

BRIGHTON AND HOVE WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP

Notes from meeting on 23 April 2001, Hove Town Hall.

Present: Susan Wilson – Sussex Wildlife Trust, chair for 2001/02
Matthew Thomas – B&H Unit Authority, ecologist
Plus 8 other representatives from Sussex countryside organizations.

1. **South Downs National Park** – Landscape Design Associates have been appointed as consultants to define NP boundary for submission to the Sec. of State. This will not simply follow the AONB boundary and allows opportunities to include more B&H land within the NP. Potential for a 'buffer strip' around the best area of c. 10 miles.
 - Public consultation likely to be in August/September 2001 with Public Inquiry in 2002 to determine acceptable boundary.
 2. **Landscape Evaluation** - Dr Ian Ravenscroft (Uni. Brighton) is looking into evaluating public value of open space. Will be invited to next WAG meeting to explain his research approach.
 3. **Foot and Mouth**: access to land. This is being very regularly reviewed. Most current information is on www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk and www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. B&H land south of A27 is all open now, meeting to be held Thursday night to review the position and allow more land to be accessible.
 4. **Council Procedures**: There were various discussions about 'Reporting Mechanisms' within the Council. Very heated debate between Dave Bangs and a B&H senior officer. Nothing really relevant to botanical sector however.
 5. **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**: B&H Wildlife Strategy (1999) suggests producing a local BAP. DETR document 04/2001 also recommends LBAPs are developed to inform 'Local Community Action plans'.
 - I expressed strong support for producing a LBAP and reported on my experience in co-writing the Sussex Woodland BAP (2000) and Parkland BAP. There are useful opportunities for botanists to engage in drafting this LBAP.
- * **ACTION**: please let me know how you will like me to progress this side.
- Matthew Thomas will circulate 1st Draft of LBAP by extracting sections from the National BAPs relevant to B&H.

Next Meetings: 10 July – evening at the Booth Museum
23 October – 10.00 am, Hove Town Hall

John Patmore
Brighton