

Birmingham and Black Country Local Sites Partnership (LSP) Meeting Notes

9th April 2019 at Walsall Arboretum Visitor Centre

Present

Kevin Clements (Walsall Council)
 Nicola Farrin (Birmingham City Council)
 Robin Whitehouse (Dudley Council)
 Zoe Wilson (Sandwell Council)
 Sam Pritchard (Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust)
 Sara Carvalho (Eco-Record)
 Andy Slater (Eco-Record)

1. Introductions & apologies	Actions
Apologies recorded from: Samantha Holder (Walsall Council)	
2. Minutes of last LSP meeting held on 16th January 2019 and matters arising	
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3. Partner updates including survey work / designations	
Birmingham City Council	
Peddimore employment site Potential Sites of Importance: Local site assessments have been undertaken for Peddimore Brook and a network of hedgerows as part of a planning application for the area. These merit designation as SLINCs, but the worth of some of the hedgerows is questionable. Opportunities to use the assessments to mitigate loss of features and to reassess the area in the future for SLINCs status. Wildlife Trust to comment on the site assessments.	SP
Dudley Council	
The Triangle, north of Lodge Lane, Summerhill, Kingswinford and Land south of Holbeache Lane, Wall Heath: Further assessments to be undertaken at both sites and represented to future LSP meeting.	RW
Ketley Quarry, Dudley Road, Kingswinford: Proposed change in designation to SINC to be presented to Cabinet.	RW
Sandwell Council	
Weddell Wynd: SINC designation recommended for approval to Cabinet.	ZW
Peakhouse Farm: proposed designation as SINC. Part of connected farmland between Sandwell Valley and wider countryside. Historic landscape with diverse hedgerows – assess against the Hedgerow regulations and include in detail for the site. LSP Endorsement SINC designation approved.	ZW

<p>Wilderness Wood and Wilderness Lane: proposal to extend SINC status to reflect habitat connectivity and diversity. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> extension to SINC designation approved.</p>	ZW
<p>Massey's Bank: proposed new SLINC featuring a mosaic of habitats (including semi-natural grassland and plantation woodland) and position in ecological network. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> SLINC designation approved.</p>	ZW
<p>Tanhouse Avenue: proposed SLINC designation due to position within Sandwell Valley, buffer to adjoining SINC and LNR, and species and structural diversities. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> SLINC designation approved.</p>	ZW
<p>Wolverhampton City Council</p>	
<p>Sedgley Park: proposals to amend (reduce) SINC boundary and designate new SLINC. Site is ancient farmland and forms a corridor between Sedgley Beacon and Spring Vale. A mix of arable land, hedgerows and woodland, plus breeding Skylark, which has been in Higher Level Stewardship since 2012. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> – retain the original SINC boundary for geological importance. Need to reference site being part of Birmingham and Black Country Core Area and any historic designations that reflect the historic value and character policies.</p>	MR
<p>Guidance needed on how to deal with arable land – Northants and Staffordshire have been working on this.</p>	SC
<p>Land at Penn Road: proposed new SLINC for parts of the site (excluding residential property and garden) on account of species diversity and potential bat roosts. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> – SLINC designation approved.</p>	MR
<p>Grassy Lane: proposed deletion of SLINC status due to over-grazing and rubbish accumulation. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> – deletion of SLINC status approved.</p>	MR
<p>Walsall Council</p>	
<p>Kings Hayes Fields: proposed SINC extension to include an area of marshy grassland. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> –SINC extension approved.</p>	SH
<p>Jockey Fields: proposed upgrade from SLINC to SINC to reflect species diversity, site connectivity and buffer to adjacent SSSI. <u>LSP Endorsement</u> –SINC upgrade approved.</p>	SH
<p>Land at Yorks Bridge: proposed SLINC on account of habitat and species diversities, excellent connectivity and buffer for several other designated sites. However, issue regarding how to deal with arable landscapes.</p>	
<p><u>LSP Endorsement</u> – defer to future meeting to consider arable issues.</p>	SH

4. Black Country Core Strategy	
Draft due to be published during 2010. Green Belt study plus ecological and historic studies due to be undertaken across the Black Country.	
5. Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark	
Management Team meeting held in the morning. The final report in response to UNESCO's recommendations is to be circulated to the UK Geoparks Group for comment before being revised and submitted to the UK UNESCO National Commission for forwarding to UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme in Paris. UNESCO are due to make a final decision on the Black Country's application in September 2019 and an announcement in spring 2020.	
6. Local Nature Partnership	
Nothing to report.	
7. Nature Improvement Area Partnership	
Nothing to report.	
8. Revised Site Selection Guidance	
Nothing to report.	
9. Any other business	
Dudley: a draft of natural green space to be completed during the next two weeks.	
10. Date of next meeting	
10.00am on Tuesday 11th June at Walsall Arboretum Visitor Centre	