

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum

Meeting notes from the 18th Advisory Group Meeting,

4th February 2021

14:00 – 16:30

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Craig Macadam	Buglife
Ellen Wilson	RSPB/ SBIF
Gill Dowse	Scottish Wildlife Trust /SBIF
Glenn Roberts	NESBReC
Guy Harewood	Stirling Council
Iain Sime	NatureScot
Jo Porter	Heriot-Watt University
Jonathan Willet	SBIF
Nick Fraser	NMS
Rona Sinclair	NatureScot
Sarah Henshall	CNPA
Wilma Harper	NBN Trust/ TWIC

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Andy Ford	CNPA
Chris McInerny	BRISC
Claire Lacey	CIEEM
David Roy	BRC
Debs Muscat	ALERC
Elaine Anderson	CIEEM
Jo Judge	NBN

1. Welcome and apologies.

Rachel has had a baby boy called Ronan and both are doing well.

Chris McInerny is the new BRISC representative on the group but he was unavailable today due to teaching commitments.

The minutes of the last meeting (24th August 2020) were approved.

2 Action Points from the last meeting.

AP AG09-4 All to advise EW of their SBIF-related activities (for inclusion in quarterly Highlight Reports)

- Discharged.

AP AG13-1 RT to draft and circulate a comms plan

- To be written as part of the new project proposal.
- Ongoing.

AP AG15-7 RT to send briefing document to NESBReC

- Discharged. This was superseded by the Better Biodiversity Data Project.

AP AG16-2 SM to support EW and RT to contact SBIF Community

- We are keeping contact ticking over with the wider Forum. It will be progressed starting with the announcement of a funding bid and in due course as part of the new project delivery and emerging communications plan.
- Ongoing.

AP AG16-3 JJ to report back on funding opportunities

- NBN Trust recruited some volunteer interns over the summer to investigate funders. JJ to pass on details to SBIF of any funding available.
- Discharged.

AP AG17-01 Rachel to arrange meeting with Scottish LERCs and Welsh LERCs.

- Discharged.

AP AG17-02 Rachel and Ellen to contact LERCs in Scotland for input.

- Discharged.

AP AG17-03 Rachel and Ellen to circulate developed proposal to Advisory Group for comment.

- Circulated on the 17th December 2020.
- Discharged.

AP AG17-04 Rachel to add a standing agenda item for Rona to update the Advisory Group on marine progress.

- Discharged.

3. Marine Update.

The presentation was given by Rona and there were some questions and comments afterwards.

AP AG18-01. Circulate the presentations from RS and SH to the group after the meeting.

NF asked if RS had spoken to Fran/ Fiona Wave and Dia at NMS? The answer was no.

AP AG18-02. NF to send on his colleagues contact details to RS.

JP suggested another contact David Patterson at MASTS, the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology. <https://www.masts.ac.uk/>

GR suggested getting in touch with [Sea Watch Foundation](#) and [Seasearch](#).

RS thanks everyone for their suggestions.

4. Development Officer Update.

JW spoke to the Quarterly Update. The Better Biodiversity Data Project Proposal has been submitted and we await a final decision on the funding. Another joint meeting between the Scottish and Welsh LERCs is due to take place tomorrow to look at the [Aderyn](#) and [Orca](#) interfaces developed by the Welsh LERCs.

5. Presentation on Cairngorms State of Nature Reporting by Dr Sarah Henshall, CNPA.

The presentation detailed the CNPA SoN Reporting. Based on the Norway Nature Index, it seeks to develop composite indicators, measured against a baseline reference value. Of the 9 ecosystems Freshwater is being trialled first. This work will be completed by May 2021 and then consulted on. The other ecosystems will be analysed from then until March 2022.

GD commented that Natural Capital Asset Index data can't be disaggregated to the regional local level and this is an issue. Also, her experience of EcoServ ecosystem services mapping shows that different areas can't be compared to each other as the scores are relative rather than absolute.

IS Invasive Species data from [SISI](#) on riparian INNS is an issue with Ranunculus being native on the Dee but not on the Spey.

6. Better Biodiversity Data Project [GD/JW].

GD gave an update on the project. She is to attend a Scottish Wildlife Trust management team meeting tomorrow to answer final questions about their possible hosting of the project.

IS said the project bid had been favourably received and NS were supportive in principle. Scottish Government Officials were too. It is hoped official word on the project will be announced in March.

GH was supportive of the project and asked how long it was scheduled to last. GD confirmed it was a 24 month project. Was this the end of the SBIF project? GD answered, no, there is more to do and the BBD Project is just the starting point. There are lots of potential projects for the future, but we need to be focussed and deliver a tangible outcome by the end of BBD.

NF congratulated the team and said Well Done!

7. DONM.

It was proposed that there should be one AG meeting at the start of the project (May/ June) and another in October/ November.

AP AG18-04. JW to circulate proposed meeting dates for the first meeting via Doodle.

8. AOCB.

EW said she would like to stand down in due course and have the National Coordinator of the BBD Project to take over. But we will need to wait until the project starts before this can happen.

A BBD project steering group will need to be required to be created and the AG will be asked to participate.

EW was looking forward to welcoming the new NBN CEO to the AG.

The meeting ended at 3.37pm.