

## **AVON BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Background**

The Avon Biodiversity Partnership was formed in 2000 with the creation of a steering group. It has developed since then to encompass a wide range of statutory and non-statutory bodies, and now has over 40 organisations and groups interested in nature conservation in Avon (see appendix 1). The list of partnership members is not exclusive and new partners are both welcomed and needed, especially from the business, academic and private sectors.

#### **Aims**

The BAP identifies what needs to happen for Avon's most valuable habitats and species and for cross-cutting issues such as education over the next ten years.

The main aims are to:

- Champion and promote local biodiversity and its distinctiveness;
- Implement actions in order to achieve the objectives and meet the targets outlined in the BAP
- Facilitate communication and sharing of best-practice and skills;
- Seek opportunities for joint projects where possible;
- Monitor biodiversity and biodiversity action;
- Report back annually on its achievements;
- Increase amount and access to biodiversity data.

#### **The Role of Partners**

We hope that by forming a biodiversity partnership across the whole Avon area it will encourage more effective joint projects and achieve more for biodiversity on the ground.

All partners are invited to:

1. endorse the Avon Biodiversity Action Plan
2. lead on specific targets and actions in the Avon BAP where appropriate.
3. attend the relevant focus group and/or steering group meetings and contribute to driving forward actions resulting from meetings.

#### **Focus Groups – role and function**

Partnership members and other relevant organisations will be invited to attend Focus Group meetings and any other relevant meetings. See appendix 2 for ABP structure.

The Focus groups will drive priorities and co-ordinate implementation of relevant sections of the BAP. In order to do this the groups will:

- Identify issues which cannot be addressed within existing jobs/resources where the Avon BAP can help e.g. by developing funding bids/new projects
- Prioritise actions and develop policies or projects to enable delivery of actions
- Share knowledge, experience and best-practice
- Monitor and report back on actions
- Identify issues for other groups to consider or where support from steering group could be useful

The following Action plans will be addressed by each focus group:

Focus Group	Habitat/Species Action Plan or Topic
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable farmland</li> <li>• Species-rich grassland</li> <li>• Hedgerows</li> <li>• Elements of Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh</li> <li>• Elements of Purple moor-grass and rush pasture</li> <li>• Cross cutting actions for farming and private ownership</li> </ul>
Coastal and Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuary</li> <li>• Coastal and Floodplain grazing marsh</li> </ul>
Water and Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing open water</li> <li>• Reedbeds and sedgebeds</li> <li>• Watercourses and floodplain</li> <li>• Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh</li> <li>• Elements of Purple moor-grass and rush pasture</li> <li>• Water vole</li> <li>• White-clawed Crayfish</li> <li>• Cross cutting actions for water and wetlands</li> </ul>
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland</li> <li>• Wood pasture and parkland</li> <li>• Dormouse</li> </ul>
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-cutting actions - Awareness-raising, education and community working, marketing and media</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-cutting actions – Developing funding strategy for the BAP</li> </ul>

A flexible approach is essential. It is very important that each group operates in a manner that suits them best.

### Feedback and communication

1. Minutes will be available via the website (<http://www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk/>)

Website: [www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk](http://www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk) Email: [matthamilton@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:matthamilton@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)  
 Avon Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator: Matt Hamilton, c/o Avon Wildlife Trust,  
 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR Tel: 0117 917 7270 Fax: 0117 929 7273  
 Registered Charity Number: 280422

2. The chair will feed back to other groups by attending steering group meetings or by whichever means are deemed necessary.
3. Avon Biodiversity Action Plan news will be produced twice a year and distributed to all partners and made available via the website.
4. BARS will be used to report on specific actions

### **The Avon BAP and other BAPS in Avon**

While the Avon BAP provides an over arching conservation strategy for Avon, it overlaps both spatially and technically, in terms of shared aims and objectives, with other BAPs in Avon. For example 3 of the 4 local authorities in Avon already have their own BAP (BANES – Wild Things, NS – Action for Nature, SG) and BCC is currently developing theirs.

The content of all these action plans are informed and guided by national targets so that their implementation is firmly linked to national priorities. However, the plans also seek to reflect local conservation priorities and the values of local people.

The Avon Biodiversity Partnership enables closer partnership working between all these groups.

### **National and Regional Biodiversity Action Plans**

In addition the Avon Biodiversity Partnership keeps in contact with other LBAPs in the SW region as well as the South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership, and promotes and enables the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan through regional and local biodiversity action in line with the England Biodiversity Strategy.

## **Appendix 1 Avon BAP Partners**

### **Partnership Steering Group Members**

Avon Wildlife Trust

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Bristol City Council

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Natural England

Environment Agency

Forestry Commission

West of England Partnership

North Somerset Council

South Gloucestershire Council

### **Partnership Members**

Astra Zeneca

Avon Bat Group

Avon Gorge and Downs Project

Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group

Avon Frome Partnership

Bristol Living Rivers Project

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Bristol Natural History Consortium

Bristol Naturalists' Society

Bristol Ornithological Club

Bristol Water

British Waterways

British Association of Shooting and Conservation

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Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers

British Horse Society

BTCV

British Trust for Ornithology

Cotswold AONB Partnership

The Deer Initiative

The Duchy of Cornwall

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Forest of Avon

Forest Enterprise

Fountain Timber

Hawk and Owl Trust

HM Prison Service

Internal Drainage Board

Marine Conservation Society

Mendip Hills AONB

North Somerset Levels and Moors Project

National Trust

Oldbury Power Station

RSPB

Severn Estuary Partnership

Sustrans

Tortworth Estate

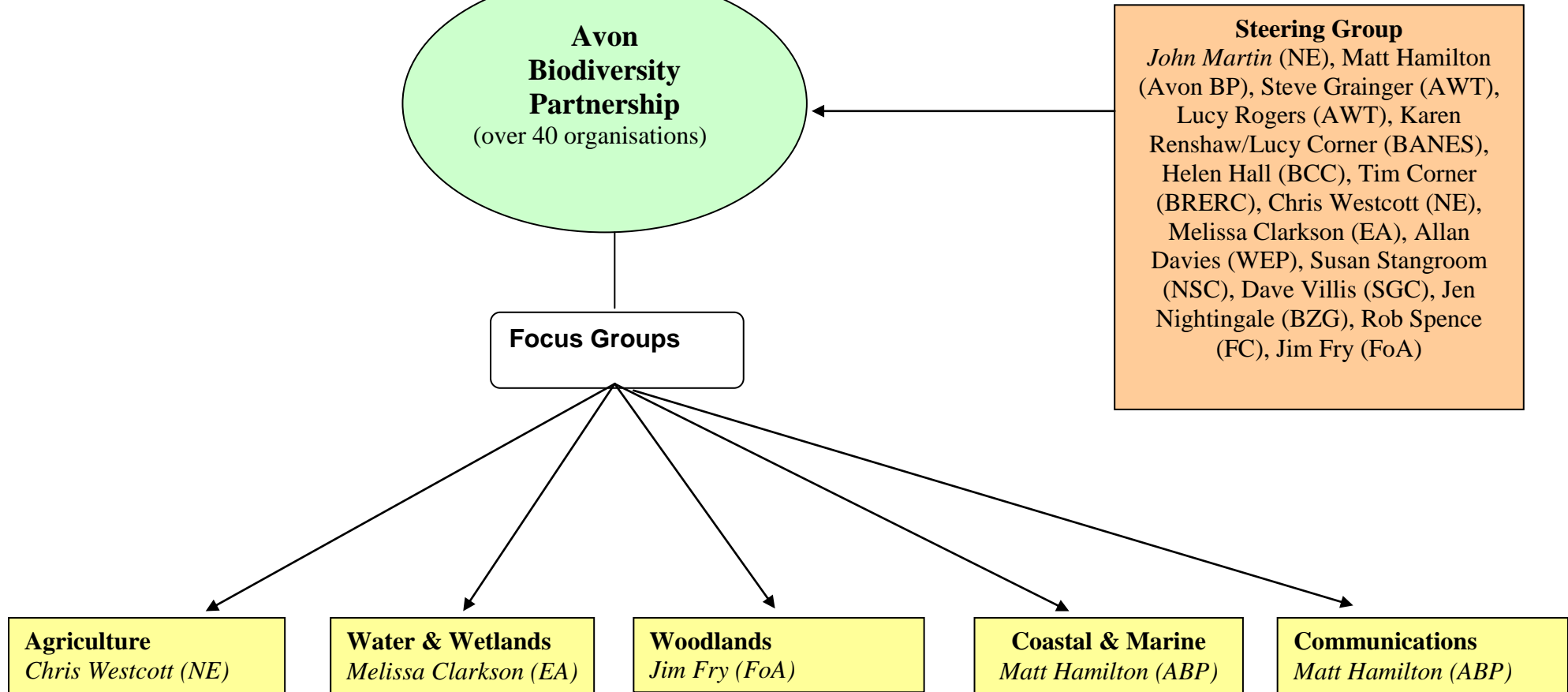
UWE

Wessex Water

Wrington Parish Council

## Appendix 2: Avon Biodiversity Partnership structure

Chairs are highlighted in italics



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