visits. Market currently developing, willow or Miscanthus – 4,500 ha applied for in SW. Will appear in public register.</p> <p>NH – Supplied The deer Initiative SW Region summer newsletter. If anyone wants a copy please ask LR.</p> <p>SP – Has not found any dormice yet, but open to ideas for hedge planting and laying.</p> <p>MM – Interested in groups thoughts on how to verify ancient woodland data and quality of resource. Also how to move forward on veteran tree initiatives. Should be item for next meeting</p>	
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>LR to contact Woodland Trust – Jaime Needler to ask if they are interested in attending Focus Group meetings.</p>	LR
10	<p>Next meeting date</p> <p>Tuesday 13th March from 10am – 12.30 at AWT.</p> <p>NB It would be really helpful if everyone could let LR know in good time if they cannot attend the meeting, so it can be rescheduled if necessary. Thanks!</p>	