

## MINUTES

## BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00 pm, Castle Hotel.

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

**Apologies:**

Item	Subject	Information and decisions to make
1	<b>Minutes of last meeting (July)</b>	N.B. No meeting in August as little to discuss – draft agenda circulated for information. Minutes of July meeting accepted.
2	<b>Matters arising not shown below</b>	None.
3	<b>Royal Border Bridge</b>	On Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> August JI discovered ecologists ( <a href="http://www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk">www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk</a> ) doing another bat survey under the RBB, commissioned by Amco who are "going to reinforce the pillars of the bridge". They did not know of Ruth's/BWG survey. Tim Kirton did not know of AMCO proposals. Letter sent to Whitcher Wildlife cc.Tim Kirton on 21 <sup>st</sup> .Aug. has received no reply. M Hardie proposed FA contact AMCO – to be persued. JI passed round info. leaflet on proposals for lighting RBB. Wildlife considerations appear to be being taken seriously.
4	<b>Swifts in Tweedmouth</b>	Letter to Network Rail and Housing Association still not drafted – but is in pipeline.
5	<b>Governors Garden</b>	Developer has applied for alteration of planning consent in order to knock down buildings, although not apparently to rebuild yet – comments to be in by 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept. LC has drafted letter which was read to committee & which objected on grounds of disturbance to bats. Letter to be delivered to Wallace Green by hand before deadline.
6	<b>Cocklawburn stiles and litter</b>	Reply from Natural England in appreciation of BWG's photographs, and of the mosses survey. They suggest BWG contact Tom Cadwallander re. upkeep of the site.
7	<b>Recent and forthcoming events and surveys</b>	<p><b>Butterflies.</b> Only 2 more weeks to go. M Hutcheson suggested surveying at 09.00 before cold breeze comes off sea. M Hardie suggested surveys at 09.00 and at 11.00 for comparison. Arrangements for 2010 to be decided later.</p> <p><b>Geology.</b> Trip to Siccar Point with Ian Kille (for AONB) excellent. He is leading an outing for BWG on 11<sup>th</sup> October at Cocklawburn.</p> <p><b>Bats.</b> Last batty meeting of year due 17<sup>th</sup> September at Fields House. Another good year of meetings – thank you, Leslie and "bat group". Need to resolve identification of recorded sounds shortly.</p> <p><b>Cocklawburn photography</b> GY + FA to undertake Fri. 18<sup>th</sup>.Sept.</p> <p><b>Small Mammals Survey.</b> Excellent catch in Tommy the Miller's (bank voles plus others). Plans for further survey there and at Cocklawburn week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. JR and</p>

		<p>others to set and monitor live traps.</p> <p><b>Whin and other grasslands.</b> Have surveyed Oxford Pits (not outstanding) and Ewe Hill, Kyoeloe (excellent). Further work required in spring here, and other areas to investigate.</p> <p><b>Moths.</b> A trapping evening organised by Barry Prater and NTS, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm, St Abbs Reserve car park. If want to go phone 0844 493 2256. All BWG membership on line have been e-mailed.</p> <p><b>Seashore Safari on Holy Island</b> with Jenny Prince. 19<sup>th</sup> September, 09.30. Park at Chare End. M Hardie has put out posters.</p> <p><b>Beachwatch, 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>, Little Beach and Pier Beach. Meet at L.B. car park 10.00. JR to organise.</p> <p><b>Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) survey of lichens</b> relating to air pollution. FA has attended "teach in" in Newcastle, has packs, instructions, etc., which she displayed. Oak ash &amp; sycamore to be surveyed. Suggested sites were Walls, Warkworth Terrace, Ord Drive – other suggestions discussed. FA to organise for Oct and November.</p> <p><b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 a.m., migrants walk</b> JI and M Hutcheson to lead, need posters with map showing location of Little Beach.</p> <p><b>Future Events:</b> 11<sup>th</sup> Nov., Aisling Lannin; Jan., Liza Cole; Feb., Phil Mclean; also in Feb Estuary bird count, date (and fall-back) to be arranged, time 2.5 hrs before high tide; March Graham Bell (Siberian Dream – Ross's Gulls). Discussion on further suggestions for spring and summer events and surveys.</p>
8	<b>Casual records</b>	These have been more numerous than ever this year (excellent!), and more easily processed thanks to JR and M Hutcheson's splendid hard work. Checks made to ensure wildlife records were not being duplicated – present system seems fine.
9	<b>NTS/EMS/NE staff changes.</b>	Kevin Rideout has left St Abbs. Sent BWG e-mail appreciating our work and wishing future success. No replacement yet. Aisling Lannin is going from European Marine Site to Natural England. Her replacement at EMS will start soon. Records of the Scottish Borders Biological Record Centre are moving to Lothian Wildlife Information Centre.
	<b>Opportunities for displays, etc.</b>	Have had two recently which FA turned down as being outside our remit. We need to continue presence in appropriate areas.
10	<b>Any other business</b>	<p>JR delivered report from squirrel group which continues excellent work. No signs of greys at Longridge Towers, but some squirrel activity near Chain Bridge. Monitoring group is being formed in Wooler.</p> <p>M Hutcheson noted NWT handing out squirrel literature at recent Berwick Food Festival.</p>
11	<b>Date/venue of next Cttee Meetings</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> October, then 18 <sup>th</sup> November, 7.00pm at Castle.