

**THE BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
PUBLIC AND POLICY COMMITTEE**  
14.00 – 17.00, Wednesday 8 October 2008  
Parc Hotel, Cardiff

## 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chair welcomed members to the meeting. Present were: Dan Osborn (Chair), Lesley Batty, Colin Hindmarch, Kathryn Monk, Andrew Pullin, , Jennifer Shay, Tim Rotheray, Steve Sait, Kate Trumper. Guests of the Committee were: Bridget Emmett (CEH), Hefin Jones (Chair, BES Meetings Committee), Peter Kille (University of Cardiff), Dave Raffaelli (Chair, Ecosystem Services Policy Advisory Group), and Havard Prosser (Chief Environment Advisor, Welsh Assembly Government). In attendance were: Becky Allen (Press Officer), Hazel Norman (Executive Director), Ceri Margerison (Policy Officer).

Apologies were received from: Peter Carey, Carly Stevens.

## 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 May 2008

The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the previous meeting.

## 3. Preparation for meeting with Jane Davidson, Minister for the Environment

In a change to the agenda, this item was discussed first to allow guests to contribute.

The Committee were due to meet with the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Ms Jane Davidson AM, for dinner to follow the meeting. Dr Prosser gave members some background information to the Minister's responsibilities. These were governed in part by an overarching environment strategy, developed and published by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) in 2006. Thematic divisions in the strategy covered climate change, landscape and sea-scape, biodiversity and resource management. The Minister's primary focus was on climate change.

The Minister's other responsibilities were for biodiversity, ecosystem services delivery, energy, waste, water and soils policy. The Minister was very interested in the ecosystem services approach and had recently held a meeting with the new director of LWEC at which the ecosystem approach had been covered.

The Minister was keen to develop links to learned societies and to academic institutions both inside and outside Wales. The meeting with PPC had been triggered by the BES's presence at the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Science Meets the Assembly' event in June 2008, at which the Minister had mentioned her interest in receiving a range of academic input into policy formulation.

Members thanked Dr Prosser for this summary. It was encouraging to see that the WAG aimed to actively engage NGOs in policy-making, an attitude which was similar to that in the European Commission. Experience suggested that it was harder to penetrate the UK Government as an NGO so the model of engagement adopted by the WAG could provide a very useful example of 'best practice'.

*How can the BES help the Welsh Assembly Government?*

The BES should consider making links to other societies representing other disciplines key to the success of the ecosystem approach, hydrologists for example. (**Action: CM**).

The BES must make it clear to government that ecology is important, giving a few simple reasons and examples.

Dr Prosser encouraged PPC to develop a 'menu' of benefits which the Society could offer to the WAG. Broadly, these were:

- Policy Advisory Groups on Marine, Climate Change and Ecosystem Services which could offer a resource and key contacts for the WAG.
- The resources of a dedicated Policy Officer and Policy and External Affairs Manager.
- Results of workshops with Defra and expertise in organising these events, bringing communities together.
- Provision of links between generic skills areas and adaptive management.
- Expertise around the Committee itself: Professor Pullin's work at the Centre for Evidence Based Conservation for example.
- Network formation: the BES can provide links to those who can help with the answers to the WAG's environmental questions.

Dr Prosser felt that any BES regional policy group would have to add value. A critical mass of expertise would be needed to tackle a particular issue. The WAG was keen not to use just Welsh expertise but UK and international experience to tackle problems. The Policy Officer would ensure that the BES's current Policy Advisory Groups were open to inquiries from Wales (**Action: CM**).

PPC thanked Dr Prosser for attending and looked forward to welcoming him that evening for dinner with the Minister.

#### 4. AN ETHICAL POLICY FOR THE BES

Professor Sam Berry had suggested to the Chair that PPC might like to consider proposing a speaker for the BES annual meeting who could address ecological issues from an ethical perspective. Members thought that this would be a good idea but that a BES lecture need not come from a religious point of view. The speaker could address ecological issues through a philosophical angle or could tackle questions of research ethics in relation to ecology.

If PPC wished to propose a speaker, this suggestion would need to go before the December meeting of BES Council. If PPC wished to propose a session, in which a range of ethical issues could be covered, this would have to go before the next meeting of the Meetings Committee in November. It would be useful for members to see the topics of other ethically focused sessions held at previous annual meetings. These would be circulated (**Action: CM**).

As discussed at the May meeting of PPC, there were many levels on which 'ethics in ecology' could be tackled: in relation to research ethics, in relation to individuals own behaviour and in relation to the Society's own business practices. Members felt that it would be helpful for the Chair and Policy Officer to work on a brief which explored some of these issues and which could be circulated to Lesley Batty and possible others from PPC for comment. This could be accompanied by a survey of BES members to ascertain whether they held ethical concerns in relation to their own research. The results of this initial scoping work would be presented to PPC at their next meeting (**Action: CM, DO, LB and others**).

#### 5. COMMITTEE MATTERS

- *2009 Business Plan and Budget*

In a change from the 2008 budget, staff costs for the policy team were now included in the Committee's operating expenditure. This provided a more accurate representation of the cost of policy work to the Society.

### *Key points:*

- Increased costs for PPC meetings in 2009 were due to a planned meeting in Scotland, mirroring the 2008 meeting in Wales.
- The Policy and External Affairs Manager Project Development Fund was to allow the PEAM to bring to PPC their own ideas for innovative new projects and activities.
- Policy Training Workshops: the NERC and ERFF were keen to develop this activity with the Society. Cambridge University was also interested and Ceri would make sure to keep Kate Trumper informed about developments **(Action: CM)**.

The complementary side to training for the ecologists was training for policy-makers. Possible liaison with the National School of Government over training provision could be considered.

- Shadowing Scheme: £6,500 had been reduced to £4,500 based on 2008 costs.
  - Ecological Issues: these had been difficult to produce and the Committee agreed that it might be sensible to develop a series of information sheets on topical issues instead. A business case would be drafted which could go to Council in December. The Chair felt that these could satisfy part of the Research Councils' needs for public engagement exercises under LWEC. The Chair and Ceri Margerison would meet with Becky Allen and Kate Trumper in Cambridge to discuss. **(Action: CM, DO, BA, KT)**.
  - Support for the IEEM's 'In Practice': a decision had been made some years ago to reduce the funding for 'In Practice' but the 2009 figure remained the same as in 2008. It was decided that £1500 would be made available to the IEEM in 2009 and that the IEEM would be consulted about the results of its members' survey: how influential was the BES journals section in 'In Practice'? **(Action: CM)**.
  - The Public Engagement Grant would be reduced to £3,000 in 2009 and over the coming year PPC would consider how to re-frame the grant to attract a higher number of, high quality, proposals.
  - Natural Capital Initiative: the BES would support the 2009 symposium through a £10,000 contribution from the Meetings Committee. If the BES agreed to fund a three-year initiative, these future costs would be borne by PPC.
  - £250 would be added to the budget under 'Operating Costs' to cover Professor Pullin's attendance at BRAG meetings, as the BES representative **(Action: CM)**.
- PPC five-year plan

The Committee was happy with the five-year plan. Council understood that proposals would become vaguer from 2010 onwards. PPC could revisit the plan at future meetings to check that it still encapsulated their priorities, and to firm up proposals for future years.

Members felt that more information was needed about the Natural Capital Initiative before the BES could commit to funding this over three years. An information paper from the Initiative steering group, outlining firmer plans for the three year duration of the project, would be prepared for Council in December **(Action: CM)**.

Becky Allen had attended a meeting with the communications lead from the Initiative, and others, at the Science Media Centre on 6 October, suggesting a number of measures to make the event more 'newsworthy'. The key point from this meeting had been the need for the Natural Capital Initiative to develop firm communications goals, before a media plan could be developed.

The NERC Knowledge Exchange programme had provided the Initiative with £40,000 to develop its media engagement activities. The ESRC could also be consulted for funding for the Initiative. **(Action: CM)**.

Dr Rotheray queried whether inflation was included in the PPC budget figures for future years. This was included where possible (salary costs etc) but the nature of the current financial markets meant that the level of future inflation was very uncertain. This issue would be revisited at a future meeting.

- *PPC Management Accounts and Chair's commentary*

58% of the PPC budget for 2008 had been spent, three quarters of the way through the year, which was encouraging. Any overspend on the budget was in relation to fees and affiliations. The budget for 2009 would more accurately account for these costs.

- *Proposed prize for the application of ecological science (council minutes 12<sup>th</sup> June)*

Ceri would circulate the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> June BES Council meeting for consideration and comment in relation to this particular proposal (**Action: CM**).

- *BES Policy and Public Affairs Manager*

The Chair and Dr Norman had arranged a meeting with Sarah Parkin, Director of Forum for the Future, to seek advice on the possibility of securing an individual for this post through a secondment. This meeting was scheduled for 17 October and it was hoped that the recruitment to this post could proceed following this.

## 6. PRESS

- *2008 Press Report*

The Committee wished to pass on their thanks and congratulations to Becky on another fantastic year of press coverage for the BES. Becky had made some specific recommendations at the end of the report, many of which PPC fully supported and which it was agreed would be addressed through a meeting to be arranged between the Chair, Policy Officer, Executive Director and Becky in Cambridge (**Action: CM**).

A paper discussing the recommendations and how they would be taken forward would be prepared following this meeting and presented to the next meeting of PPC (**Action: CM**).

- *BES at the BA Festival of Science*

The BES was to seek a significant presence at the BA Festival of Science in 2009 and the Press Officer and Policy Officer had been working hard over the past few months to facilitate this. Two events were to be organised by PPC, with a further event linked to this primarily to be organised by the BES Education Committee. The first event would take the form of a panel discussion and it was hoped that this could be held in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society. The panel event would focus on the theme of 'back garden biodiversity', or the means by which the public could encourage a thriving natural environment in their own green spaces. This would be linked, through the participation of Dave Goulson, Director of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, to pollinator health, and through the RHS to 'grow your own': how could the choice of produce the public grow in their own gardens and allotments benefit biodiversity? It was hoped that there would be press and public interest in this event.

The second BES event would be a drama, jointly sponsored by the Darwin Correspondence Project and performed by the Cambridge-based theatre company, Menagerie. The drama would be performed in other locations during 2009, including at the BES annual meeting and was a new, three-person production of a previous play, 'Re:Design'.

Members were very enthusiastic about plans to stage the drama and on the advice of the Press Officer, thought that efforts

should best be targeted at generating public, rather than press interest, for this event. Developing skills and knowledge regarding how to effectively stage a large public event would be extremely valuable in relation to the BES's plans for the 2013 centenary.

The BES could suggest to the Darwin Correspondence Project that they could arrange to stage a production of *Re: Design* at the Royal Academy, in the location of Darwin's original lecture. **(Action: CM)**

- *Tansley Trail*

PPC were enthusiastic about plans for the development of a 'Tansley Trail', taking in some of the locations of Tansley's field work and showcasing how these sites had changed through time. In 2009, the Policy and Press Officers would begin the process of identifying a suitable area and approach local authorities regarding proposals for the development of a walking route. Kate Trumper informed Becky Allen that the Cambridge University Department of Architecture produced podcast tours of Cambridge, which might be useful to access when planning the content and delivery of the podcast material for the Tansley sites.

PPC would take ownership for development of the Tansley Trail and regular updates would be delivered to the Centenary Working Group.

Ceri Margerison would add the location of an additional photograph of Tansley to the number of sites already identified by Dr Norman **(Action: CM)**.

## 7. SCIENCE POLICY

- *Science Policy Report*

This item was to note although Ceri did draw members' attention to DIUS's consultation on 'Science in Society', due to close on 10 October. Due to time constraints Ceri had not prepared a response but if members wanted to feed items in for consideration, Ceri was happy to do so if these were received quickly. Alternatively, members could feed comments to the BSF, which was preparing a response.

The deadline for the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's consultation on 'Adapting the UK to Climate Change' was imminent. Ceri would circulate the draft to PPC for members to add any additional comments **(Action: CM)**.

- *Ecosystem Services- IOB Symposium*

Members had earlier in the meeting requested further information on the Natural Capital Initiative. Ceri would report this back to the steering group organising the April 2009 symposium at their next meeting on 9 October and would also send a copy of the formal information pack on the initiative to PPC when available **(Action: CM)**.

Members were pleased to note that Professor Gretchen Daily, Stanford University and Natural Capital Project, would be speaking at the Natural Capital Initiative symposium, via video-link.

- *Report from workshop with Defra on modeling the impacts of climate change on biodiversity*

The Chair informed members that this meeting had gone well and that the full and summary reports were now available to access on the BES website. The LWEC initiative was to develop a programme of activities on climate impacts and the Chair felt that the results of the BES workshop would be very helpful here with respect to impacts on biodiversity.

Members were asked to consider possible topics for future joint workshops. Ceri informed the Committee that she had taken forward discussions with Natural England regarding the possibility of a joint workshop in 2009. Kathryn Monk suggested that the BES might want to consider joint work with the Environment Agency in 2009, particularly with the Welsh Environment Research Hub and possibly with a focus on estuaries and coasts. This would be explored further and a decision made before the next PPC meeting in February (**Action: CM, KM, DO**).

- *Feedback from policy session with UK BRAG at BES annual conference*

This session at the annual meeting had gone very well, with a high turnout and constructive discussion. Thomas Roswall, ICSU, had delivered the BES lecture at the annual meeting and had changed his plans in order to attend the policy session. He had expressed his positive impression of the diversity and depth of thinking on the ecosystem services area in the UK, which he saw as progressive and advanced compared to other parts of the world. The Committee would contact Professor Roswall to ask for a written comment, which could form part of the formal report of the session (**Action: CM**).

Professor Pullin planned to attend the next meeting of UK BRAG on 9 December in Bangor. Ceri would send the BRAG office a copy of the report of the workshop in advance of this meeting, and also details of the BES's timescale for receiving proposals for sessions for the 2009 annual meeting: Professor Pullin thought it likely that BRAG would wish to deliver a session at the 2009 BES meeting (**Action: CM**).

BRAG found it difficult to engage scientists in working groups to review particular areas of policy. Through these groups BRAG aimed to identify current research needs with respect to biodiversity. Professor Pullin would express the support of the BES for this initiative at the next BRAG meeting and, with the Policy Officer, would take forward an approach to the new manager of Knowledge Exchange at the NERC regarding possible funding for these activities (**Action: CM, AP**).

## 8. PROJECTS

Three applications had been received for the Ecology into Policy Grant. An assessment form would be circulated to the Committee and a decision would be reached by correspondence (**Action: CM, all**).

Members were also asked to consider who to nominate for the Ecological Engagement Award. This would be dealt with via e-mail (**Action: CM, all**).

## 9. ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

The Chair and Policy Officer would follow this up after the PPC meeting (**Action: CM, DO**).

## 10. AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

- *Update from UKOTCF: to include feedback from IUCN summit on Réunion Island and BES presence at the UKOTCF 2009 conference on Grand Cayman*

Dr Hindmarch, representative of the BES to the UKOTCF, had been pleased with the progress made at the 2008 IUCN conference on La Réunion, which had profiled EU Overseas Territories. A message from the conference had been considered by the IUCN Conference in Barcelona (6- 10 October). It was disappointing that no parliamentary representative had attended the meeting from the UK, although a civil servant had been in attendance. This contrasted with the high-level representation from other EU member states.

The UKOTCF's bi-annual conference would next take place on Grand Cayman from 30 May – 5 June 2009. This provided an opportunity for the OT representatives to discuss common problems, the Environment Charters, and plans for the future. Dr Hindmarch suggested that the BES might like to send a representative to the conference, although there was unlikely to

be money available from the UKOTCF to support this delegate.

The UKOTCF had conducted a review of its Articles of Memorandum and governance. The BES had contributed information to the review, a report of which would be available shortly. The UKOTCF was to hold an EGM on 9 October, which Dr Hindmarch could not attend. PPC agreed with Dr Hindmarch's views on the UKOTCF review and agreed that they would be happy for him to submit this position by proxy.

The Chair suggested that a conversation between himself and the Chair of the Forum, Dr Mike Pienkowski, could be useful, to see how the BES could help with relations between the Forum, DFID and the FCO. Dr Hindmarch would arrange this **(Action: CH)**.

The Chair thanked Dr Hindmarch for his work with the UKOTCF and asked him to continue to report back on the Forum's activities to future PPC meetings.

#### **11. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

There were no matters arising and no other business. Dates for the 2008 meetings of PPC would be circulated by mid-November 2008 **(Action: CM, DO)**.

## **ANNEX A: Full notes of discussion with Dr Havard Prosser, Chief Environment Advisor, Welsh Assembly Government**

The Committee were due to meet with the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Ms Jane Davidson AM, for dinner to follow the meeting. Dr Prosser gave members some background information to the Minister's responsibilities. These were governed in part by an overarching environment strategy, developed and published by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) in 2006. Thematic divisions in the strategy covered climate change, landscape and sea-scape, biodiversity and resource management. The Minister's primary focus was on climate change.

The Assembly Government was elected in May 2007 with an objective to deliver a three percent emissions reduction in greenhouse gases in Wales from 2011. To facilitate this the WAG had established a Climate Change Commission consisting of 25 people, representing main climate change stakeholders in Wales. These included representatives of the Confederation of British Industry, farming unions, agencies and NGOs such as WWF and Friends of the Earth. The Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust were also represented on the panel.

The aim of the Climate Change Commission was to achieve consensus on climate change action: mitigation and adaptation. Communication with the public and examining social behaviour formed part of this. Dr Prosser was chair of a group looking at research and data needs to feed into the Commission. The work of this and other sub-groups would feed into the publication of a document in March 2009 setting out the climate change adaptation strategy for Wales, aiming for the 3% reduction in GHGs from 2011. This document would take into account the new UKCIP scenarios, set for publication (deferred from November 2008) in 2009.

The Minister's other responsibilities were for biodiversity, ecosystem services delivery, energy, waste, water and soils policy. The Minister was very interested in the ecosystem services approach and had recently held a meeting with the new director of LWEC at which the ecosystem approach had been covered.

The Minister was keen to develop links to learned societies and to academic institutions both inside and outside Wales. The meeting with PPC had been triggered by the BES's presence at the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Science Meets the Assembly' event in June 2008, at which the Minister had mentioned her interest in receiving a range of academic input into policy formulation.

Members thanked Dr Prosser for this summary. It was encouraging to see that the WAG aimed to actively engage NGOs in policy-making, an attitude which was similar to that in the European Commission. Experience suggested that it was harder to penetrate the UK Government as an NGO so the model of engagement adopted by the WAG could provide a very useful example of 'best practice'.

Dr Prosser informed members that Wales was responsible for waste, water, biodiversity, land-use and marine issues under devolution, along with some cross-border issues. Defence and policing was not devolved, as with energy (over 50Mw), which proved problematic. Generally, the WAG did not have the same powers as the Scottish Government.

One possible topic which might be covered in conversation at the dinner could be the development of the Severn Estuary Tidal Power Scheme. Members of the BES had conducted seminal work on the impact of the development of a Barrage in the Severn Estuary over the years. Dr Prosser stated that any information which BES members could offer to the WAG in relation to the potential environmental impacts of proposed schemes would be useful, as the WAG took forward Environmental Impact Assessments of the various options under consideration.

Members urged Dr Prosser to feed back the need to adopt an ecosystem approach in assessing the impact of any potential power schemes in the Severn Estuary: this point could be raised later with the Minister. Dr Prosser informed members that

the Minister might also be interested in members' advice regarding the implications of development of a power scheme for meeting the Habitats Directive, and appropriate opportunities for compensation.

The Minister may also be interested in members' views on how to manage the landscape to maintain biodiversity, given the interest from organisations such as Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales in managing landscapes to adapt to climate change, and promoting connectivity. What are we going to use the landscape for in the future and how best should we manage it? These organisations appreciated the concept of the ecosystem approach and taking a holistic view to management, but there was confusion over how to deliver this.

As a genomicist, Peter Kille was concerned to ensure that any environmental assessment would respect the genetic diversity of an ecosystem. Before carrying out a development or intervention, the genetic make-up of the ecosystem should be properly characterized and recorded, as this could have implications for how that ecosystem should be managed. Dr Prosser urged Peter Kille to feed into the work which the WAG was doing to develop an indicator on genetic biodiversity. **(Action: PK).**

Dr Prosser was concerned that politicians were running ahead of the science in relation to ecosystem services: so much science remains to be conducted in the next 10 years. Members agreed that this did not mean that the ecosystem approach was *wrong*: a culture of adaptive management was needed, adopting precautionary measures and amending them through time.

The BES should consider making links to other societies representing other disciplines key to the success of the ecosystem approach, hydrologists for example. **(Action: CM).**

Ecologists needed to be honest about the lack of evidence in particular areas. In part this was due to a historical lack of support for long-term monitoring activities, in favour of short-term projects.

However, even when evidence was well documented, this might not be used in policy. Dr Shay raised the example of the Humber Estuary, where much agricultural land had been turned to marsh to tackle flooding. The release of N-rich gases from the agricultural soil was not considered. The Ecosystem Approach must take into account wider impacts: it's benefits lie in its holistic nature.

Dr Emmett highlighted problems of ammonia pollution in Wales: over two-thirds of the country receives more nitrogen than it can cope with. To tackle this, the Welsh Assembly Government was to set up 'Farming Connect', an advisory service to allow the farming community to access advice on better use of fertilisers and manures.

Quantifying carbon stocks in Wales was a real challenge. Quantifying the effects of farmers' activities on soil carbon is very difficult, with disparate figures from the published literature. Dr Prosser thought that in five to 10 years a carbon-trading scheme would be introduced in Wales in terms of land-use, but it would be difficult to reach this point.

The BES must make it clear to government that ecology is important, giving a few simple reasons and examples.

The Countryside Survey will have a Welsh report. The Minister is interested in this: it establishes a baseline which may contribute to a UK-wide MA.

Defra is to conduct an MA in England and negotiations are ongoing regarding the potential for an England and Wales assessment. The research budget for the Welsh Assembly Government with respect to the environment is held by Defra.

The Minister is very interested in the relationship between the environment and human health. One objective for the Welsh Assembly Government is to establish a coastal pathway around the coast of Wales. Ecologists could contribute to making

these walks more interesting.

Dr Prosser encouraged PPC to develop a 'menu' of benefits which the Society could offer to the WAG. Broadly, these were:

- Policy Advisory Groups on Marine, Climate Change and Ecosystem Services which could offer a resource and key contacts for the WAG.
- The resources of a dedicated Policy Officer and, soon, Policy and External Affairs Manager.
- Results of workshops with Defra and expertise in organising these events.
- Provision of links between generic skills areas and adaptive management.
- Expertise around the Committee itself: Professor Pullin's work at the Centre for Evidence Based Conservation for example.
- Network formation: the BES can provide links to those who can help with the answers to the WAG's environmental questions.

Dr Prosser felt that any BES regional policy group would have to add value. A critical mass of expertise would be needed to tackle a particular issue. The WAG was keen not to use just Welsh expertise but UK and international experience to tackle problems. The Policy Officer would ensure that the BES's current Policy Advisory Groups were open to inquiries from Wales (**Action: CM**).

The Committee encouraged the WAG to champion support for ecologists. Although possessing the skills to tackle a broad range of issues, ecologists were under-represented in key agencies, such as the Welsh Environment Agency.

PPC thanked Dr Prosser for attending and looked forward to welcoming him that evening for dinner with the Minister.

Action	Responsible
The topics of other ethically focused sessions held at previous annual meetings to be circulated.	CM
CM and DO to work on a brief exploring ethical issues which could be circulated to LB and possible others from PPC for comment. This could be accompanied by a survey of BES members to ascertain whether they held ethical concerns in relation to their own research.	CM, DO, LB and others
To make sure to keep Kate Trumper informed about developments with NERC/ BES policy training workshops.	CM
To draft a business case for Council in December relating to production of topical information sheets rather than 'Ecological Issues'.	CM, KT, BA, DO
To consult the IEEM about the results of its members' survey: how influential was the BES journals section in 'In Practice'?	CM
£250 to be added to the budget under 'Operating Costs' to cover Professor Pullin's attendance at BRAG meetings, as the BES representative.	AP
To prepare an information paper on the Natural Capital Initiative for Council in December .	CM
To consult the ESRC regarding funding for the Natural Capital Initiative.	CM
To circulate the minutes of the 12 <sup>th</sup> June BES Council	CM

meeting for consideration and comment.	
To prepare a paper discussing how Becky Allen's press report recommendations should be taken forward, for PPC February 2009	CM
The BES to suggest to the Darwin Correspondence Project that they could arrange to stage a production of Re: Design at the Royal Academy, in the location of Darwin's original lecture.	CM
To add the location of an additional photograph of Tansley to the number of sites already identified by Dr Norman.	CM
To circulate the draft response to the RCEP inquiry to PPC for members to add any additional comments.	CM
To report this back to the steering group organising the April 2009 symposium at their next meeting on 9 October and to send a copy of the formal information pack on the initiative to PPC when available.	CM
To explore further the possibility of a joint workshop with the Environment Agency in Wales, to make a decision before the next PPC meeting in February.	CM, KM, DO
The Committee to contact Professor Roswell to ask for a written comment on the BES – BRAG session, which could form part of the formal report of the session.	CM
To send the BRAG office a copy of the report of the BES – BRAG workshop and also details of the BES's timescale for receiving proposals for sessions for the 2009 annual meeting:	CM
Professor Pullin to express the support of the BES for this policy review by working groups of researchers at the next BRAG meeting. With the Policy Officer, to take forward an approach to the new manager of Knowledge Exchange at the NERC regarding possible funding for these activities.	CM, AP
To circulate an assessment form for the EIPG to members.	CM, all
Members to consider who to nominate for the Ecological Engagement Award.	CM, all
The Chair and Policy Officer to follow up progress with Ecological Issues after the PPC meeting	CM, DO
Peter Kille to feed into the work which the WAG was doing to develop an indicator on genetic biodiversity.	Peter Kille
The BES to consider making links to other societies representing other disciplines key to the success of the ecosystem approach, hydrologists for example.	CM
To ensure that the BES's current Policy Advisory Groups were open to inquiries from Wales	CM
Dates for the 2008 meetings of PPC to be circulated by mid-	CM

November 2008.	
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