

BSBI Scottish Officer Steering Group

Eighth Meeting

2nd October 2007, 11.45 – 16.00

Board Room, RBGE

MINUTES

1. Present:

BSBI

Jim McIntosh
Richard Pankhurst (Chair)

SNH

Chris Sydes
Robin Payne
Ro Scott (minutes)
Claire Seymour

2. Apologies: Kevin Walker, David Pearman, Michael Braithwaite (all BSBI)

Richard explained Kevin's position as the newly-appointed Director of R&D.
Robin introduced himself as the new SNH botany/invasive species adviser.
Jim offered to ensure that Robin receives the BSBI Newsletter and journal despite not being a member.

3. Minutes of previous meeting - approved.

APs from 11 April 2006:

AP5: Robin to pick up on this (SCM failure criteria).

APs from 10 October 2006:

AP1: Discharged

AP2: On agenda

AP3: Jane Jones (Jim's admin. assistant) has arranged to do this. On agenda.

AP4: + AP1 of 18 April 2007: data not yet on NBN Gateway. SNHi to be launched at Scottish Parliament at end of October.

APs from 18 April 2007:

AP2: Discharged

AP3: WIMBY – Claire demonstrated it to the meeting. – Discharged.

AP4: on agenda

AP5 discharged

AP6 on agenda

AP7: on agenda

4. Draft Scottish Officer Annual Report

All agreed that the draft report was excellent. Jim reported that the data-sharing arrangement with NESBReC had been revived since Glenn Roberts' appointment as Manager. It is currently with David Pearman for signing and could then be added to the annual report. Jim reported that the lack of progress with Rare Plant Registers (RPRs) was because the records needed to be computerised first. The RPR for VC 110 (W. Isles) will soon be on the BSBI website.

5. Second Term of Scottish Officer Project

Any new grant application will need to focus on the outcomes desired by SNH. The SNH contribution to the Development Officer post needs to continue. RBGE will continue to provide office facilities at £4K per yr. Jim and Robin to discuss these issues as the application develops. There is a problem with BSBI taking on contracts, in that this may threaten their charitable status. The Grant application should relate to the new SNH corporate strategy (once launched). All need to be aware of the relationship between the data capture grant and the Scottish Officer grant – the data capture one has an exit strategy in the event that Jim's post is discontinued. (The BSBI Plant Unit would continue to project manage.)

6. Other issues (numbers refer to Paper 4)

1.1 Now resolved.

1.2 OK

1.3 Jim to go ahead with the Appendix 1 list as a priority.

2. Associated record project: not begun as not all SCM reports received, notably the aquatic reports dealt with by SNH's Freshwater Group.

AP1: Robin to ask Iain Sime & Brian Eardley re aquatic species SCM reports. Suspicion that some may be on paper only. Could SNH get these scanned/digitised?

3. OK

4. Problems with site centroids – in a sample of 60,000 records only 2,420 of the 9,000 centroid records are beyond redemption. Not significant in context of total dataset.

5. Records from SNH surveys – Claire & Jim are meeting Colin McLeod on 4th December. Robin to attend also. Species Repository data is to go on the NBN from where VCRs can access and download the data. VCRs could validate datasets if necessary.

AP2: Ro to send paper lists of SNH reports to Jim.

6. SCM – need for SCM volunteers' workshop agreed.

AP3: Robin to book Battleby room quickly (for about 15 people).

7. AOB

Robin reported on yesterday's meeting between SNH and Mary Gibby about the Scottish Rare Plants Project. Both of these grant applications will be going before the April 2008 panel . Need to make sure they are perceived as complementary rather than competing. Chris mentioned the plans by RBGE to introduce a certificate in Scottish Field botany. This would also complement BSBIs work.

Jim requested a GIS map of all designated areas within each VC.

AP4: RS to approach SNH's GIG re obtaining an estimate of workload and delivery time to produce an A3 map of each VC on an OS backdrop showing SNH Area boundaries, SSSIs & NNRs & SWT, NTS, RSPB, etc reserves, with discrete site name labels for these themes.

8. DONM

Tuesday 3rd June 2008 (i.e. after next Grants panel decision)