

Minutes

BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 20th May 2009, 7.00 pm, Castle Hotel.

Attending: Fiona Aungier, Leslie Cook, Molly Hardie, Malcolm Hutcheson, Elizabeth Martin Fisher, Enid Turnbull, M. Williams, Gill Young.

Apologies: John Inglis, John Rae.

Item	Subject	Outcome
1	Minutes of last meeting (April)	Agreed
2	Matters arising not shown below	None
3	Records.	Two sightings of Bluethroats recorded, one E. Ord & one Holy Island. ET reported sighting of Speckled Woods. FA & M Hardie reported Walls. Discussion on desirability of obtaining corroboration of sightings and of putting them in writing for ease of adding to national databases.
4	Recent events	Save our Squirrels Walk in Detchant, 19 th April went well with lizard, flowers and butterflies plus signs of squirrels. Thanks to Elizabeth Bamford and forester. BSBI Spring Conference , May 9/10/11. Several members attended and found the conference both interesting and stimulating. AGM + Kevin Rideout 13 th May – excellent talk from Kevin once again.
5	Elizabeth Martin Fisher Gill Young	FA thanked Gill & Elizabeth for their offers to help with running of BWG. There is plenty to do!
6	Forthcoming Events	Border Events – Our events now included on their site. FA requested photos to highlight forthcoming events. M Hutcheson to supply trees, Gill to supply Holy Island. Town Trees. Walks by M Hutcheson. Alchemia area 24 th May and Castle Terr. 10 th June. Bioblitz. Bat survey 12 th June, LC to let everyone know where to meet. Plants 13 th June, Snook, with Clare O’Riley, not necessary to book.. Goody Patchy Walk 14 th June. Bumblebee Walks 17 th and 20 th June
7	Forthcoming Surveys	Corrections to list needed. FA to deal with it. Butterflies – Ralf Ohlemuller, studying phenology, plant/larva dynamics + climate change, has contacted FA with view to visit Cocklawburn transect, maybe T the M next year. Reptiles/amphibians 19 th May and/or Banded snails 29 th May.

		<p>Bat detector teach-in evening (26th May) + Bat surveys (Riverdene) 28th May, 11th & 18th June.</p> <p>Whin Sill grassland. Janet Simkin has offered help. Sites - West Kyloe, Swinhoe Crag, plus two non-whin sites Oxford Pits & Goswick. M Hutcheson – Spittal cliffs are a good site; he has seen unusual Early Purple orchids there.</p>
8	Future Events	<p>Winter programme – need Jan and March speakers: JR to confirm with Liza Kirlake. Discussion on speakers and their fees.</p>
9	Stevenson Bridge lighting scheme.	<p>Meeting with organisers Fri. 22nd May. FA, LC, ET to attend. FA has received a long e-mail from DO Architecture. LC - there are bats in vicinity of rail bridge, but it is not appropriate to survey until end of May. Lighting cannot be installed if a breeding colony is there. BWG delegates will also mention problems of climate change and light pollution.</p> <p>LC - The only reasonable place to install power cables is under river bed, and disturbance could jeopardise stability of viaduct.</p> <p>M Hutcheson - Largest colony of House Martin in N Northumberland is on bridge. M Hutcheson to give LC details of bird numbers.</p> <p>Have organisers consulted bodies such as Natural England?</p>
10	Purchases	<p>BWG now in possession of new bat detector, tree tapes, GPS. Batscan detector and software were cheaper from a different supplier and because software copyright lapsed, so surplus £84.29 to be used towards more bat detecting equipment. FA to explore costs.</p>
11	Any other business	<p>This month's squirrel report. No reds sighted but bat hairs found in squirrel tubes. Conifer woodland good place to put bat boxes, so M Hardie to ask Elizabeth Bamford to approach forest manager re. installing some.</p>
12	Date/venue of next Cttee Meetings	<p>17th June, then 15th July (Castle).</p>