

**East of England Biodiversity Forum Meeting Minutes 21st July 2011
Shillington, Bedfordshire**

<p>Present</p> <p>Steve Scott (chair) Forestry Commission Gen Broad ~ Suffolk LBAP Rebecca Banks ~ Essex LBAP Mark Iley ~ Essex LBAP Scott Perkin ~ Norfolk LBAP Catherine Wyatt ~ Herts LBAP Catherine Weightman ~ Natural England Heather Webb ~ Beds & Luton LBAP Michelle Russell – Natural England Will Akast ~ Environment Agency Simon Odell ~</p> <p>Guests</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Stuart Warrington – National Trust Ellie Henderson Martin Horlock Mike Drew</p>
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Agenda Item		Action
1 Matters arising	<p>Update on LBAP status across the region: Bedfordshire – Funded until 9th March, full time at Wildlife Trust. Cambridgeshire – Some reserve funding available to be used for match funding projects. Essex – No change. 2 posts until 2013. Hertfordshire – Funding until September. Norfolk – Full time at County Council for a further 1 ½ years. Suffolk – 3 days / week.</p>	
2 points arising from updates	<p>Essex Wildlife Trust and Essex Biodiversity Project now form the Secretariat for EEBF. £13,953 have been ring fenced for this. £750 – admin & £21 - hall hire spent to date. EEBP web host needs updating. MI / RB now main point of contact. Any updates for the website to be forwarded to MI.</p>	<p>MI All</p>
3 Natural Environment White Paper – CW	<p>Aspiration for 50 LNP's, with 2 rounds of funding. There is no set prescription. Overlapping bids are likely to be rejected and invited to attend the 2nd funding round.</p>	

	<p>Bedfordshire – Potentially form a partnership of partnerships with GI, BAP, LoWs and LEP. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – Have a strong GI group, Wildlife Trust and BAP. Essex & Kent potential merger was rejected. Essex is applying separately to establish an LNP. MI is applying. Hertfordshire – Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum is being formed. Norfolk & Suffolk – Norfolk 7 Suffolk Partnership is being submitted by Norfolk CC on behalf of both LBAP's which will both continue to operate.</p> <p>Issue was raised as to the diluting of Biodiversity with the forming of LNP's.</p> <p>Potential for a Regional LNP bid discussed. To include Landscape East, GeoEast LBAPs. To be an overarching forum for sharing ideas and providing a strategic overview, with a caveat to ensure any bid would not negate smaller county or other LNP bids. Decision taken to vote: Option 1 – To put forward an expression of interest – 4 votes Option 2- Not to put forward an expression of interest – 6 votes Agreed not to take forward and all recognised the importance of EEBF. NIA - NE have provided guidance. First phase is quick initial expression. Second phase require a lot more work with a work shop in February 2012 and NIA's establishing and project work commencing from April 2012. Potential NIA's include; Fens Brecks Southsandlings with Ipswich, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and AONB Essex – Blackwater estuary & tributaries South Hertfordshire Woodland Arc Bedfordshire – No applications. (Possibly Greensand ridge) Thames Estuary Partnership</p> <p>Broads are not applying for NIA funding.</p>	
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	IBDA's have been cancelled. General lack of interest.	
4 Water Framework Directive - WA	<p>Item postponed. Agreed to update group at next meeting.</p> <p>Highlighted significant amounts of funding can now only be accessed through delivery of this. £9 million available nationally. Guidance is still in development.</p> <p>Priorities for project funding are: WFD Flood & coastal risk management Projects need to demonstrate multi-functional benefit. WA to send GB wording on WFD for publicity purposes. Defra Non-native species Secretariat websites provides some details of WFD.</p>	<p>WA</p> <p>WA</p>
5 Partnership funding for EEBF - SS	There is 12K of funding held by EEBF for biodiversity work. 1K / year is earmarked as running costs for the website. A democratic process for spending was agreed by all. Agreed process is - to submit a short brief to the forum for discussion. If a decision is required earlier than the next forum meeting this can be agreed electronically. Any brief should be forwarded to MI in the first instance.	All
6 AOB	<p>Norfolk has put forward an Intereg funding application for invasive species work.</p> <p>Landscape East has a new website.</p> <p>ESA 2012 – Should be the same amount of funding available next year (Full?).</p> <p>LRCs – NE currently in the process of negotiating with LRC's for in year agreements, to be completed by September.</p>	
Dates of meetings for 2011	25 November with a site visit to Hatfield Forest	MI/RB
	The meeting closed at 13.00 p.m. and was followed by a site visit to Pegsdon Hills.	