



Joint Committee's role in science leadership

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Joint Committee's role in science leadership

Paper by Paul Rose

1. It would strengthen JNCC's work on science and evidence if the Joint Committee took a stronger role than it does at present in developing science thinking on key nature conservation issues across the UK (maybe even the British Isles). The Committee has played this role, to greater or lesser extent, at various times, most recently in the discussion on protected areas at the meeting in March 2013.
2. Discussion items for the year ahead would ideally be identified by Committee at their March meeting, supported by an overview of the near horizon and of the various research initiatives taking a forward look at nature conservation. The support company could then prepare papers for subsequent discussion, incorporating review by appropriate groups, such as the inter-agency Chief Scientists Group.
3. The draft agenda for the November 2013 Committee meeting already contains some suitable themes, including protected areas (building on the discussion in March) and evidence strategy.
4. In addition, some thinking around agri-environment incentives in nature conservation has been flagged as timely and important. If Committee agree that this is an important topic, the support company are not ideally placed to facilitate the discussion. The inter-agency Land-Use Policy Group could be requested to consider this role.