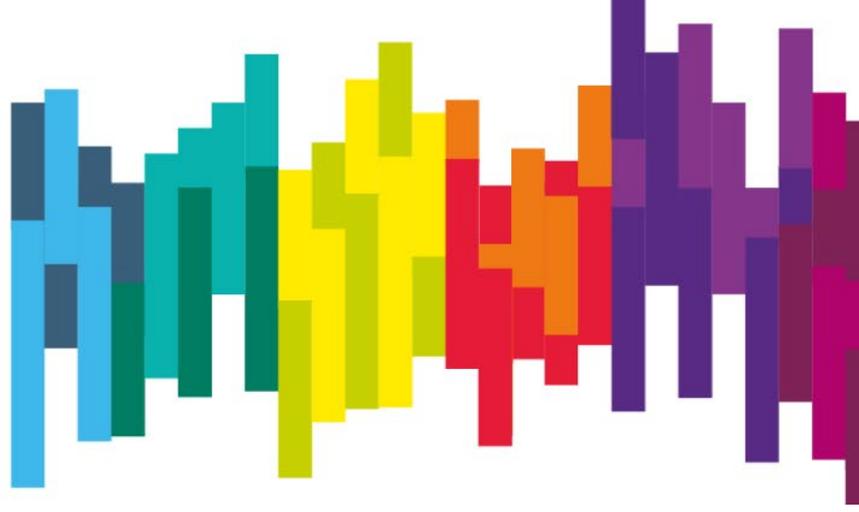




**WELLCOME  
GENOME  
CAMPUS**  
LIFE-CHANGING SCIENCE



## Biodiversity Working Group Bi-Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 2pm.

via Zoom Conference Call.

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Sarah Burgess (SB) Chair,  
Lorraine Moore (LM) Secretariat,  
Anna Davies (AD), Robert Fairweather (RF),  
Matthew Midgely (MM), Iain Webb (IW) WLT,  
Lee Outhwaite (LOT) WGC, Michelle Starling (MS) WGC,  
Steve Trudgill (ST), Dave Keating (DK), Jack Monaghan (JM),  
Andrii Iudin (AI), Sabine Eckert (SE), Norman Cobley (NC),  
Nicola Chapman (NC), Emma Manners (EM), Manuel Carbajo (MC).

Hinxton Hall Ltd  
**Estates and Facilities Management**  
Wellcome Genome Campus  
Hinxton, Cambridge, CB10 1RQ



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Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p><b><u>Apologies &amp; Welcome</u></b>            Apologies noted Laura.Osborne, Ceri Williams, Gerry Birch, Terry Sadler, Neil Rawlings, Eve Coomber, Jack Freeman, Andrew Knights, Ceri Williams.            Introductions made.</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>Fungi Event</u></b>            JM and EM are keen to organise a nature trail.            Plan is to place posts on the Wetlands with information to link insects, plants and trees found, to work on Campus, in particular genetics and chemistry.            Draft content for the nature trail is available and EM would like feedback.            It has proved difficult to find an expert for the fungal event over Autumn and EM asked for help from the group for feedback, placement of posts, as proved difficult to find an expert, have not received feedback. Emma would like help with feedback, including placement of posts and information to be included.            EM asked for help from the group to walk round the Wetlands and discuss potential options, to link to feedback with the hope to launch next Spring.  <b>Action: EM to send Link to the Group.</b></p> <p>A show of hands for those to be involved in the walk.            DRD, SE, MM, RF, NC, SHB, IW.            Date scheduled for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 12pm, to meet at the Wetlands bridge.</p>	EM
3.0	<p><b><u>Biodiversity Strategy</u></b>            SHB would like to pull together a mini working group from this group to work on the strategy.            Show of hands those interested and it was agreed that the landscape and biodiversity strategy mini group to include, SHB, IW, LO, NC. Remit for this group is to discuss and produce drafts which will brought to this forum for the next meeting</p>	
4.0	<p><b><u>Pigeons</u></b>            There is an increased issue with pigeons on the scrubland, on the perimeter over the river from the Wetlands, to encourage Turtle</p>	

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	<p>Dove. Issue exasperated by the release of 300 pigeons in the local area. SHB proposed ploughing or not undertaking supplementary feeding in the Spring to discourage pigeons. Comments made; ST has not seen any Turtle Doves. NC recalled that NR had pointed out on last years' survey none seen. DT there was one but it did not stay.</p> <p>It was agreed that the proposal would be taken forward and to ensure that those not at this meeting are happy.</p>	
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b><u>Maintenance Works</u></b> Pond Maintenance work planned for 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, to take out vegetation around the edge and stop the overgrowth in the ponds.</p> <p>Three days of work scheduled to include the main pond and smaller pond towards the river. The other two ponds will not be included in the works and left as habitat. Lateness is due to machinery availability.</p> <p>The issue will be rooster birds, NC agreed that work done in stages would allow plenty of reeds for remaining birds.</p> <p>SHB is hoping to bring the date forward, but that week will have high water for the machinery, if there is a delay will wait until Autumn.</p> <p>DK asked that the southeast edge not be included, as there are lots of orchids and reptiles. SHB advised that works would only take place on the north side and taking trees out as per the first year of maintenance.</p> <p>Autumn and Winter walks to be scheduled. Winter walk scheduled in January or February 2022.</p> <p>Works include a cut 50% every other year. DK received comments from locals, to ask whether they could use a smaller tractor as it left large tyre prints. SHB thanked DK for his support and agreed to send information to DK to cascade to locals in mid-January in order to pass onto editor of Icen.</p>	

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	<p>Spring Bioblitz idea from EM and JM, details to follow at the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, similar to strategy work, would we need a smaller group to work specifically on the Spring/early Summer event.</p> <p><b>Action: JM to bring logistics and overview of the event to the next meeting.</b></p> <p>JM provided an overview of the Bioblitz. The event takes place over a 24-hour period with a sequence of events through that period to see what takes place. Great opportunity to invite local groups and experts, infrastructure, will require a central hub for activities, ideally a big gazebo to record and log sightings.</p> <p>Tree of Life are interested in finding ways to put the genomics in science into that Bioblitz, support required include electricity, microscope and in field genomic sequencers. We would need volunteers to oversee the central hub and run activities around the site. There would also be an opportunity to bring more volunteer groups in to set up.</p> <p>There are challenges including access over 24hrs night access, safe paths, facilities such as toilets, tea/coffee, warm and dry space together with budget and sourcing gazebos.</p> <p>SHB confident that this will be similar to fireworks event on site, Estates &amp; Facilities and Health &amp; Safety completed works and a tick box exercise for fireworks night and a, dry run on how that process working. SHB keen to use that for this event, as the key contact within Estates will send that to JM.</p> <p>The issue will be sign off, impact and limit of people, Sian Nash &amp; Mark Ratcliffe, to be approached for advice as to which Board this would be directed to. JM would like the event to make a positive impact. Can scale numbers up or down subject to the Covid risk at that point in the year and community engagement.</p> <p><b>Action: EC to liaise with JM and bring to this group in March to discuss further.</b></p> <p>Reconvene, sign off, will have more of an idea what channels we go through.</p> <p>JM as for any concerns to mitigate any risks or exciting opportunities.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>EC/JM</p>
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	<p>SE suggested combining the Bioblitz and the Nature Trail. EM look at timing and links to TOL science within that trail, good idea. JM agreed it would be good to combine the two.</p> <p>SHB believed this would be a great opportunity to bring ideas together on Campus. Suggested date 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022. IW thoughts were the more people the better, it might need to be coordinated. NC to send contact details to IW and enrol their help.</p>	
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>ST suggested a good read would be his new book, 'Why Conserve Nature? Perspectives on Meanings and Motivations' publisher Cambridge University Press, due for release on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. <a href="https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/why-conserve-nature/1DD7A3018474B6BD3A8780B7778306F8#">https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/why-conserve-nature/1DD7A3018474B6BD3A8780B7778306F8#</a> <i>Book Description: How we view nature transforms the world around us. People rehearse stories about nature which make sense to them. If we ask the question 'why conserve nature?', and the answers are based on myths, then are these good myths to have? Scientific knowledge about the environment is fundamental to ideas about how nature works. It is essential to the conservation endeavour. However, any conservation motivation is nested within a society's meanings of nature and the way society values it. Given the therapeutic and psychological significance of nature for us and our culture, this book considers the meanings derived from the poetic and emotional attachment to a sense of place, which is arguably just as important as scientific evidence. The functional significance of species is important, but so too is the therapeutic value of nature, together with the historic and spiritual meanings entwined in a human feeling for landscape and wildlife.</i></p> <p>DK asked whether consideration given to use of the land between the Wetlands and footbridge. SHB advised that is within the strategy, looking at making a wildflower meadow, time and reward is an issue. DK will pass that information onto locals.</p> <p>SE asked whether control of Hemlock planned next year for eradication dig up. IW agreed that management is required to control Hemlock. Himalayan Balsam incorporated in summer work plan. DK advised that is a major task to undertake next year.</p>	

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	<p>NC concerned about the bird survey next year. SHB will put that at the top of the agenda in March to start planning.</p> <p>MC, EBI Chair of Green Initiatives Working Group EMBL and is keen to learn about the working group and looking forward to the Wetlands walk next Wednesday.</p> <p>NC is aware of a Himalayan Balsam working group that do a good job at removing that and might be able to provide support?</p> <p>IW more people the better, it might need to be coordinated. NC to send contact details to IW and enrol their help.</p>	
7.0	<p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p><i><u>2022</u></i> <i><b>Biodiversity Working Group_Bi-Monthly Meeting Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 2pm.</b></i></p>	