

# Minutes of meeting of the Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

## Natural Environment Sub Group

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010

Present: Richard Small (Chair) – Liverpool John Moores University  
Tina Iball – WLBC, Environment  
Dominic Rigby – LCC, Countryside  
Dave Dunlop – Wildlife Trust  
Fiona Cruchley – LCC, Environment

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Introductions and apologies</u></b></p> <p>RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from:</p> <p>Tim Graham – Wildlife Trust Gillian Whitfield - WLBC, Planning Policy Peter Jepson – LCC, Ecology</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record.</p> <p>TI informed the group that Hunters Hill and 2 other Council sites are to be subject to a Phase 1 habitat survey to inform the development of site management plans. This work is to be carried out by Bowland Ecology, who has been involved with these sites previously. The surveys should be carried out this summer.</p>	
<p>3. <b><u>ETG Action Plan Progress Updates</u></b></p> <p>TI thanked everyone for their input into revising the natural environment and wildlife action plans for 2010/11. Due to significant duplication of actions in both of these documents, they have now been amalgamated into one document.</p> <p>All members agreed with the changes, providing every action is still included. DR recommended it be called the Natural Environment Action Plan rather than the Wildlife Action Plan, which covers all areas. This was agreed by the group.</p> <p>DR queries the archaeological section – has this been removed? Did it feature in the 2009/10 natural environment action plan? If not, TI to contact County archaeologist to see if there is anything that should be incorporated.</p>	TI

RS queried whether the funding for the development of the Wildlife Plan has been utilised and if not how the amalgamation would effect any further revisions of the plan done on behalf of the Wildlife Trust. TI to speak with Tim Graham with regards to this matter.

TI

*Follow up – The funding covered initial development of the plan but was also able to cover the revision carried out by Tim Graham last year. This will now be progressed and updated by the group as a whole as per the original natural environment action plan.*

TI proposed to report progress on actions through a quarterly report to be produced after every meeting. This will allow more detail to be provided on specific actions. This was agreed by the group.

TI

Please see accompanying Action Plan Progress Report 2010/11 Q1.

DR queried what IAP stands for in action 3.e regarding ponds.

TI

*Follow up – IAP stands for ‘Important Areas for Ponds’ which was proposed and developed by Pond Conservation to raise awareness of geographic regions that support ponds of national or international biodiversity importance. For more information please follow this link:*

[http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/pond\\_hap/iap](http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/pond_hap/iap)

It was queried if action 7.d should be more wide spread than just Gorse Hill Nature Reserve?

TG

DR informed the group that LCC have grants available to help the establishment of woodland pockets.

4. **Biodiversity Grant Funding**

TI informed the group of some possible funds which may become available from the New Burdens (Habitat Regulation Assessment) grant and a number of potential projects were discussed. TI to research this further.

TI

*Follow up – further investigation into this fund and the requirements of the LDF evidence base will require the funds for development of an appropriate assessment of the European sites in West Lancs. Any under spend will look to be utilised to protect and enhance biodiversity but this will not be known for a few months.*

5. **Any Other Business**

No items were raised.

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

TI to arrange electronically for mid September.

TI