

WWT / JNCC / SNH Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme

Notes for the 19th Steering Group meeting

Held 8th April 2014 at JNCC (Peterborough)

1. Minutes of previous meeting / outstanding actions

The minutes / notes of the previous meeting were approved for uploading to the GSMP web pages (available here <http://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/partnership-documents/>). The following updates on outstanding actions were provided:

AP18/1: All to send comments on new GSMP web pages to WWT by end of December 2013.
Update: Discharged. Comments provided by JNCC. Changes to the website have been made.

AP18/2: WWT to include an article on the new GSMP web pages in the next issue of *GooseNews* (2014).
Update: Ongoing; either a standalone article to appear in next GooseNews due out in August 2014, or regular references to the website, as the main source of GSMP information, will be made in GooseNews.

AP18/3: WWT to explore with co-authors whether it was possible to publish a paper on the whole census in *Irish Birds*.
Update: Ongoing; joint publication the preferred route. WWT to liaise with Irish authors to see if a joint publication is possible.

AP18/4: WWT to review the issues surrounding the status of Irish Greylag Geese in the forthcoming review of Greylag Goose monitoring needs (see AP17/4).
Update: Ongoing (see below - Item 3).

AP18/5: WWT to contact Wetlands International to make sure the current status of British Greylag Goose is recognised in the AEWA CSR and Waterbird Population Estimates 6.
Update: Discharged by WWT. WWT have been in touch with Wetlands International and hope that the recommendation is incorporated into the AEWA CSR and Waterbird Population Estimates 6.

AP18/6: WWT to arrange demonstration of GSMP online at the next GSMP SG meeting.
Update: Ongoing; WWT reported that there is still much work to be done and that a demonstration will be arranged for the next GSMP SG meeting (September 2014).

AP18/7: WWT to compile an overview of what is needed to complete historical data compilation.
Update: Ongoing; WWT looking into this. Early indications are that there are not many data collation issues to be addressed. JNCC asked if the Greenland Barnacle Goose data from the aerial surveys were incorporated into a WWT GSMP database. This feeds into WWT's strategic review of the GSMP database (a future separate paper).

AP18/8: All to send comments on the draft population estimation methods paper to WWT by the end of December 2013.
Update: Ongoing. Once WWT has received comments from JNCC, a second draft will be produced and re-circulated. BTO have produced a draft paper on WeBS methodology. JNCC suggested that the WWT review could be incorporated into the WeBS review. Once WWT produce a signed off second

draft, WWT will send a copy to the BTO. JNCC said that the reason for the BTO report was to put on record a science evidence quality review. The final paper might be published as an AEWA report.

AP18/9: JNCC to circulate the SPA Review monitoring recommendations for comment by GSMP SG. Comments needed asap.

Update: Discharged by JNCC.

AP18/10: SNH to confirm if a census of British Greylag Geese is needed in Scotland in 2014 and report back to SG by the end of November 2013.

Update: Discharged. SNH reported that no census is needed just now. Key populations in pilot management areas (Orkney, Uists, Tiree) are being monitored, so there is no immediate need for a country wide survey.

AP18/11: WWT to circulate meeting notes/actions from the GSMP-WeBS liaison meeting held in April 2013.

Update: Discharged by WWT.

AP18/12: WWT and/or SNH to highlight the issue regarding future RSPB support for goose counts in Orkney at the next Goose Science Advisory Group meeting in December 2013.

Update: Discharged by WWT, although the issue is still being discussed within SNH on Orkney. The likelihood is that management of the Orkney winter Greylag Goose counts will be taken on by SNH, who will attempt to organise volunteer counters. WWT to email SNH on Orkney to confirm progress.

2. Update on surveys & projects

2a) Reporting plan for 2014

WWT outlined proposed changes to *GooseNews* (to make it more of a Newsletter) and the schedule for production of annual reporting. JNCC agreed with the proposals and suggested that the website should be the vehicle for the actual data and *GooseNews* should be about directing readers to the relevant web pages. The group discussed the need for a separate IGC report. JNCC said that producing a standalone IGC report should continue, but the primary means of dissemination should be electronic, posting hard copies only to those that ask for it.

AP 19/1: WWT to continue to produce an annual IGC report and to make available primarily as a PDF download.

2b) International Swan Census

WWT reported that the next flyway survey is due in January 2015 (18/19 January being the core count weekend). Preparations are already underway, with WWT staff taking the lead for Bewick's Swan (UK/Ireland only) and on Whooper Swan (flyway).

3. Review of IGC surveillance

WWT introduced a discussion paper on current IGC surveillance and proposed changes and asked for comments. JNCC were happy with the general approach and asked if WWT could model any numbers that might be in Iceland in December. JNCC offered to ask DEFRA to formally ask the Iceland (and other country) authorities to share in this collective monitoring. JNCC asked for a summary of recommendations at the beginning of the document and a table of key contacts. WWT requested that comments from JNCC were provided by 18 April 2014.

AP19/2: JNCC to ask DEFRA to formally ask the Iceland (and other country) authorities to share in this collective monitoring.

AP19/3: JNCC and SNH to provide comments of IGC surveillance review by 18 April 2014.

4. GSMP counters' conference

WWT introduced the one day GSMP counters' conference and offered to send out the one day planner to SG members. It was suggested that GSMP SG could meet up the day before (Friday 5 Sept from 3pm to 5.30pm). JNCC offered to give a talk on the uses of goose count data.

5. AOB

5a) Clarification of VAT issue

WWT owe a VAT refund to JNCC as a result of advice from WWT auditors over the VAT status of the GSMP partnership contract. Current MOA needs to reflect this change of terms.

5b) Task list

JNCC reported that they need to have a quarterly task checklist to accompany future invoices.

AP19/4: WWT to provide JNCC with annual contractual progress report for FY 2013/14 and, in future, ensure that each quarterly invoice is accompanied by a quarterly review.

5c) Article 12 report in 2018

JNCC are starting the process now and updated population estimates will be needed in 2017-18. JNCC are to meet with the BTO in late May to initiate this. Although this is not a significant issue for GSMP, the timing of some surveys might need to be adjusted to fit in with the Article 12 schedule.

6. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting agreed as Friday 5 September 2014, the day before the GSMP counters conference (see item 4 above).