

MINUTES

BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 20th July, 7.00 pm., Castle Hotel

Expected: Fiona Aungier, Leslie Cook, Malcolm Hutcheson, Anne Thomson, Enid Turnbull, M. Williams.

Apologies: Molly Hardie, John Rae, Gill Young.

Item	Subject	Information and decisions to make
1	Minutes of last meeting	Agreed
2	Matters arising not shown below	
3	Computers	Death of Fiona's computer's HD – with all its data. V. thankful for BWG computer. Some information lost – thank you for copies of documents, and to John for back-ups of documents and data on website. Possibility that BWG computer may need updating soon?
4	Indoor Meetings	October – Chris Livsey? Feb 2012 Nat Park talk? FA to ask them.
5	Outdoor Meetings	Low turn-out for Holy Island meeting but splendid day, excellent walk.
6	Surveys	<p>Herring Gull Survey – all data to be with MHu a.s.a.p. please</p> <p>Bats – reasonable nos. last week in Fields House area. So perhaps add Garden City to list of areas needing further investigation.</p> <p>Butterfly Transects and WCBS. Weather is a problem, but thanks to hard work by volunteers still keeping up with surveys. WCBS at Cheviot may be difficult (grouse to avoid as well as weather). Kirsty Flook (Harper Adams College) would like to help with surveys in exchange for using our data. Her contact details will be circulated to surveyors.</p> <p>Ponds. Molly has list, and permission to go to Detchant. Low Cocklaw should be no problem; Bowsden ponds overgrown and impenetrable (or used by cattle). Are others nearby which might have easier access.</p> <p>Small Mammals. Get well soon, John!</p> <p>Reptiles. Stephen has got some refugia at Ford Moss – could make good training site.</p>
7	On-the-ground problems	<p>Tommy-the-Miller's. Likely inclusion in LWS list.</p> <p>New Road. Verge spraying. Wall breached. FA to contact Council and John Robertson.</p> <p>Tappe Fen. Likely retention on Local Wildlife Site list.</p>

		Bell Lonning. Has now been cut – will benefit grassland habitat. Is still designated as building land under recent Council initiative.
8	Funding and forms	<p>Love Northumberland: BWG has won the “Best Coast or Countryside Project” category. Splendid! FA to send off form to get the cheque. Are also trees on offer from FC (selection of native broadleaves. Up to 50, small specimens but will grow). Can anyone think of anywhere we could usefully plant or donate them? E.g. farmers, schools, Council land, Community Woodland projects etc? Please let me have ideas a.s.a.p. Usual problem of planting, protection and aftercare, e.g. cost of tree guards, labour to keep weeded and watered. Is there HLF money available? FA to investigate.</p> <p>Fabulous Flora project: NWT’s application to HLF. Plans to get professional botanists to teach groups how to identify plants (including difficult groups e.g. lichens, grasses) in hope of further records. Fits in with Bot Soc Brit Is’s North Northumberland online flora currently underway. Initiative very much welcomed by BWG (although not by some in BSBI). FA to sent appropriate letter to NWT/HLF in support as requested.</p> <p>DEFRA Nature Improvement Areas – pilot scheme – public/private/voluntary bodies in co-operation, to create Nature Improvement Areas. These are 10,000 ha (e.g. NT95 size) to 50,000 ha areas with statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites, turned into “inter-connected networks of wildlife habitats” Hmm....Much too big and complex a project for application by BWG, but perhaps we could encourage others (AONB, NWT, European Coast etc). Area suggested – coast N of Berwick and the area around the Estuary up to Union Bridge. FA to find deadline, draft letters.</p>
9	Any other business	None.
10	Next Committee Meetings	17 th August, then 21 st September