

## Lochaber Biodiversity Group Meeting

18 August 2008

### Morvern Lochaber LBAP fieldtrip and meeting

Present: Ian Strachan (Chair), Alastair Stewart (Minutes), Stuart Wilkie, Donald Kennedy, Keith Hoole, Alison Austin, Christine Welsh

Apologies: Lorna Aness, Jonathan Willet, Garry Servant, Michael Jones, John McDonald, Jim Manthorp

In the morning two sites were visited to examine the efficacy of the lever and mulch method for the control of *R. ponticum*.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The site visits were discussed. Colin Edwards of Forest Research reportedly said the method presented roll-out problems and had raised some health and safety issues etc, he was still interested in progress however.

#### **Matters arising/action points**

There is to be discussion on LNRs at the next ward forums to promote the concept to elected members, officers and the public. **Action J.W**

Contact to be made with Corpach Community Woodland via John Ireland  
**Action L.A**

#### **LBAP review**

The L.B.A.P process is moving to link species to habitats. The next move to link species to L.B.A.P areas is not complete.

- **AP3 - IS** to advise SW of new UK priority species and actions (carried forward)
- **AP4 – JW** to re-circulate list of species priorities for Lochaber as recommended by HBP working group
- **AP5 - LW** to write to FCS inviting comments on revised woodland chapter by 30 June
- **AP6 – DK** to ask Ian Collier (Woodland Officer for Lochaber) for his views on priorities for woodland conservation action in Lochaber.

A. Stewart stated the biodiversity officers were looking for grant claims. The group approved the purchase of a telescope, tripod, and moth trap. These items are for use in future events.

Donald stated an event planned for advisors in September may be postponed until October to avoid the school holiday. Forest Research has been involved

in the demonstration site and may raise a charge of £3000. The site and method lends itself to the development of skills and winter work opportunities. There may be scope for S.R.D.P compliance or further support.

S. Wilkie has received more feedback on the woodland chapter, additional input was welcomed. The new text is yet to be compiled. There was no progress with other chapters.

The other chapters were to be circulated.

L.A- Upland  
I.S – Marine  
J.W- Built Environment

I. Strachan is attending a species management conference with S.N.H at Herriot Watt.

Lochaber Geopark and S.N.H are offering a training day on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. The subject is interpretation and the trainer is James Carter. Please contact Keith for details.

Caithness has implemented a log of non-native invasive plants. J. Willet has more info on this. It was regarded by the group as a useful local document. I. Strachan will follow up idea.

The group have responded to CAP previously an update is required via referral to J. Willet.

D.O.N.M 3/11/08 Fassfern House at 11.00 a.m.