

Trees and Woodland Scientific Advisory Group (TAW-SAG)

Meeting 14 Minutes: 9th May 2023

Attendees

- **Rob MacKenzie** (RMK) - [Chair], School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences University of Birmingham; Birmingham Institute of Forest Research.
- **Ian Bateman** (IB) - Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute. University of Exeter.
- **Richard Buggs** (RB) - [Observer], Kew Gardens, Plant Health Group.
- **Paul Burgess** (PB) - Ecology and Management, Cranfield Soil and Agri-food Institute Cranfield University.
- **Keith Kirby** (KK) - Department of Biology, University of Oxford.
- **Ruth Mitchell** (RM) - Biodiversity and Ecosystems Group, Ecological Sciences Department, James Hutton Institute.
- **Chris Quine** (CQ) - [Observer], Chief Scientist, Forest Research.
- **Stephen Cavers** (SC) - Ecology Evolution and Environmental Change - Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
- **Mike Morecroft** (MM) - [Observer], Principal specialist on climate change, Natural England and senior visiting research associate, Oxford University.
- **Julie Urquhart** (JU) - Environmental Social Science, University of Gloucestershire.
- **Clive Potter** (CP) – Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London.
- **Maggie Roe** (MR) - Landscape Planning Research & Policy Engagement, University of Newcastle
- **Patricia Thornley** (PT) - School of Engineering and Applied Science, Aston University.
- **Daisy Ellis** (DE) - Head of Strategy, Engagement and Analysis, Defra.
- **Clare Williams** (CW) – Evidence and Analysis Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Rebecca McIlhiney** (RMI)- Evidence and Analysis Team Leader for Trees/ Forestry, Defra.
- **Dan Doherty** (DD) - Head of Trees, Woodlands and Forestry Policy, Defra.
- **Katharine Dickson** (KD) Team Leader for Legislation and Regulation, Defra.
- **Mark Broadmeadow** (MB) Forestry Policy Team, targets and net zero, Defra.
- **Karen Mullin** (KM) Natural Capital & Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) Programme Pilot, Defra.
- **Debbie Boobyer** (DB) Natural Capital & Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) Programme Pilot, Defra.
- **Hugh Smith** (HS) Senior Scientific Officer Natural Capital & Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) Programme Pilot, Defra.
- **Jemma Snoxell** (JS) - Policy Adviser – Woodland Management and Biodiversity, Defra.

Apologies

- **Charlotte Williams** (ChW), Research & Development (R&D) Project Delivery Advisor, Defra.

Item 1: Welcome and Updates

1. RMK welcomed everyone to the 14th meeting of the TAW-SAG.
2. CP was welcomed, he will be alternating attendance with JU.

Item 2: Review and agree minutes from previous meeting

3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed with a slight amendment to Action numbering.
4. The actions were reviewed:
 - Action 1 – complete.
 - Action 2 – complete.
 - Action 3 – complete, members can provide feedback by email.
 - Action 4 – in progress.
 - Action 5 – in progress.
 - Action 6 – in progress.
 - Action 7 – in progress

Item 3: Programme Board Update

4. RMK and DD provided an update from the Programme Board.
5. The key points of the Programme Board were:
6. Discussion on the planting trajectory.
7. TaW-SAG were thanked for advice they provided on the PMO Statistics issue.
8. The scope of the transition to Environmental Land Management (ELM).

Action 1: Defra to share landowners/ managers survey report with the Group.

Item 4: Expert advice on temperate rainforests

9. RMK thanked members for their input into the paper.
10. TaW-SAG discussed the paper and minor amends and will provide advice later this month.

Item 5: TaW-SAG Terms of Reference update

11. CW presented an update on the TaW-SAG Terms of Reference.

12. The key points for discussion were:

13. New membership and the capacity issues with academics working in productive forestry.

14. Suggestions for international membership.

15. Yadvinder Malhi taking a leave of absence from TaW-SAG to December 2023.

Action 3: CW to circulate an international representatives spreadsheet for the Group to input into.

Item 6: TaW-SAG advice on spatial mapping layers

16. KD, MB and KM gave presentations to the group on the policy position, Forestry Commission mapping and the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) Programme.

Action 4: RMI to provide a paper detailing current and future spatial layers ahead of the September meeting.

Action 5: Defra to organise NCEA to come back to another TaW-SAG meeting.

Item 7: AOB

12. None.

Trees and Forestry, Strategy Engagement and Analysis Team May 2023

Dates of the next two meetings are 18th July and 19th September 2023