

SBIS board meeting

14th July 2023 – Microsoft Teams online meeting hosted by SBIS

MINUTES

Present:

James Meyer, East Suffolk Council, Chair
Emma Aldous, SBIS
Hannah Alred, SBIS
Tim De-Keyzer, Suffolk County Council
Gary Quilter, West Suffolk Council
Helen Jacobs, Essex & Suffolk Water

Rupert Masefield, Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Jane Mason, SBIS
Jacqui Miller, RSPB
Richard Parmee, Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils
Martin Sanford, SBIS
Chris Strachan, Environment Agency

Apologies:

Damien Parker, Andrew Murray-Wood, John Jackson

The meeting commenced at 10:30am

Related documents:

- A SBIS Board minutes 24 June 2020
- B SBIS Budget 2022_23
- C SBIS Budget 2023_24 Draft
- D Ancient Woodland Inventory
- E Communications Strategy 2023
- F Communications Report July 2023
- G GIS Officer and Hedgerow data
- H SBIS board meeting audio

SBIS board meeting	
ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies and Introductions</p> <p>Apologies were received from Damien Parker, Andrew Murray-Wood and John Jackson</p> <p>Members introduced themselves to the group, as it has been some time since the last meeting there were many new members. As Desi Reed's successor James Meyer agreed to chair the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the last meeting (attachment A SBIS Board minutes 24 June 2020)</p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Matters arising: ALL actions complete</p>	
<p>3. SBIS update</p> <p>Martin provided an update on SBIS activities.</p> <p>SBIS has completed its move from Ipswich Museum to the Hold. All SBIS staff continue to work from home.</p> <p>As Ipswich Borough Council no longer hosts the SBIS office space they now have a new SLA with SBIS, making the same financial contribution as other councils.</p> <p>The database is continues to grow quickly and now holds over 5.8 million records. With new records coming in through iRecord and iNaturalist as well as from county recorders.</p>	

<p>In November 2021 Hannah Alred (Ancient Woodland Inventory Officer) and Emma Aldous (Communications Officer) joined SBIS.</p> <p>Jane Mason is retiring in August 2023 and recruitment for her replacement is underway.</p> <p>Search requests appeared to be lower than usual from January to June 2023, but once compared with the same period in 2022, it was found that searches had increased by 9%, to 296, and records provided had increased by 35%, to 365,922.</p> <p>Martin emphasised the benefits of collecting records of common species as well as rarities to help create a baseline and show any decline in populations faster.</p> <p>SBIS is funding a three year project to identify and record a collection of Hemiptera that was gifted to SBIS/SNS. (Note: a useful website for bug identification www.britishbugs.org.uk)</p>	
<p>4. Budget (attachments B SBIS Budget 2022_23 and C SBIS Budget 2023_24 Draft)</p> <p>The two budgets showed that SBIS used some of its reserve in 2022-23 and is expected to do so again in 2023-24.</p> <p>However as the Ancient Tree Officer is a temporary post that ends on 31 October there is expected to be a saving on salary expenditure.</p> <p>It was noted that the fees charged to consultants had not changed for several years and after some discussion it was agreed that SBIS would compare their prices to other LERCs (Local Environmental Record Centres) and consider raising fees in alignment.</p> <p>Tim reiterated the need for SBIS to balance its budget, and noted that although the reserve was healthy there should be a separate ring-fenced amount to mitigate potential redundancy costs.</p> <p>Tim also suggested that in order to balance the budget SLA contributions could be reviewed and increased in future years.</p> <p>There was discussion about applying for grant funding, with Rupert mentioning the Species Survival Fund. Martin stated that SBIS did not have enough staff resources to write bids for grant funding.</p>	MS
<p>5. Ancient Woodland Inventory update (attachment D Ancient Woodland Inventory)</p> <p>Hannah gave a presentation on her work on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, which is about to enter its final phase.</p> <p>There was some discussion around designating sites. Previously all Ancient Woodland was automatically designated as County Wildlife Sites (CWS), however, with the updated inventory containing many smaller sites (under 2ha) it may not be appropriate for these to be designated as CWS.</p>	
<p>6. Communications Strategy (attachments E SBIS Communications Strategy, F Communications Report Jan-Jun 2023)</p> <p>Emma gave a brief overview of her work to date and the SBIS communications strategy and presented the six monthly Communications report. The most recent SBIS newsletter can be found here: PDF version, Online version.</p>	

<p>7. LIDAR derived Hedgerow data (attachment G GIS Officer and Hedgerow data)</p> <p>Jane gave a presentation covering the work of a GIS officer and in particular the LIDAR derived Hedgerow data, with examples.</p>	
<p>8. CWS re-survey and rewrites</p> <p>County Wildlife Sites - Martin is very pleased with the work that Graham at SWT is doing for the re-writes and survey work. Re-writing citations will be ongoing cycle of work.</p> <p>There have been no new Roadside Nature Reserves designated in the last two years.</p>	
<p>9. Ecological Networking, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), District Level Licensing (DLL)</p> <p>Tim gave a summary of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is run in partnership with Norfolk County Council and has superseded previous Ecological Networking schemes.</p> <p>Discussion on BNG and DLL was deferred to the next meeting</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p> <p>Rupert has some papers from SWT to share on BNG. He covered several other topics but as time ran out they will be either discussed with relevant groups outside SBIS board meetings or added to the next meeting agenda.</p>	
<p>11. Next meeting</p> <p><i>November 2023, to be arranged via Doodle Poll</i></p>	
<p>With no further business the meeting was closed at 1:10pm</p> <p>attachment H SBIS board meeting audio runs from 12:15pm to 1:10pm</p>	