

## Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership

### Biodiversity Working Group

#### Feedback from Stakeholder Event- 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012

#### What is the purpose/role of the Biodiversity Working Group?

1. Establish contacts with other environmentally focussed Groups and community/voluntary groups in Wiltshire and Swindon- avoid duplication of efforts and promote better cross sector partnership working to promote positive actions for the local environment
2. Prioritise opportunities and develop project proposals for securing biodiversity using the agreed priorities outlined in the new Landscape BAP Framework, update the biodiversity indicators and review how we measure and report on these indicators in the future
3. Coordinate and determine agreed methodologies to support a central framework for collecting and sharing biological data in Wiltshire and Swindon to enable the State of the Environment Report to accurately analyse trends in data sets/species populations, etc
4. Promote and support projects/organisations that deliver actual habitat management on the ground- improve communications between organisations
5. Select relevant individuals from the wider forum to form a Working Group to act as Advisory Group to the WSLNP Board - utilise local expertise to ensure the Board is well informed and can use their strategic influence to help join up biodiversity with other sectors

#### How will the Working Group function/deliver benefits?

1. Build a stronger network for the natural environment sector- propose that the wider 'Biodiversity Forum' will meet every 4 months and at the annual WSLNP Forum, coordinate and share information via a central independent website
2. Coordinate and utilise the capacity that already exists within WSLNP organisations to work together on smaller scale ideas and projects or to initiate different ways of working/sharing information that will benefit all parties with no additional cost.
6. Prioritise opportunities for new projects; establish a Task and Finish Group to carry out the first project, contributing relevant skills and expertise to specific Task and Finish Groups on biodiversity priorities
3. Ensure all priorities are packaged as SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time bound) **proposals** to help secure funding
4. Where outcomes/best practice is delivered through the Working Groups ensure this can be rolled out across Wiltshire and Swindon to benefit a wider audience
5. Provide expertise/advice to influence the development and delivery of the WSLNP Strategic Plan

### **What specific priorities should the Biodiversity Working Group address?**

1. Identify potential for projects to support restoration/creation/protection of key BAP habitats and species in the county
2. Expand habitat mapping in agreed priority landscape areas
3. Strengthen and coordinate the biodiversity evidence base for the county to help measure biodiversity change and identify missing data
4. Standardise methodologies for recording long term data sets to enable more accurate monitoring of trends in habitats and species
5. Support Neighbourhood Planning to help connect local people with the natural environment.

### **Key Summary Points from the Event:**

- Stakeholder Event was organised by the WSLNP on 4<sup>th</sup> December, it was well attended- Over 15 organisations attended, over 20 want to be involved in a wider Biodiversity Forum
- Partners have responded well, appreciate the opportunity to consult with priorities and development of the LNP- good to build partner buy in and support
- Priorities that have been identified during stakeholder event will be taken through to work programme- build confidence that the LNP will address current and relevant actions
- General comments- want the LNP to fill the gap, provide coordination for environment/biodiversity sector, provide a network for facilitating on-going work- need to address how we restore biodiversity at a landscape scale
- Working Groups will form when a priority action has been agreed, individual people with correct sector skills will contribute from the wider Biodiversity Forum
- Important that the Biodiversity Working Group has WSLNP support via a “Fundraising Working Group” –Use existing partner expertise to help generate and secure funding to deliver work identified in the Working Groups

**Delegates**

Hugo Brooke  
Stephen Davis  
Melanie Wright  
Zoe Pittaway  
Rob Large  
Simon Smith  
Louise Raggett  
Ruth Barden  
David Blake  
Susan Batstone  
Roger Dudin  
Fiona Elphick  
Dani Linton  
Jo Chesworth  
Jonathan Wilshaw  
Purgle Linham  
Darly Buck  
Sally Glass  
Nick Tomalinson

**Organisation**

Butterfly Conservation  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
WSLNP  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
Cotswolds AONB  
Natural England  
Wessex Water  
Cranborne AONB  
Natural England  
Salisbury GreenSpace Initiative  
Wiltshire Council  
Swindon Twilight Bat Project  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust  
Swindon Borough Council  
WSBRC  
Environment Agency  
Woodland Trust  
RSPB

**Apologies:**

Sam Stork  
Hilary Makins  
Emma Rothero  
Neil Pullen  
Marc Taylor  
Jenny Hawley  
Phil Sheldrake  
Simon Ford  
Mike Fuller  
Ian Briscoe  
Stuart Hales  
Matthew Millett  
Melissa Clarkson

Source to Sea Project  
National Trust  
Floodplains Partnership  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
County Recorder  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
RSPB  
National Trust  
Butterfly Conservation  
Forestry Commission  
Natural England  
Cotswold Water Park Trust  
Environment Agency