



**East of England Biodiversity Forum Meeting Minutes Tuesday 8 October 2013  
Heartwood Forest Sandridge Hertfordshire**

<p><b>Present</b></p> <p><b>Mark Iley</b> ~ Essex LBAP  <b>Catherine Weightman</b> ~ Natural England  <b>Catherine Wyatt</b> ~ Herts LBAP  <b>Simon Odell</b> ~ Greenarc  <b>Richard Barnes</b> ~ Woodland Trust  <b>Liz Anderson</b> ~ Central Bedfordshire Council/Alge rep  <b>Michelle Russell</b> ~ Natural England  <b>David Hooton</b> ~ Deer Initiative  <b>Dominic Coath</b> ~ Environment Agency  <b>Deb Howard</b> ~ Essex Wildlife Trust (minute taker)</p>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p><b>Steve Scott (chair)</b>~Forestry Commission  <b>Rebecca Banks</b> ~ Essex LBAP  <b>Gen Broad</b> ~ Suffolk LBAP  <b>Henry Bexley</b> ~ National Trust  <b>Stuart Warrington</b> ~ National Trust  <b>Philip Pearson</b> ~ RSPB  <b>John Sharpe</b> ~ RSPB  <b>Deborah Marchant</b> ~ Cambridgeshire County Council  <b>Jennifer Faulkner</b> ~ National Trust  <b>Mike Drew</b> ~ Anglian Water  <b>Haidee Bishop</b> ~ Norfolk LBAP  <b>Stuart Banks</b> ~ National Trust  <b>Anne Casey</b> ~ Norfolk LBAP  <b>Rachael Donovan</b> – Hertfordshire County Council</p>
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	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Minutes from the last meeting</b>            Minutes of the meeting from 3 July 2013 were agreed</p> <p><b>Update from secretariat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark will speak to Phil Ling regarding website costings</li> <li>• £11911.50 is held in the account. 2 requests were made for contributions towards events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Cambridgeshire regional LOWs practitioner’s event on 23 October for catering.</li> <li>○ Fens for the future partnership event on 4 November, cost of refreshments and Tony Juniper the guest speaker.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>MI</b>
<p><b>Synergies Project</b>            Dominic said that no clear guidance had been received DEFRA to give a full update</p> <p><b>WFD ‘Challenges and Choices’ consultation</b>            Dominic gave a presentation on the Aims and objectives set out by the Environment Agency (EA) by 2027. (presentation attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment partnerships are being consulted for improvements</li> <li>• Views can be put forward from the link on the presentation.</li> <li>• EA are keen for partners to work together</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Chalara trials update</b>            In August 2012 Chalara was discovered on Pound Farm in Suffolk in October 2012 it was confirmed. 1/3 of Ash trees on site were suffering with it. A 3 year trial is taking place on</p>	

<p>the site with 230-250 trial plots. There has been a decrease in canopies and the fungi are still fruiting in the mild weather. Michael Gray from the Woodland Trust is the Chalara expert for any questions. The trials continue.</p> <p><b>Healthy Places</b> <a href="http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/campaigning/our-views-and-policy/woods-for-people/Documents/Woodland-trust-report-healthy-trees-healthy-places-2013.pdf">http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/campaigning/our-views-and-policy/woods-for-people/Documents/Woodland-trust-report-healthy-trees-healthy-places-2013.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Local Authority Planting Map (attached to the agenda)</b></p> <p>There are no woodland creation grants available for 2 years. Woodland creation advisers are available for advice.</p> <p><b>Trees and water</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/planting-woodland/Documents/WT-evidence-report-benefits-of-trees-in-urban-water-management.pdf">http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/planting-woodland/Documents/WT-evidence-report-benefits-of-trees-in-urban-water-management.pdf</a></p>	
<p><b>Biodiversity British Standard</b></p> <p>(see attached document)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guidance is not statutory but useful.</li> <li>• £100 per copy or membership required</li> <li>• Aimed at planning</li> <li>• Liz Anderson is encouraging Central Bedfordshire Council to use the guidance.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Weightman showed the forum a coloured map of LNP engagement throughout the country (see attached)</li> <li>• Mark informed the forum that Rebecca Banks will be leaving the Essex Biodiversity Project on Friday 18 October to work for Norfolk Wildlife Trust</li> <li>• Essex County Council’s mineral plan will be undergoing an ‘examination in public’ in the next couple of weeks. There will be some Biodiversity projects to come out of it.</li> <li>• David Hooton from the Deer Initiative reported that progress has been made in the last 5 years. RSPB will commence deer culling at Minsmere on 1 November; David has been working with them for the past 10 years. Although things are slowly improving culling must continue for the long term.</li> <li>• Natural England have further restructuring to come into effect in April 2014, announcements will be made at Christmas. Natural England will be split into local teams.</li> <li>• Natural England are to have all NCA’s documents completed by April 2014, first drafts will be out by Christmas for consultation.</li> <li>• Simon Odell is working for Greenarc a worthwhile group for Hertfordshire to Thames Gateway with resources and a steering group. He will be promoting the Greenarc objectives.</li> <li>• There is a Biodiversity offsetting consultation; there will be significant changes if Biodiversity offsetting is made compulsory. The closing date for consultation is 7 November. <a href="https://consult.defra.gov.uk/biodiversity/biodiversity_offsetting">https://consult.defra.gov.uk/biodiversity/biodiversity_offsetting</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Dates and venues for 2014 meetings</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 25 March 2014 – Nene Valley tbc</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 8 July 2014 – Working Woodlands Centre next to Maulden Woods SSSI</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 7 October 2014 – saltmarsh restoration project at Falkenham</b></p>	
<p>The meeting closed at 13.15 p.m. followed by lunch, and a guided walk around Heartwood Forest led by volunteers</p>	

