

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum - 21st Advisory Group Agenda
Thursday 13th January 2022
10:00 – 12:30

Invited: Gill Dowse (SWT), Guy Harewood (Stirling Council), Wilma Harper (NBN Trust), Iain Sime (NS); Ellen Wilson (RSPB), Jonathan Willet (SWT/ SBIF), Scot Mathieson (SEPA), David Roy (BRC), Debs Muscat (CBDC/ ALERC), Jo Porter (Heriot Watt), Glenn Roberts (NESBReC), Rona Sinclair (NS) and Elaine Anderson (CIEEM).

Apologies: Andy Ford (CNPA), Nick Fraser (NMS), Lisa Chilton (NBNT) and Craig Macadam (Buglife).

AGENDA

1) Welcome and minutes and matters arising from the last meeting [EW]

Attached [20210921 SBIF Advisory Group Meeting MINUTES] APPROVED.

2) Action Points from the last meeting [EW]

AG20 – 01. LC, GD, GR and EW to meet to discuss potential dates for meetings with LERCs and RGS to discuss the leadership and governance of the BBD Project. Discharged

AG20 – 02. LC, GD, JW and EW to convene to discuss updating the SBIF Recommendations and Vision and identify parallel and series projects to the BBD to deliver them and creating a project delivery plan to nest any such projects in to. Discharged

AG20 – 03. JW to organize a meeting with GD, GR, EW and ALERC to get them up to speed on the BBD project. Discharged – Decided to do this once the BBD Project was initiated. Tom Hunt of ALERC attended the NBN/SBIF/ LERC Meeting about the BBD. Mandy Rudd has also inputted from the NBN.

AG20 – 04. JW. Marine Data Project visualisation of data flows is something for SBIF to look at. Ongoing – not a priority due to time constrained for SBIF Development Officer due to end of contract.

AG20 – 05. JW to organize a meeting to consider the winter Forum Meeting. LC, GD and EW to attend. Ongoing – delayed due to no confirmation of BBD Project funding.

AG20 – 06. JW to send a Doodle Poll of the week beginning the 13th December (but not on the 14th) for the best day/ time to have the AG meeting. Discharged

3) Development Officer Update/ Highlight Report [JW] See Paper 1 SBIF Review Highlight Report.

The BRC presentation on iRecord to LERCs and Recording Groups in Scotland that took place in late-October, was very well received and further meetings/ training events may take place in 2022 due to this initial meeting. Two further meetings on how iRecord could work more effectively in Scotland were held in Nov/Dec 2020.

Meetings between all the LERCs, RGs, SBIF and the NBN Trust were held in November and December to discuss the BBD and gain formal support for the project from the key stakeholders.

The SBIF Recommendations are being reviewed and updated by the Working Group and will be submitted to the AG for their comment prior to a wider consultation. A timeline for delivery and an outline budget is also being discussed, this will be submitted as a paper to the AG in due course.

4) Scottish LERC Highlights [GR] See Paper 2. LERC and Recording Group Update for the full text.

Fife Nature.

Lindsay Bamforth has returned to Fife Nature Records Centre following maternity leave, now working 2 days per week.

Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre

As previously, Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre is continuing to work on a sustainable and secure business case for the Centre.

North East Scotland Biological Records Centre

NESBReC employed two habitat surveyors to carry out project botanical survey work in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire in 2021 for both local authorities. The survey work concluded in November 2021 and data is being edited for use in future NESBReC searches, as well as for further strategic land use planning and analysis by both local authorities.

Orkney Wildlife Information & Records Centre

Sydney Gauld retired on the 29th July 2021. Funding to keep the Records Centre going is being investigated.

JP said that Alison Skene at the Stromness Museum are working with other individuals to develop a proposal to keep the LERC going. JW had a meeting with Janette Park, the museum's curator, on 11/2/22 to discuss their ideas, which are primarily to do with public engagement, encouraging the public to collect records and maximizing the use of the historical biological material in the museum.

Outer Hebrides Biological Recording

OHBR has now been collating and mobilising records for 10 years and this year we are also launching our biodiversity baseline project. The ultimate objective is to produce a State of Nature Report for the Outer Hebrides to supplement our *Discovering our Natural Heritage* series of reports (<https://www.ohbr.org.uk/publications.php>).

South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre

SWSEIC hosted a virtual conference in November in partnership with the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership Scheme and ran some associated walks and informal field days covering fungi, birds and recording using iRecord app. South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre

The Wildlife Information Centre

A tailored Woodland Screening Report is now available from TWIC as part of our data request service for SE and most of central Scotland. This follows a successful pilot with Scottish Borders Council, with input from Scottish Forestry, and the cooperation of a number of forestry agents who helped test the system. A guidance document on the service is available on our website. See <http://www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/news.php> for the news item. The guidance document can be downloaded here: <http://www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/downloads/Woodland%20Screening%20Guidance%20-%20V1.pdf>

AG21 – 01. WH/ TWIC to contact Scottish Forestry to find out of the above Woodland Screening could be rolled out across Scotland.

5) Marine Data Review update [RS] See Paper 3. Scottish Marine Biodiversity Data Review Project Update.

Synergies were found with the SBIF Review such as being able to access and collate data easily.

AG21 – 02. SBIF WG to meet with RS to discuss the draft Marine Data Review.

Engaging with group of interest has been a key task to ensure that the data flows are streamlined as much as possible. Seven SBIF Recommendations link directly to the Marine Data Review. RS is keen to see the updated SBIF Recommendations.

GD said they have not fundamentally changed but mainly just the wording has been updated to reflect the change in circumstances from when they were written. There are also possible synergies with the BBD Project and these will be explored.

JP said big companies datasets don't always get into the system. What would be the best way to get this data in? What has RS found out about this?

RS replied, the main focus regarding this has been with offshore wind developments through ScotWind, due to the new surveys that will be going ahead soon. These surveys will gather a huge amount of data. If we can mobilise that then that will be a huge win. Marine Scotland and the Crown Estate are mapping out in the guidance where the most appropriate receptor of the particular data would be. There are issues around when data can be released and how it is used. Marine Recorder now has a time embargo function, this will remove the problem of asking for data 2-5 years after it has been collected, when there is no money to mobilise it. It is hoped that this pilot project with ScotWind make some headway on this issue. The new guidance will identify the standard format the data has to be submitted in.

Oil and Gas Insite Programme <https://insitenorthsea.org/> The INSITE Programme was launched in 2014, with the aim of providing stakeholders with the independent scientific evidence-base needed to better understand the influence of man-made structures on the ecosystem of the North Sea. Opportunities for discussion with them for environmental management works.

AG21 – 03. JP to send Insite contacts to RS. Discharged at the meeting via Teams. Tarquin Dorrington: Tarquin@howellmarine.co.uk and Kathryn Collins: Kathryn@howellmarine.co.uk are new contacts for INSITE programme of work.

6) iRecord Meeting Update [DR, EW, LC] See Paper 4. Meeting presentation and draft iRecord Benefit Dependency Network diagram.

DR. The meeting provided an opportunity to identify and address the key issues raised during a full and frank discussion.

Partnership between Butterfly Conservational, FSC and BRC on a new course <https://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/courses/discovering-irecord-butterflies-moths/> using IRecord as the recording platform for submitting Butterfly and Moth records.

GD. Validation of records is an issue but we can work together to manage this better, There is a concern about iNaturalist records becoming mobilised to the Indicia database due to the verification concerns surround them.

EW. We are working on a Benefits Dependency Diagram to tease out what actions we can take forward at the Scottish level. EW talked to the diagram and described what it had identified to date. The Drivers (what gets us out of bed) and Objectives have been looked at so far.

DR asked what accreditation meant in the BDD diagram. There was a discussion around this. Accreditation seen as a way of benchmarking different organisations to ensure a that they meet the threshold for the required service delivery.

JP mentioned the need for expertise and the development of a new GSE for Natural History, it is still in the pipeline. For background on the development of this see;

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/03/nature-studies-school-education-uk-environment-climate-change-green>

<https://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/news/gcse-in-natural-history-announced/>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2021-0199/>

DM said that similar meetings between iRecord and LERCs had taken place in England. Was there any possibility for the two countries to work together as they seem to be going in the same direction.

DR. Lots is happening with dataflows with the NCEA programme, looking at dataflows in England. The NCEA Head of Data, Karen Kramer-Wilson and Oil Grafton are the two people to contact. JW met with KKW in February 2022 for a general discussion about the NCEA Data project and what it could learn from SBIF. They don't have the capacity or remit to work with Scotland on the iRecord issues.

DM. Two major pieces of work (NCEA Report and the Geospatial Review) from the NCEA referred to SBIF, specifically those on data flow.

AG21 – 04. JW asked DM to send him the NCEA Report.

7) Better Biodiversity Data Project Update [IS, LC]

IS. The main action was for the NBN Trust to meet with all the Scottish LERCs and RGs to gauge their support for the BBD Project. The NBN Trust Board had asked for this to be undertaken. This expression of support was also required for the business case going to the Scottish Government.

EW. There were three meetings two with the LERCs (TWIC, SWSEIC, FN and NESBReC and with Glasgow and Shetland) and one with the RGs. All the organisations expressed their support for the BBD Project.

IS. The BBD Business Case had to make sure that it fitted in with the Scottish Govt initiative called IDDP (Integrated Digital Data Programme) led by Alistair McAlpine who heads up the Agricultural and Land-use Statistics and Data Unit. Hopefully funding will be secured by the end of January, all going to plan.

GD. Confirmed that The Scottish Wildlife Trust is still very supportive of moving forward. Hopefully there will be some overlap possible between the BBD staff and the SBIF Development Officer. GD was also involved in the IDDP and helped develop and deliver the big meeting between key stakeholders where she highlighted the SBIF Recommendations.

8) SBIF Recommendations - Discussion. [All]

The Recommendations were still being edited but a draft version was shown at the meeting. EW went through the edits that had been done to date.

WH commented that the redrafted Recommendations needed to be cross-referenced with the NBN Strategy just to make sure the language in both documents is consistent.

RS. The adhoc dialogue and data sharing between DASSH and the NBN Atlas is a great springboard for the development of displaying Marine Habitats on the NBN Atlas.

EW. We are keen to speak to the marine data community and wish to continue dialogue with RS as this has been very valuable.

WH. The NBN Atlas is looking at displaying marine habitat data but there isn't funding currently available to make that happen.

RS. This could be added as a recommendation into the Marine Data Review.

GD. The situation has changed since the Recommendations were written. We are trying to be more generic about the structures needed to deliver the Recommendations but more specific about the Outcomes we want delivered.

AG21 – 05. SM asked IS, how do we engage with the new SBS? IS replied he will get back to us about that.

EW thought that SBIF and the BBD project could be the pathfinder project for the IDDP that Alistair McAlpine is heading up.

GD said that the workshop findings relating to SBIF were very well received by Alister at the IDDP stakeholder's meeting.

The RAG table of the SBIF Recommendations was looked at and a good number were amber after the BBD had started but they all could be open to interpretation as although part of a Recommendation would be addressed not all of it would be.

9) Proposal for a winter 2021/22 SBIF Forum Meeting.

This is dependent on the funding approval for the BBD Project. The meeting would be for the SBIF wider stakeholders who we have not talked to in a while, it would be an explanation to them about the BBD and would take place after the official launch by NatureScot and the NBN Trust.

WH. NBN Trust are looking at an official launch.

10) Date of next meeting [All]

AP 21 – 06. JW to send a Doodle Poll either the 17th or 24th March 2022.

11) Any other business [All]

None.

The meeting ended at 11.55.