

WBPSG12

 11th November 2010

Bangor

AGENDA

The 12th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held at the Wales Environmental Research Hub, Bangor (location map can be found at [here](#)), starting with a tour of the Wales Environment Research Hub at 09:30. Tea and coffee will be available from 10:00.

TIME	PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
09:30		Tour: Introduction to Wales Environmental Research Hub	Shaun Russell
10:00	Assemble, tea/coffee		
10:30	1	Welcome: Introduction and apologies	
10:35	2	Main paper: workshop activity: Natural Environment Framework	Diana Reynolds
12:00	LUNCH – Please bring a packed lunch 1hr		
13:00	3	Main paper: Financing nature in an age of austerity	Sean Christian
13:20	4	Main paper: Marine Education Framework	Aethne Cooke
13:40	5	Presentation: Taxonomic Group: Native Seahorses	Frankie Hobro, Anglesey Sea Zoo
13:50	6	Discussion: What can we do to help these species?	
14:00	7	Papers to Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A: Invasive Non-Native Species - Annex 1: INNS Species Audit - B: Wildlife Crime Update - C: Local Authority and National Park Biodiversity Officer Group Actions - D: Biodiversity and Business sub Group Update - E: Conceptual Framework for Engaging Business with Biodiversity in Wales - F: Natur Cymru - G: New Woodland Creation in Wales - H: Ensuring due regard to section 42 list habitat and species in the development control process - I: Academics on Ecosystem Groups - Annex 2: Draft Ecosystem Groups Terms of Reference 	Bill Somerfield Ian Guildford Richard May Amy Mulkern Amy Mulkern Mandy Marsh Michelle van-Velzen Hazel Drewett Shaun Russell WBP Support Team
14:45	8	Feedback from WCMP	tbc

14:55	9	Feedback from Standing Committee	David Parker /Diana Reynolds
15:05	10	Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	
15:15	11	AOB	
15:25	12	Date of next meeting	
15:30	Afternoon tea and finish		

A regular train service operates from Bangor see www.nationalrail.co.uk for details.

Cardiff train Departs: 15.02 or 16.02

Aberystwyth train Departs: 15.02 or 17:04

Machynlleth train Departs: 15.02 or 17:04

Title: WBP Engagement with ‘A Living Wales’

Produced by: WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

Over recent years stakeholders, government and the voluntary sector have worked together to achieve much success. In particular the biodiversity sector who have discovered new ways of working which form a firm foundation for moving forward a shared sustainable development agenda.

Following the launch of the public consultation document “A Living Wales” at the recent WBP Conference in Bangor, the Welsh Assembly Government is developing a Natural Environment Framework (NEF) with partner organisations and individuals. This new framework aims to secure sustainable and integrated management of land and water by making the long-term health of ecosystems and the services they provide central to decision making.

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership, Spatial Plan Groups and others have already carried out work to link species benefits into wider habitat actions and a focus on habitat networks. So far such work has focussed mainly on the threatened, declining and designated parts of ecosystems. This is not the same as a truly ecosystem approach which would need to continue to enable specific local engagement alongside collaborative landscape-scale actions by government, business and others. The establishment of the nine new ecosystem groups and related support groups in WBP is a good start but the role of these groups will need to develop.

Further documentation and background information can be found on the Welsh Assembly Government website [A living Wales – a new framework for our environment, our countryside and our seas](#)

Plan/Proposals

The issue now is to seek to harness the strengths and goodwill towards the WBP to make it a real force for delivery. Part of the challenge is to shift the focus of the partnership towards the ecosystem approach, and to distinguish more clearly what the WBP can best focus on to secure delivery. The other is to develop a stronger ‘business model’ for the WBP, so that it is capable of identifying clear courses of action, allocating responsibilities, then ensuring delivery happens ‘on the ground’.

We think that we need to help them to help us in three areas – legitimacy (what authority do the WBP have to demand action and set directions?); delivery (how is the WBP able to take action itself, either directly or through its

partners?) and 'traction' (how influential can WBP be in driving other parts of Welsh government and the other sectors to achieve its goals?)

On **legitimacy**, the WBP are the official advisory body to the Welsh Assembly Government on biodiversity. As such they are uniquely placed to support an ecosystems approach. Their experience and knowledge of the component parts of ecosystems and how they work will be crucial to developing a successful approach to ecosystems in Wales. The groups are mainly chaired by public sector staff whose work in leading such groups should be a core activity of their 'day job'.

On **delivery**, individuals in the ecosystem groups will need to determine future management of those zones in collaboration with local and national players who have the power to influence or enact direct action. We have seen a root and branch change in the way in which biodiversity action plans have been developed this time round - with earlier buy in and a greater range of participants - but we will need to create further opportunities for embedding ecosystem actions into the work of government. As a first stage in this development we will use our first stab at the evidence base to establish direct links between key ecosystem group chairs and relevant WAG policy officials with a view to all WAG Policy areas agreeing relevant ecosystem actions as core deliverables within their policy programmes. Actions agreed for 2011/12 will form a key element of each department's contribution to their NERC Act 2005 biodiversity duty.

On the issue of '**traction**' WBP members, and particularly ecosystem groups will need to become fully capable of engaging successfully with national policy officers and business leaders. Real influence can only be achieved by talking the language of the uninitiated, by putting across the seriousness of our situation, the importance of natural capital and the long term costs associated with its loss. Real influence can only be achieved by listening and enlisting others to act in truly well informed, long term, sustainable ways. This is not "about what we do with the extra bits of what we do, but how we do everything that we do". As a first stage in the development of these skills ecosystem group chairs will be provided with the time, support and information needed to develop their engagement skills and those of their group members.

Decision Points

To discuss and agree the following;

- Is the WBP is a suitable partnership to become a core agent for delivering the ecosystems approach?
- How would the WBP need to change to take on this role?
Which parts of the Welsh Assembly Government does the WBP need to reach?
- Who else would need to be involved to achieve these goals?
- What would be the limitations to WBP's role?

Title

Financing Nature in an age of austerity – a new report from the RSPB Economics Team. The full report is available at http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/Financingnature_tcm9-262166.pdf

Background

The RSPB's *Letter to the Future* campaign calls on governments to consider the health of the planet for future generations when they decide where to invest and where to cut spending. So far, the letter has been signed by over a quarter of our 55,000 members in Wales, and by over 300,000 UK-wide.

Government's direct role in funding nature remains critical, but it is timely to reflect on the role non-government sectors can play in complementing government investment. This report examines suggestions for new sources of non-public finance to help fill the conservation finance shortfall that currently stands at over £275 million per year in the UK; **£24 million in Wales (GHK 2010 Costs of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan – update)**.

Plan/Proposals

It is proposed that the Steering Group discuss the report's main findings and consider whether and how the ideas could be developed further for Wales.

Main findings

Conservation credits

A strong biodiversity offset market has the potential to reduce environmental damage from development, simplify the planning system and increase funding for conservation. Likely funding raised (UK) is £53 million a year. Alternatively, a simple levy on housing would not track biodiversity loss and gain, but would be a quick and simple way to raise funding for nature conservation.

Environmental taxes on peat, fertiliser and pesticide use

*The UK Government has stated that it wishes to increase the proportion of tax revenue accounted for by environmental taxes. Peat, fertiliser and pesticide taxes have the potential to help address damage to biodiversity and natural resource degradation, while raising much needed revenue. The funds raised and the behavioural change expected depends on a variety of factors that are outlined in this chapter. **How far will the planned 5p levy on single use carrier bags go towards changing behaviour in Wales? And how much new funding will it create for environmental projects?***

Non-government sector funding and delivering of conservation

Businesses and civil society have a key role in addressing the biodiversity challenge. Innovative measures and the creation of partnerships can help to raise funds and deliver better conservation. However, there are clear limitations to the actions of both groups, representing a need for governments to support the non-government sector.

Privately funded payments for ecosystem services (PES)

Businesses can benefit by establishing privately financed payments for ecosystem service schemes. The promise for new schemes is greatest in water quality management; outside of this area the potential remains limited.

Overall, this report reveals that there are clear limitations to how much more non-government sectors can do alone. This is due to a lack of information and understanding about the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the absence of private benefits in the short term which reduces incentive to pay for the delivery of natural services.

There is also a common conclusion across chapters that voluntary markets are unlikely to raise any significant amount of additional funding.

Moving Forward

Businesses and NGOs will need to do more to help fund and deliver nature conservation. However, they will need the support of governments across the UK. Governments could adopt a range of approaches to encourage and enable non-government action, such as:

Unlocking private finance

- Prepare to establish markets in biodiversity offsets
- Consider using a simple housing levy to raise funds for biodiversity in the absence of more formal offset markets
- Set up regulated markets in ecosystem services that encourage the development of private PES, or help mediate the development and management of private PES between private landholders and businesses
- Implement forms of green taxes to reduce negative behaviour and raise revenue, particularly around peat, pesticide and fertiliser use.

Improving information flows and promoting joint action for delivery (the “Big Society”)

- Research and test metrics to measure biodiversity and other ecosystem services to assist with offsets, PES and eco-labelling markets.
- Support biodiversity and ecosystem service research to more clearly establish the links between services and beneficiaries, particularly businesses, and publicise benefits of investing in ecosystem services
- Encourage cooperation between civil society, business, and government, to jointly approach the shortfalls in establishing markets for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Even if all of these options are implemented, it is not clear if it will be enough to ensure governments’ green ambitions are met. One thing is for certain: doing nothing is not an option.

Action Requested

That the group consider it and whether/how any ideas could be developed further for Wales.

GCSE/GCE Biology and Science syllabuses

Background

In 2008, a revised curriculum was introduced for 3-19 year olds in Wales. As well as weaving the development of skills (i.e. Thinking, Communication, ICT and Number) throughout the learning experience, the new curriculum promotes the Curriculum Cymreig¹ and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC)².

A look at the revised curriculum (originally looking for opportunities for using the marine environment in, and out of, the classroom), has identified many opportunities for use of the natural environment generally (at the Foundation Phase, Keystages 2-3 and GCSE/GCE levels (all the detail not provided here).

Of particular interest however, are the syllabuses for Science and Biology at GCSE and GCE levels. There are aspects of the syllabus which obviously relate to pure biological and ecological learning, but there are additional aspects which have a much broader context e.g. society's values and the concept of sustainability; management of the natural environment and decision-making; the importance of evidence in decision making; management of non-native species; and climate change (see extracts below).

The Living Wales consultation identifies that one of the key challenges that has eluded us so far is the taking of a truly integrated approach to management of the environment, one that reflects the complexity of environmental systems, how the environment is valued, climate change and the limits of natural capacity. It is fitting that these critical issues are on the syllabuses for GCSE and GCE students in Wales³.

Extracts from revised GCE Biology Syllabus for 2010 onwards:

- *Agricultural exploitation. Conflicts between production and conservation and possible means to resolve such conflicts as illustrated by:*

forests: reasons for and scale of forest destruction, consequences, managed forests, ecotourism. Native woodlands and biodiversity.

¹ All subjects should have a Welsh dimension, to give students the opportunity to learn about the cultural, **environmental**, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales.

² The underlying aim of the ESDGC is to inform learners that their decisions and lifestyle choices have impacts on people and places all over the world.

³ 50% of schools in Wales study for WJEC GCSE and GCE examinations (WJEC staff pers. com)

oceans: the problems of over-fishing and attempts at regulation as illustrated by the principle of quotas, exclusion zones and restricted net mesh size, human choices. Fish farming and associated issues.

- *Global warming and climate change affect distribution of species and are a possible cause of extinction. Possible need for changes in farming practices such as growing drought resistant crops.*
- *Increased human pressures on the environment. The need to achieve sustainability by changes in human attitudes and informed choices. The need for political decision making to be informed by knowledge based on sound scientific principles. Environmental monitoring and the need to provide data which is reliable and valid. Issues surrounding the collection of data; possibility of conflicting evidence and interpretation. Recognition of the possible tentative nature of conclusions.*

Extracts from revised GCSE Science Syllabus for 2010 onwards:

- *discuss the factors which are involved in the decisions about the types of power stations, including commissioning and decommissioning costs, types of energy sources, fuel costs and environmental factors as well as personal views which are not scientifically based.*
- *be aware of the planning processes involved in the development of power stations based upon renewable resources, e.g. wind and wave farms.*
- *using data/ICT investigate how the Earth's human population has changed over time and understand that the effects of human activity on the environment have also changed.*
- *appreciate the need to collect detailed, reliable scientific information in order to assess the changes in species types and numbers and the use of such information as Environmental Impact Assessments prior to building developments.*
- *explore information about the causes for the destruction of habitat and a reduction in biodiversity. Assess the need to balance the requirements for food, attitudes of people towards economic development and the needs of wildlife.*
- *explore information about the use of biological control agents and the introduction of alien species and their effects on the local wildlife. Understand the issues surrounding the use of biological control agents and how the approach to using this method of control has changed.*
- *discuss the issues surrounding the maintenance of biodiversity and investigate ways by which biodiversity and endangered species can be conserved, including the role of different agencies and State organisations.*

Action Points

To discuss how the WBP and it's members can support these areas of learning, and to consider the following:

- Where relevant material does exist (some excellent material does exist already), is this being promoted and easily accessible to teachers? The National Grid for Learning Cymru (NGfL Cymru)⁴ is managed by WJEC on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. Since 2007 NGfL Cymru has been given an enhanced remit to develop and host downloadable curriculum relevant resources aids for teachers on their website.
- A recent consultation with teachers on the subject of getting more use of the marine environment in schools identified that teachers and students benefit from visits by 'experts' to the classroom to talk about a particular subject.

⁴ <http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/index-new.htm>

- How can the knowledge and experience of members be captured to add a Welsh dimension to this learning?

Title - Invasive non-native species update

Background/Progress

The INNS Wales group met for the 11th time on the 30th September 2010 in Newtown.

Plan/Proposals

- The aquatic invasive non native plant campaign 'Be Plant Wise' has been successfully re-launched this autumn, with 'compost with care' being the main theme. For more details see the following link:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/plantwise/;jsessionid=00HqM1Hpx3T8Mm0xQT5s32zns5df6kSLX1V77FpGTywyspFGKwnP!-69661197?lang=en&ts=4>
- A contingency plan will be discussed at the next INNS meeting in December to prepare for any appearance of the Killer shrimp in Welsh waters.
- The CCW lead project to eradicate *Didemnum vexillum* from the marina in Holyhead is ongoing. Spirits were high in August/September as the treatment seemed to have nearly cleared the organism from the marina. Unfortunately this did not prove to be the case, but despite the disappointment of the organism's reappearance this autumn the eradication project will continue as planned.
- The early indications are that the EAW lead African Clawed Toad eradication project seems to have been successful. The hard winter last year may have to take some of the credit for this, but numbers of animals caught this year are presently very low.
- Work is ongoing with many species such as Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed, Rhododendron and Japanese Knotweed.
- All agencies undertaking action involving invasive non native species feed the details to the Task and Finish group and update the invasive non native species action audit (Annex 1) at regular intervals.

Annex I – Invasive Non Native Species Action Audit

Decision Points

- All WBP members asked to note the above points.

NON-NATIVE SPECIES ACTION AUDIT FOR WALES

	Project	Funding / timing	Partners	Notes/actions
MANAGEMENT				
	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	CCW in-house	CCW	Attempted eradication on recently re-excavated pool on Malltraeth Marsh . J Hanson & estate workers – about 20 man-days spent clearing & composting material. Result – failure – it came back next year. However some years later it has subsided and we concluded that it responds to P release from disturbed sediment.
	Ban on sale Of certain non-native species	2008 / 09	DEFRA	DEFRA hope to publish the outcome of their consultation the Ban on Sale of certain non-native species in Spring 2009.
	Carpet Seasquirt <i>Didemnum vexillum</i>	WAG 2009/2010	WAG/INNSS/CCW	Attempt to eradicate <i>D.vexillum</i> from the marina is due started end sept/beginning Oct 2009. 1st phase now complete, some remaining colonies to eradicate winter 2010/11. GB group set up to look for <i>Dv</i> in England and Scotland, develop guidelines for marinas and small boats and to liaise with adjacent Countries (Ireland, IoM, Holland and France). This group is now developing a pathway management plan.
	CCW Risk Register	Feb 2009 ongoing	CCW	CCW have added reacting to invasive non-native species to their Key Risk Register
	GB Rapid Response framework MoU	September 2010	CCW and other members of the RR group	CCW has now signed up to the GB RR Framework MoU.
	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus Rotundifolia</i>	2008	Swansea Council, CCW	Approx 3 ha cut, chipped and treated. Then will be included in BWW grant.
	Cotoneaster species and Strawberry Tree <i>Cotoneaster microphyllus agg. & C. simonsii (Arbutus unedo)</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn (establish 2008-2009, then ongoing)	CCW, Great Orme NNR.	Reinstatement of volunteer control of invasive <i>Cotoneaster</i> and <i>Arbutus</i> on small area of Great Orme. Work to start autumn/winter 2008/2009. Part of overall management plan with CCW to control invasives at this site.
	Feral Goat	CCW budget,	Partnership with SNPA, NT,	Control of numbers at various sites within Snowdonia National Park.

			Snowdonia Society	
	Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	2008	EA	Eradication near Bethesda by complete mechanical removal. 2 phases of physical removal at Llangybi (more to follow) using EA Environmental Leave days. Advice on control in Criccieth. New sites December 08 at Dinas Dinlle and Wrexham
	Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	CCW 3 year project	CCW/ EA / IDB	Control programme on Gwent Levels SSSI
	Giant Hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzium</i>	2008	EA	Control on the Usk and Wye and Twyi (Wye & Usk Foundation and EAW Operations Delivery Team) and Twyi (Operations delivery) Ongoing spray programme in the Chester area and Dee floodbanks by EA (FRM department).
	Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	CCW funding?	Anglesey Red Squirrel Project /Menter Môn	The main projects are grey squirrel control on Anglesey and occasionally at Clocaenog (FCW)
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2007 - 10	CCW, Swansea Council	Hand pull on identified Gower sites
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2008 - 9	EA/Camarthen Rivers Trust	Possible mapping exercise on the Dualis (Twyi trib) as a baseline to control exercise
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2008	RSPB/Menter Môn	Control programme on the Cefni, Malltraeth Marsh and Lleniog on Anglesey. Also Llyn Ystymlyn near Criccieth
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Starts 2009	Denbigshire CC, FCC, NWWT, NEWWildlife, local groups and support from EA	Himalayan balsam project on the River Alyn that includes a series of public events and some contractor work in 2009, with follow up work intended for next few years after, to try to eradicate from the whole river and eventually tributaries as well.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Ongoing	EA	Control at selected sites as part of Flood Risk Management programme across North Wales area.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	August 2008	EA	Survey at Tryweryn white water centre id'd one clump which will be removed

	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Eradication programmes	Historical	EA	Afon Conwy – 98% successful using 7 applications of glyphosate over 3+ years Afon Ddu at Llanfairfechan – JK removed, but largely displaced by Himalayan Balsam – further control being considered. Afon Ogwen – 2 seasons control – funding required for final sprays.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Various Phases	3 years	City and Council of Swansea (CCS), CCW, WAG DE&T., landowners	Has one more year to go – a number of contracts to control Japanese Knotweed via herbicide contracts across CCS area.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	1 year	Cydoed, Swansea Council	Winter ground spray with Tordon in Feb '08
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Highways survey	1 year	Swansea Council	Survey of all Swansea Council highways by contractor
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Review of technical guidance	Ongoing	WAG, DE&T	Review and update of technical guidance on treatment of Japanese Knotweed in landscape and construction contracts.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Control programmes	Ongoing	WAG DE&T	Ongoing across numerous sites across Wales as part of regeneration and development
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Ongoing control at Coedmor NNR, Lovesgrove SSSI, Pant y Sais NNR, Cwn Clydach NNR, Coed Cymerau NNR, Hafod Garregog NNR, Crymlyn Bog NNR
	Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	S15	Private landowner	Eradication from Cadnant Dingle SSSI
	Licences CCW Reg 44 (2) licences	Ongoing	CCW	For selected species, licences now include conditions in respect of bio-security.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i>	2008/09 EA funding	Wales Riparian Mammal Group,	The Anglesey Water Vole Project currently has 70 mink rafts deployed over the Afon Cefni, Braint, Cors

		£15K	EA/Menter Môn	Erddreiniog, Llyn Cefni and Ceint. Records of sightings on Anglesey - mink rafts deployed.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> LIFE+ mink control bid and seminar	2008 ongoing	Game & Wildlife Conservancy Trust	Following from the draft minutes of the UK Water Vole Steering Group meeting on 24 May 08. “Game & Wildlife Conservancy Trust are now leading a consortium of several NGOs and government agencies aiming to apply to the EU LIFE funding stream for mink control in the UK. A consultant (funded by SNH, EA & Defra) will be preparing the bid for submission by November based on a seminar of interested parties to be held 11/12 June”.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Trapping	2008	EA	Trapping at Llangorse prior to Water Vole release
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Tir Gofal	Ongoing	CCW, TG	TG - CCW and a consortium of NGOs have been advising WAG on targeting Tir Gofal to benefit species of conservation concern. Areas have been drawn up within which a range of specific prescriptions (Species Packages) will apply. Tir Gofal can fund up to 80% of the costs of mink control in Water Vole Areas.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> BASC Greenshoots project	2008/09 £5K provided by EAW	BASC, EA	Associated with Menter Môn project – establish a “cordon sanitair” around Anglesey and at key water vole sites to remove Mink. Providing training on humane mink trapping, along with mink rafts and traps.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Control at Newport Levels NNR
	Mitten Crabs	Ongoing	EA	Recording of spread.
	Mussel seed movement risk Investigations to determine the potential risk for certain non-native species to be introduced to North Wales with mussel seed dredged from wild seed beds	12k 2008	CCW contract with Marlin	A list of invasive non native species likely to be spread by the movement of mussel seed was drawn together and a risk assessment carried out into the impacts of any introductions into the Menai Strait.
	New Zealand Pygmyweed <i>Crassula helmsii</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / CCW (ongoing)	LBAPs	Monitoring of sites of Back from the Brink species (Pillwort, Marsh Clubmoss, Three-lobed Water-crowfoot) for infestation by Crassula, and notification to partners of need for control.

	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Carried out in house by CCW	CCW	Tregaron, in flooded peat cutting. Drained/herbicide used. <i>Crassula</i> came back.
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	CCW	Herbicide eradication at Ynys Las (Mike Bailey)
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	EA / NEWW	<i>Crassula</i> removal at Hafod, Wrexham (SAC) Training and pond survey
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	EA	Advice on management and control. Eradication (Bala Lake Hotel and Llanfairfechan – pond infilling). Complete mechanical removal at Llan y Gors (Anglesey) and Brynchrug.
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Advice to FC Newborough - awaiting action Control at Dyfi NNR
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	EAW, North East Wales Wildlife (NEWW), Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd.	Experimental control of <i>Crassula</i> and fish at Johnstown by EAW. Method statement was exemplar. Paper delivered by NEWWildlife at Amphibian & Reptile group conference, 2008. Other methods of <i>Crassula</i> control carried out elsewhere in NE Wales.
	Primrose-willow	August 2008	EA	About to start eradicating from all sites in UK including Penllergaer in Wales
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	2006 ongoing	Snowdonia National Park Authority	SNPA have had an invasive species project officer for the last 2 years mainly concentrating on Rhododendron. He has written a Rhododendron strategy for the Park and undertaken a large amount of control in conjunction with the Tir Eryri grant scheme. Main areas around Mawddach, Dinas Mawddwy and Dyffryn Ffestiniog.
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / CCW (ongoing)	CCW SNPA	Small-scale eradication using volunteer help at sites where Rhododendron poses a threat to <i>Back from the Brink</i> species. e.g. threat to Sword-leaved Helleborine (<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>) at Arthog, Merionethshire. Monitoring of invasion at other sites and notification of partners of need for control. e.g. threat to Juniper at Cwm Bychan, Beddgelert, Merionethshire.

	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	3 years	FC, Swansea Council	Clyne Valley CP – approx 35 ha cut, chipped/burnt and treated with re-treatment over 3 years. Then will be included in BWW grant
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	2008	CCW, Swansea Council, Gower Commons, Nat Trust	Graig Fawr – approx 32 ha on valley side north of M4. Control only by treatment of ‘outlying’ areas
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Ongoing control at following NNRs – Dyfi, Ceunant Llenyrch, Coedmor, Hafod Garregog, Coed Rheidol, Rhinog, Cadair Idris, Yr Wyddfa, Berwyn, Coedydd Maentwrog, Coed Camlyn, Coed Cymerau, Ceunant
	Rose of Sharon (Hypericum calycnum)	CCW budget	CCW	Ongoing control on Stackpole NNR
	Ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Control at Newport Levels NNR
	Ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> Ruddy duck eradication programme	LIFE funded	Defra led	Ongoing on Anglesey Lakes. The work is overseen by the 'Oxyura Project Advisory Group'. CCW’s Senior Ornithologist sits on OPAG.
	<i>Sargassum muticum and other non native marine species</i> Spreadsheet of records of presence around the Welsh coast	N/a	CCW	Records from CCW staff and others are kept on a spread sheet in-house to track the spread of marine non native species around the welsh coast. This data has recently been put onto marine recorder. September 2010 All marine NNS records are currently being put into mapinfo as part of the NEF Portal project.
	Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> Signal crayfish control on the Bachawy (Wye tributary)	£5,000pa ongoing	Wye & Usk Foundation, EA, CCW	Since 2006 CCW have grant-aided the Wye and Usk Foundation to trap signal crayfish in the Bachawy Brook. To date c.40,000+ signals have been trapped. Trapping is considered a holding operation pending a final solution.
	Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Ongoing	EA	Monitoring of spread on Dee by trapping. Recording of new sites. Advice provided to public, PR events (DEE Day and Royal Welsh Show)

				Investigation into introduction on the Lledr (assisted by North Wales Police). Policy to refuse all licensing of trapping to discourage illegal stocking of new sites.
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Project to ascertain extent in Milford Haven	August 2008	CCW contract	Part of the drop down video work being undertaken on contract for CCW. The aim is to see how far up the Haven <i>Crepidula</i> is present and to look at its abundance in places where it was previously of low abundance or absent (i.e. look at its expansion).
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Investigations to determine the past and current status of populations in North Wales	10k/ August 2008	CCW contract	Following on from the introduction of slipper limpet to the Menai Strait, a contract was let by CCW to investigate past and present sightings and to try to ascertain if the removal of the contaminated mussel seed had been successful in stopping wide spread dispersal of the slipper limpet in the Menai Strait.
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Seafish Standard Operating Procedure: Screening bottom culture seed mussel for the slipper limpet	Guidance produced in March 2008.	Seafish, CCW, NE, EHS, SFCs & Loughs Agency	A method for industry to screen mussel seed for <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> was developed to reduce the likelihood of <i>C. fornicata</i> being introduced into new areas and allow industry to monitor its presence / absence in wild mussel seed and farmed areas.
	Species Challenge Fund	2007 - 10	NEWWildlife, EAW, DCC, FCC, Chester Zoo and WCBC	Carrying out a programme of surveying and monitoring of protected habitats for INNS across NE Wales since April 2008. Collating data with COFNOD. Also focussing on awareness raising and training. Remedial works on habitats identified as having a new INNS problem following the results of the survey schedule.
	Strawberry Tree <i>C. simonsii (Arbutus unedo)</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn	CCW, Great Orme NNR.	See Cotoneaster species for details.
	Terrapin	CCW budget	CCW	Removal of individuals at Stackpole NNR
	Topmouth gudgeon <i>Pseudorasbora parva</i>	EA budget	EA	EA have begun elimination work on EA sites
	Water primrose <i>Ludwigia</i>	2008 - 13	EA, Swansea Council	Suspected by SH, confirmed by Dr Newman, treated by EA
	Wells Catfish		EA	Active removal
	Wild goat	Ongoing	CCW, NT, SNP,	Culling takes place to control numbers. A position

	Monitoring and control in Eryri (Snowdonia).		Snowdonia Society and Gwynedd County Council	statement and management plan have been issued by the partners and agreed by all the organisations involved. Some issues with animal rights supporters.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Review of Schedule 9	2008 - 9	DEFRA	DEFRA hope to publish the outcome of their consultation on this and the Ban on Sale of certain non-native species in Spring 2009.
	Zebra Mussels	Ongoing	EA	Recording of spread

RESEARCH				
	Didemnum vexillum	2009/10	Funding: Esmee Fairbairn, CCW Partners: Bangor Uni, CCW, MBA	Field and laboratory based research on the growth rate, recruitment and environmental tolerance of Didemnum vexillum in Holyhead.
	BSBI Consultation All invasive non-native plant species	Plantlife / CCW (Sept 08-March 09)	BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles, Committee for Wales	Consultation to determine which invasive non-natives are actually damaging populations of threatened native plant species in Wales. Evidence gathered will be used to quantify actual problem (numbers of sites affected) and prioritise action depending on threat status of native species affected.
	Cordgrass <i>Spartina Anglica</i>	In-house budgets	Swansea Council/CCW	Survey of the plant in Swansea Bay with CCW (including Blackpill SSSI for over wintering waterfowl) with a view to future management if needed. At present no management required.
	Crassula control	2007 - 10	NEWWildlife	Carrying out research into <i>Crassula</i> control.
	Ghost slug <i>Selenochlamys ysbryda</i> Proposal to determine the spread of this potentially invasive species in the Cardiff area	£1,000 (CCW contribution 2008/09)	National Museum Wales, CCW	First discovered in a private urban garden in Cardiff in 2007. Well established and breeding at this sole known locality. Observations confirmed it to be a specialised subterranean predator of earthworms. Part I of the project will be a public response survey and Part II a more detailed targeted survey. Aims i) To determine whether <i>S. ysbryda</i> is established beyond the current known locality. ii) To clarify the native vs. exotic status of <i>S. ysbryda</i> in the British Isles and determine whether it is likely to become invasive. iii) To establish which, if any, other molluscs <i>S. ysbryda</i> are associated with and whether these include the apparently ecologically similar Shelled Slugs (Testacellidae). iv) To gain a basic understanding of the ecological requirements of <i>S. ysbryda</i> and Testacellidae in urban areas. v) To encourage public awareness and understanding of the existence of these species.

	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Ongoing	EA	R & D into biological control
	Himalyan Knotweed <i>Persicaria wallichii/ Polygonum polystachyum</i>	Ongoing	Swansea Council	County wide survey underway to identify the further spread of this plant.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Natural control research for Japanese Knotweed – UK project.	Phase 2 complete now moving into Phase 3.	CABI Bioscience, WAG DE&T, Defra, EA, Railtrack, SWRDA, Torfaen CBC, Cornwall CC,	Research programme into natural control for Japanese Knotweed on a UK wide basis. Phase 2 research complete. Negotiations now underway re. licencing for release for 2 species identified as potential control agents.
	MARINE ALIENS II <i>Controlling Marine Invasive Species by Targeting Vectors of Dispersal</i>	20k from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation over 3 years	Bangor Uni SOS, CCW, SAMS, Plymouth Uni, Natural History Museum , Queens Belfast, FRS Aberdeen.	Quantification of non-native species associated with hull fouling of commercial and recreational vessels; Classification of ports/marinas in terms of hull fouling potential, based on basin configuration and environmental variables; Development of a monitoring system for the early detection of invasive marine species on vessel hulls, in ports/marinas suitable for deployment by local non-specialist staff or volunteers;
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Water Vole National Key Sites Project (GR4-044)	£5,000 in 08/09 and in 09/10	People's Trust for Endangered Species, CCW	Digestive tracts of mink from areas of water vole abundance have been collected to examine the functional response of mink in relation to the abundance of water voles and alternative prey.
	New Zealand Oyster <i>Tiostrea lutaria</i> PhD: Biodiversity associated with the introduced oysters <i>Tiostrea lutaria</i>	Bangor Uni funded PhD started October 2008	Bangor Uni/CCW	Distribution patterns of <i>Tiostrea lutaria</i> in the Menai Strait will be studied to ascertain the scope of the spread of the species. Samples of oysters will be collected together with their associated infaunal and epifaunal organisms to investigate the likely impacts of these invasive oysters on intertidal biodiversity.
	Rapid Risk Assessments 650 aquatic and terrestrial plant species assessed	2008-9	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn	Simplified Pheulong methodology used to identify priorities for full assessment. 450 aquatic species in UK trade and 200 most rapidly spreading terrestrial species have been assessed.
	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	£1,500 for 4	CCW,	The brown alga, <i>Sargassum muticum</i> , native to the

	<p>PhD: Distribution and dispersal of this invasive marine alga, within Wales: a multidisciplinary approach to a management problem</p>	<p>years started in 2007.</p>	<p>Glamorgan Uni.</p>	<p>northwest Pacific, was first recorded in Wales in 1998 and has since established several invasive populations along the Welsh coast. To date the source(s) of its introduction into Wales, and potential vectors of spread remain unknown. Furthermore no formal investigations have been undertaken to assess the current extent of the alga's distribution and its potential impacts on native biodiversity. This project aims to investigate the invasion dynamics of <i>S. muticum</i>, using a combination of molecular tools and field surveys, in order to provide baseline information required for the implementation of future management strategies</p>
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	<i>Sargassum muticum</i> MSc project. Sargassum Impact Assessment at Rhosneigr SSSI.	2009	Bangor Uni SoS.	The aim of the study is to assess if the presence of the invasive seaweed <i>Sargassum muticum</i> in the rock pools at Rhosneigr, is having a detrimental effect on the marine flora already present.
	Shore Thing-Non native species project	2009 - 10	CCW, J Oakley, Swansea Council	Surveys/education and monitoring with public, schools etc for Wireweed (<i>Sargassum muticum</i>), Wakame/Japanese Kelp (<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>), Green Seafingers (<i>Codium fragile</i>), Harpoon Weed (<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>), Oyster Thief (<i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>), Slipper Limpet (<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>), Leathery Sea Squirt (<i>Styela clava</i>), Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>), Darwin's Barnacle (<i>Elminius modestus</i>)
	Sites in Peril Database	2008-9	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn	Database of sites with invasive plant species that fall within Important Plant Areas or occur in sites with native vascular plant species that are threatened in GB or Wales. Will be used to help prioritise sites for action and determine levels of threats to Important Plant Areas.
	Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> PhD: Predicting the consequences of the introduction of the slipper limpet to North Wales	PhD has started. Ist year review in October 2009	CCW, Bangor Uni SOS, Mussel industry.	The research would include a Literature review, Mesocosm experiments Developing contingency plans and eradication methods Developing methods for detecting non-natives in mussel beds Developing site security measures for Menai Strait and Conwy Bay Special Area of Conservation against invasive non-natives.
	Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> A preliminary study into the reproduction and internal micro-growth bands of the non-native Prosobranch Gastropod in the Menai Strait (North Wales)	2007	CCW, SOS	Study undertaken by a SOS Welsh language summer student at CCW after the introduction of the slipper limpet to the Menai Strait.
	Swansea Pond Project	09/10 (10/11, 11/12)	Swansea Council / CCW	Update of 1994 survey (urban/urban fringe only) to identify non natives. If funding allows this will extend to Gower and Mawr in further years.
AWARENESS				

	Advice on management and control of aquatic / riparian species	Ongoing	EA	BASIS qualified staff give advice and herbicide licences on invasive species – to the public, local authorities, CCW, partners and internally.
	<i>Crassula</i> paper at Amphibian & Reptile Groups conference	2008	NEWWildlife	Presentation of results of experimental control of <i>Crassula</i> at Johnstown by EAW, NEWW and Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd.
	Good/bad plant guide for ponds	2008 - 9	NEWWildlife, Denbighshire CC	'Good Pond Plant, Bad Pond Plant' handy 'aquatic invasives pocket guide' to be launched in May 2009.
	Good Pond Plant Bad Pond Plant Day	19.5.09	NEWWildlife	Event to launch 'Good plant bad plant' guide, Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve, nr Mold.
	Enforcement Poster	2008 - 09	CCW	CCW are doing an enforcement poster as a Partnership Against Wildlife Crime initiative for use at events.

	Ghost slug <i>Selenochlamys ysbryda</i>	NA	National Museum Wales	'Have you seen the ghost slug?' poster being distributed asking the public to look out for both the ghost slug and shelled slugs.
	International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2009 Theme-Invasive Alien Species	22/5/09	CBD / Swansea Council	Event(s) to be arranged in Swansea to raise awareness
	Marine Poster Poster to raise awareness amongst boat owners of some of the top non-natives they should look out for on their boats/around marinas.	2008/09	CCW, Green Blue and others?	Poster not finished yet.
	North Wales and Dee INNS forum	First meeting October 2008	Various	To discuss a coordinated strategic approach to management
	"Plant Invaders" Display at Royal Welsh Show	Plantlife / CCW (annual)	Plantlife	Display of the most invasive aquatic species (living material of New Zealand Pygmyweed, Floating Water Pennywort, Canadian Pondweed, Parrots Feather, Water Fern, Himalayan Balsam), plus distribution of leaflets (Pond Alert, <i>Alternative Pond Plants</i>) and face-to-face advice.
	Pond Alert! Campaign and leaflet series	Plantlife Scotland	Plantlife	A series of six leaflets covering invasive pond plants, alternative native species and pond creation. Produced by Plantlife Scotland but applicable in Wales and available from: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-scotland-publications.html#pondalert
	Royal Welsh Show	2008	EA/Wye and Usk Foundation	Project launch of alien species eradication programme with presentations on INNS
	Shore Thing (as above)			
	Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Wanted Poster asking people to look for them in the Menai Strait	N/a 2007	CCW, SOS, SFC.	Following the introduction of the slipper limpet to the Menai Strait in 2006 CCW and the SFC were keen to try and engage the public in helping to eradicate this species from the SAC. A poster was developed in house in CCW and distributed to various locations/shops around the Menai Strait. Several sightings were reported and followed up, although to date no live specimens have

				been found outside the mussel lay area.
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	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicate</i> Talking to Seasearch to possibly repeat some of the transects of the Haven done in the 70s.	2009?	Seasearch, CCW.	Not started yet, discussions only so far.
	Species Challenge Fund Articles, press releases and courses	2007 - 10	NEWWildlife	To raise awareness of threats from INNS on biodiversity and priority species, targeting key groups such as garden centres, fishing clubs and outdoor sports. Display at Llangollen flower show.
	Didemnum vexillum Poster	2009	CCW/Blue green	CCW and the Blue Green have developed a poster on D.vex to be displayed in marinas across Wales highlighting the need for good biosecurity.
	Recording		EA	Recording of aquatic invasive species in Northern Area – copied to Cofnod
TRAINING				
	Advanced Amphibian course	Annual	NEWWildlife	Bio security risk assessments are now part of this course delivered by NEWW on behalf of NW Wales Amphibian and Reptile Network. It is contributed to by Flintshire CC, CCW, Cheshire Ecological Services and NWP.
	Invasive Plants – their History, Identification and Control	14-17 October 2008	Plas Tan y Bwlch Environmental Studies Centre, CCW	Course for managers, ecologists, planners, biodiversity officers etc. charged with developing invasive plant control strategies and measures. Endorsed and financially supported by CCW. Presentation by EA.
	Invasive Species Training	2008 / 2009	CCW / DE&T	Developing pilot training programme for LAs and contractors
	Invasive Species Training Species Challenge Fund	2007 - 2010	NEWWildlife (North East Wales Wildlife)/EA	Training sessions run in NE Wales on ID, ecology and management of invasive aquatic plants (one aimed at countryside staff, one aimed at fisheries and horticulture sectors) now being rolled out to Amphibian and Reptile groups nationally.
	Invasive Species Training	2008	EA, Cyngor Gwynedd, SNP, Plantlife	Two training courses delivered in the N.W. Wales, one indoors, 1 in the field. Plantlife involved with one.
	Marine non native species training day	March 2010	CCW, Judith Oakley, Bangor Uni., WBP.	Two free one day courses were held in North and South Wales on the 1 st and 3 rd of march 2010 in bangor and Swansea. Detain on the GBNSNS website Wales page.

	Invasive Species Training	Various	EA	In-house training to Operations Delivery (Flood Risk Management, Fisheries and other staff).
	Invasive Species Training	Annual	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)	Annual course run by SH.
	Invasive Weeds Seminar	13.2.09	Caerphilly CBC/Baenau Gwent/KWT	Seminar exploring background, implications, treatment and law re: Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed
	Lesser Silver Water Beetle Training	May 2008	NEWWildlife	Carried out under Species Challenge Fund.
	Mussel Fishermen Developing a risk assessment methodology for the potential for mussel transfer to act as a vector for the spread of non-native species into north wales	12k in part August 2008	CCW, Mussel fishermen	Pest id cards (invasive marine non-native species id cards for use on boats by mussel fishermen to train in spotting a range of species).
	Shore Thing (as above)			

Last updated September 2010

Title: Wildlife Crime Update

Produced by: Sgt Ian Guildford, South Wales Police/Countryside Council for Wales

Background/Progress

Jenny Wedge the coordinator for the Dyfed Powys Police Wildlife Crime Officers retired in September 2010, this post is currently being covered by Chief Inspector Chris Curtis pending further arrangements

The review into the prevention and investigation of wildlife crime has now been completed and was handed over to the Assembly Minister Jane Davidson on 1st September 2010. One of the recommendations of this report is for the formation of an 'Enforcement Working group' which will sit under the Welsh Biodiversity Steering group, this group will be chaired by Chief Superintendent Gwyn Thomas from the Dyfed Powys Police, invitations and selection for membership of this working group is currently taking place.

Gwent Officer, PC Robert Maddocks, has been seconded to the 'Forgotten Landscape Project' in Blaenavon, Gwent, although not primarily a wildlife crime post a lot of the issues he will address will cover wildlife and environmental crime.

A Welsh wildlife crime seminar for PWCO's and the CPS is to be arranged for early 2011.

The report on the approach of the South Wales Police to wildlife and environmental crime has now been completed and submitted.

At the 22nd Annual Wildlife Crime Enforcers conference recently held in Cheltenham, Sgt Rob Taylor of the North Wales Police received the runners up prize for the 2010 Wildlife Enforcer of the Year Award.

In August 2010 Jeffrey Lendrum from Northamptonshire, was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment after being detained at Birmingham Airport in May 2010 trying to smuggle 14 Peregrine Eggs out of the country to Dubai. He admitted on interview that the eggs had been taken from nests in the South Wales area. 11 of the eggs were successfully incubated and hatched with seven of the birds being placed on nests in Scotland and the other 4 being hacked back to the wild.

On the 20th September 2010 Cases the owners of Animarium in Borth, Aberystwyth appeared at Aberystwyth Magistrates Court where they pleaded guilty to six offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997, these related to the display and sale of various animals without having the correct licences as required under the act—the owners were fined £1202.50 and £415 respectively and the following animals were made subject to a forfeiture order – Leopard, 2 x Lynx, 4 x Lemurs and 2 x Spur Thighed Tortoises.

Plan/Proposals

Action Requested

- Form a task and finish team to carry out next step YES/NO
- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES/NO
- Ask all WBP members to comment on the format of the report YES/NO

Title: Local Authority and National Park Biodiversity Officer Group Actions

Produced by: Local authority and national park biodiversity officer groups

Background/Progress

Local authority and national park biodiversity officers from both South and North Wales hold regular area meetings to discuss issues of common interest and to progress regional and joint initiatives. This paper to note reports a series of ongoing projects and highlights new work for future consideration.

- Recently, the need for guidance on the review and adoption of local action plans was reported to WBPSPG11 (Action 51). Following this action, draft guidance is being produced to assist in the process of local action plan review and their resultant re-adoption.
- LBAP officers have been asked to provide a response on the Natural Environment Framework (NEF) as part of the consultation process. The response will consider how local biodiversity action plans and the work of local biodiversity partnerships can be best achieved through the new framework.

LBAP officers from south Wales met in October and briefly discussed the consultation on NEF. It was felt that before a formal response could be provided it would be beneficial for the group to receive a workshop event on the framework. North Wales officers held a meeting in late October and will be providing feedback from this.

- Pippa Rayner from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust presented information to WBPSPG8 regarding the status of bumblebees in Wales and outlining future work for the conservation of the shrill carder bee.

Following a series of actions at this meeting and linking to proposals for a Hymenoptera mentoring project (WBPSPG10, Paper to Note B) LBAP officers met to learn identification skills for shrill carder bee. Officers are now being encouraged to look for populations of the species in their own county area to enhance data on distribution and inform future conservation work.

Plan/Proposals

LBAP officers are also making progress on a number of other regional projects that the group would like the Steering Group to be aware of:

- In recent years, regional events have been held in both North and South Wales. This year, a Bioblitz event at Wepra Park engaged volunteers from across North Wales and involved all the region's LBAP officers. Other similar events have included A 'Botanical Beat' at Treborth Botanical Gardens and a Woodfest stand. Building on these and previous years' experiences during Wales Biodiversity Week (WBW), the Communications Subgroup will be approached to ask if they can look at a regional 'roadshow' event for 2011. The idea being that a single roadshow could tour a series of locations such as shopping centres, high streets, garden centres in a range of LBAP areas to capture a new audience.
- The Wales Wildlife Gardening Project aims to raise awareness and reward actions for biodiversity that members of the public, schools and community groups achieve in their own gardens. The project has now expanded to include all of North Wales and is supported by two regional officers. Funding continues to be an issue, the project manager's position is only secure until March 2011.
- Officers are providing recommendations to the Policy Subgroup on the legislation and policy that they consider to need review. These recommendations come from experience working in the sector and recognition of the likely needs of the Natural Environment Framework.
- The Freshwater Pearl Mussel project continues to undertake surveys across Wales whilst the captive rearing of mussels in EAW hatcheries yields some successes. It is hoped to translocate these mussels back to the wild in future years.
- The North Wales Invasive Non Native Species forum meets regularly to implement the work of the Wales INNS group at a regional level. They have written risk assessments for identified priority problem species and co-ordinate proactive work on the ground.
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council hold an annual award for planning officers that recognises those officers who achieve the most for biodiversity through their work and the development control process. A report on this scheme is intended to be presented at a future WBPSG meeting.

Action Requested

- That the Steering Group note and endorse the work of the LBAP officer groups

YES/NO

Title: Business & Biodiversity Sub-group update

Produced by: WBP Business & Biodiversity Sub-group

Background/Progress

The business & biodiversity sub group has been working on a number of tasks to help engage the Welsh business sector with biodiversity issues. Full details are in the minutes of our meetings, available on the WBP website or on request from the WBP secretariat.

We have recently welcomed Visit Wales onto the sub-group. As a result WBP partners have been able to provide support and advice to Visit Wales and we hope this continues into the future. RSPB is the WBP representative on the Sustainable Tourism forum. The tourism industry is not only vital to Wales' economy; it has a role to play enhancing biodiversity and selling the value of Wales' rich natural environment both within and outside of Wales.

WBP Website business area: the subgroup are pleased with the work that has been carried out over the last year on the WBP website, particularly links to case studies and resources for businesses seeking to engage with biodiversity issues. The case studies submitted so far give a good flavour of the drivers and positive outcomes for businesses that have engaged with biodiversity enhancement.

Finally the Natural Environment Framework process has provided us with a new opportunity to recognise the role of biodiversity within the broader economic context and we will be seeking to feed into the workstream, A Living Wales. In particular we will be seeking to clarify the role of the NEF, WBP Business & Biodiversity sub group and its constituent members over the forthcoming months starting with a joint meeting at the end of November.

Plan/Proposals

Action Requested

- Ask: all WBP members providing services to businesses who wish to have them promoted through the portal to send a link to the area of your website that provides information on your business services to WBP. YES/NO
- Ask: all WBP members with a case study showing how their organisation has worked with a particular business to help them tackle biodiversity issues, please send them to the WBP secretariat for uploading. YES/NO

Title: Conceptual Framework for Engaging Business with Biodiversity in Wales

Produced by: WBP Business & Biodiversity Sub-group

Background/Progress

Business has struggled to engage with biodiversity as a result of a number of failures: market, information and regulatory. This paper seeks to outline those failures and suggests ways in which the NEF could resolve some of the issues faced by WBP partner members and the companies with whom we seek to engage. This paper is a starting point for engagement with NEF partnership work stream by the WBP business & biodiversity subgroup.'

Introduction

It is generally accepted that among the general public, wildlife and nature conservation are considered important issues (source: BBC). Many people are members of conservation charities; the government at all levels has policies and commitments to enhance biodiversity and structures have been put in place to support their delivery. Sterling work has been carried out by several companies ensuring the impact they have on biodiversity and landscape is minimised and offset.

However, it is also true that despite all this, we continue to degrade ecosystems at a frightening rate. Among other consequences of our inaction, the decline in wild pollinators puts at risk our continuing ability to feed ourselves. We all appreciate these are not insignificant issues and yet thus far we have failed to do enough to reverse the trend. Action on biodiversity remains the Cinderella of environmental concerns and there is a huge challenge to turn vague concern into concrete action. We need others to understand that as well as biodiversity having intrinsic value, it also underpins the provision of a huge range of ecosystem services which provide benefits to both business and more widely to society.

Members of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) are in an excellent position to work together to play our part in driving the necessary change. However, we need the implementation of the Natural Environment Framework (NEF) to take account of the context within which we are trying to engage with businesses and to address some of the current failings.

The Failure to Value Biodiversity

Several members of the WBP work with business in various capacities. The businesses we interact with include those who are already actively working to

deliver biodiversity enhancement and those who are not. Several common threads have become apparent and some of these are outlined below. These are not intended to be exhaustive but indicative and have been listed to provide a framework within which those involved in delivering the NEF can begin to engage with the business sector.

The failure to recognise the value of biodiversity in business decisions can be characterised as being the result of 3 failures:

1. **Market Failure:** This occurs where business decisions do not reflect the value of biodiversity as it doesn't add to the 'bottom line' of the business.
2. **Information Failure:** For instance where the value of biodiversity would make a difference to the business's profits and/ or reputation, but the correct information is not getting through to the right people in the right form to influence decisions.
3. **Regulatory Failure:** This is where the way in which public sector organisations are structured and carry out their business, inhibits proper engagement with businesses.

1. Market Failure

Financial investment – because there is no cost associated with not managing biodiversity unless such action falls within the gift of regulatory frameworks, there is no incentive to spend money on actively enhancing biodiversity for anything except philanthropic drivers. This problem can be seen in agriculture where the maximisation of food production is financially rewarded by the market, but not the stewardship of biodiversity which supports this production. This is where agri-environment schemes, like Glastir, are needed to make sure farmers are rewarded for production of ecosystem services which have no market price.

Branding – there is generally a lack of brand identity and associated values when it comes to the concept of biodiversity. This results in the biodiversity brand having a very low value, and when competing in the marketplace against stronger brands, for example pollution control or community engagement, we find that biodiversity tends to be neglected for more established environmental or social brands.

Value to company reputation – risk management does not tend to consider biodiversity risks nor marketing the value of positive biodiversity messages. While those of us who have been working with biodiversity for a number of years understand the value of managing biodiversity the communication of this message to companies has been sporadic and often left to individual service providers to carry out. Most product development starts with a perceived need and sales and marketing teams show how their product fills that need. When it comes to biodiversity, the perceived need is not there, so there is a job of work to be done to fill that gap.

2. Information Failure

Service Providers – there are many providers of biodiversity goods and services in the marketplace from both the private and third sectors. The product range is also diverse: a customer may buy a birdbox to enhance the biodiversity of their bed & breakfast or they may want a phase 1 habitat survey and protected species surveys for a quarry expansion with mitigation recommendations and biodiversity offset opportunities. In addition to the confusing range of goods and services on offer, there are other problems associated with the messages we use to 'sell' biodiversity. Many ecosystem goods and services have yet to be recognised as products in the marketplace at all, for example the role of wetlands in water quality and flow regulation.

Mixed messages – many companies do not know who to go to for information and advice. There are so many sources, with no clear links, often giving different messages about what they should do.

Communication - there has been little communication with business to date about wider ecosystem and biodiversity matters and what communication there has been is sporadic, uncoordinated and at times confusing or conflicting. The regulators and certifiers are not giving companies the message that biodiversity is something they should be paying attention to. The public sector sources of business information also tend not to mention biodiversity and nor do trade associations or business networks. Communication of messages from within a sector can often be more effective than external communication because issues of trust and commonality of language have already been resolved.

Endorsement – companies (who tend to be risk averse) have no way of assessing the competency or value of services on offer.

3. Regulatory Failure

Perceptions – there is a fairly widespread feeling outside of those traditionally associated with the natural environment that biodiversity is a problem to be avoided if possible and dealt with reluctantly. The headline in *the Leader* business section: 'Newt colony fears wrecks Wrexham jobs hope' from the 12th August 2010 is a case in point.

Language – the biodiversity sector has a problem with how we communicate with businesses. We either reinforce the negative perceptions of biodiversity as a barrier to development or we use scientific and technical language when talking to non-experts that leaves them even more switched off to our message than they were before. At the first Global Business of Biodiversity conference the head of Conservation International stated that in 30 years of work with business he had not found it useful to use the word biodiversity. While the head of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity said he wished that the study had used the word nature in place of biodiversity.

Regulator prioritisation – it is not helpful to those organisations trying to get companies to tackle biodiversity proactively if the result of that effort is increased scrutiny by the regulators who find they have time on their hands.

Innovation/creativity – companies seeking to develop products, processes and technologies that would have a beneficial impact on biodiversity often lack access to government resources to move from prototype to production phase.

Role for NEF

The NEF provides us with an unrivalled opportunity to address many of the issues outlined above as it takes a wide view of environmental management. The focus on ecosystem services is key, as it is these which link people to places and through which we can start to communicate the true value of biodiversity to business, setting out not only the value in terms of good PR, but also how management of biodiversity can affect profits.

1. Addressing Market Failure

If grant decisions took account of the biodiversity risk management of applicants for government grants and loans, then this would help to create a market for biodiversity enhancement. If tenders to supply and contract included biodiversity in the same way they include a requirement to source timber from legal & sustainable sources, then again, this would help to create a reason for suppliers to the public sector to enhance biodiversity as a result of their activities.

2. Addressing Information Failure

The WBP has already started work on providing an interim information hub through their website to address the barriers surrounding service providers. It would be useful to work with the Living Wales work-streams to see how this can be further developed.

Individual members of WBP have long standing relationships with companies through the work they have undertaken with them, for example Shared Earth Trust, Wildlife Trusts and Groundwork. WBP members who are major land owners, such as Dwr Cymru and the Forestry Commission have long established relationships with the companies they interact with and who border their lands. There is another sector of the WBP membership, the regulators, who also work with many thousands of companies within Wales. By working together, the NEF can be communicated to those we already work with and we will all benefit from the uptake of approaches outlined in NEF.

3. Addressing Regulatory Failure

NEF has the potential to bring biodiversity into mainstream decision making in the public sector. The WBP can play a key role in bringing together staff from a range of agencies, and third sector organisations to pool knowledge and understanding about priorities and tools for action.

NEF needs to seek to engage with those sectors and organisations who communicate with business to ensure that messaging and communications do not fall into the same traps of language and perceptions they have in the past.

‘Before conservationists can truly convince others they perhaps need to come more fully to terms with the idea of nature conservation as a wholly integrated, not segregated, activity with biodiversity as an emergent property rather than as the focus for action.’¹

NEF needs to work with regulators to ensure that companies proactively seeking to tackle issues before they are brought up by review are no longer penalised with further scrutiny. It should pay companies to seek advice from regulators at an early stage, while there is most flexibility to address any issues at least cost. Research by CCW shows that businesses are afraid that giving regulators early warning of plans will simply mean that there will be more time for problems to be found. Businesses surveyed called for more of a partnership culture with regulators ²

Finally NEF gives us an opportunity to reward innovation and creativity by building regard for the natural environment, shown by business, into government sponsored business awards, training, support and advice. NEF can help to link policy to access to R&D funding, most of which currently comes from Whitehall and is set under different criteria.

Plan/Proposals

To seek to engage with the A Living Wales workstream of the NEF. To feed this paper into their processes and seek to work together to improve business engagement with the natural environment.

Action Requested

- Ask: Any WBP member not already committed to attending the meeting on the 17th November with NEF and who has an interest in engaging the private sector is very welcome. Please contact the WBP secretariat.
- To inform: WBP steering group that this paper will be fed into the NEF A Living Wales partnership workstream.

¹ Richard Smithers, Landscape Character Network News, Autumn 2010

² Improving our liaison with business, CCW ERM 2006

**WBP SG12
PAPER TO NOTE F
11th November 2010**

Title: Natur Cymru – Nature of Wales

Produced by: James Robertson, Editor

Background

**WBPSG9, PAPER 6
12th November 2009, Wrexham**

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/SG%20Meetings/SG9/Paper%2006%20WBPSG9%20Natur%20Cymru.pdf>

Natur Cymru (NC) is looking to secure its long-term future and to add value to the service provided by the magazine by linking in with WBP projects. The purpose of this paper is to highlight recent progress.

Progress

As part of its expanding role, *Natur Cymru* has agreed to provide greater support to the recording of data. The bedrock on which decisions and policies are based is derived from the accurate recording of species or habitats. This is a huge task often involving much help from volunteers. *Natur Cymru* will produce information on a regular basis to help inform and inspire people about recording. This could involve an article within the magazine (at no extra cost) which could be supplemented by a broader more public campaign involving a leaflet and identification guide using both printed and electronic means of publishing. *Natur Cymru* has also provided a list of suggestions for improved marketing for the recording centres.

Natur Cymru is also happy to help with the production of special reports on behalf of the WBP. The *Natur Cymru* team is well positioned to assist WBP in the communication of important stories and messages. Sometimes these will fit neatly into an article within the magazine (at no extra cost) but on other occasions these would be best produced as a standalone report or communication. *Natur Cymru* could be commissioned to create WBP reports such as progress of the Biodiversity Action Plan, or help with proof reading or production.

Natur Cymru has also provided space for the publication of material supplied by WBP members, such as the National Museum, Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.

Action Requested

Approve us to carry on as suggested above

YES/NO



Title: New woodland creation in Wales

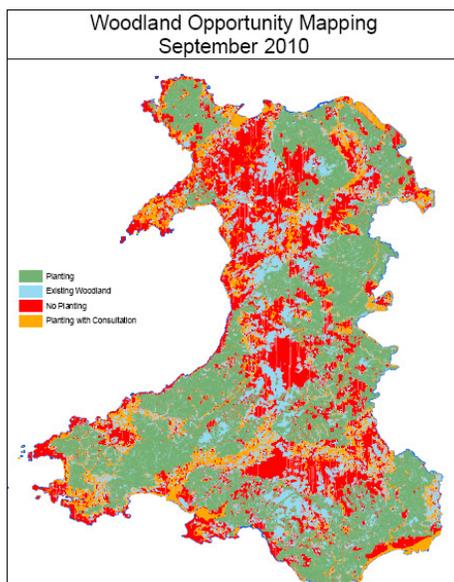
**Produced by: Michelle van-Velzen, Policy and Programme team,
Forestry Commission Wales**

Background/Progress

On 16th March, Rural Affairs Minister Elin Jones announced a new, ambitious tree planting programme as part of the targeted element of Glastir, aimed at expanding the area of woodland in Wales by 100,000 hectares over the next 20 years. A report published in March 2010 by the Land Use Climate Change Group forms the scientific evidence base. The new woodland creation target will enable land owners to respond positively to the challenges posed by climate change through the contribution of trees and woodlands to overall carbon abatement (especially that carbon locked up in wood products which can substitute for steel, concrete, aluminium etc).

Plan/Proposals

A new woodland creation grant is now available through Forestry Commission Wales and is available to all landowners across Wales with more than 0.25 hectares of land which has been designated by FCW and conservation bodies in Wales as suitable for new planting. The new scheme is weighted in terms of grant rate towards native woodland and mixed woodland with thresholds and rules set at a scheme level for size, species composition, provenance, woody shrubs and stocking density.



Green – 692,659ha

planting acceptable, including planting with special guidance for red squirrel, water vole, common land and open access areas

Blue – 302,524ha

existing woodland

Amber – 525,421ha

planting with consultation

Red – 593,895ha

no planting

This strategic map, which can be accessed via a public viewer on the FCW website, has been developed for two main purposes to:

- a) indicate to land owners where woodland creation is likely to be acceptable; and,
- b) reduce formal consultation as far as is possible focussing effort on fine tuning any proposals in amber 'consultation' areas.

The following is a summary of the methodology applied:

- Green 'planting' area - Agricultural Land Classification (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Non-Agri, Urban areas) minus red, amber and blue
- Amber 'planting with consultation' area - Upland Special Protection Areas 500m buffer, SSSI's with 300m buffer, SSSI 'areas', National Parks, AONBs, Soils category 2 (CCW), Bracken with Fritillary Areas, Historic Landscapes, Historic Parks and Gardens, World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Trusts data
- Red 'no planting' area - Deep peat, Phase1 on deep peat, Regionally Important Geological Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 'Combined Species' map, BAP Priority Habitats 2 (without woodland), Soils category 1 (CCW), additional species information provided from Glastir (eg Chough, Golden Plover), Grassland Fungi, Archaeological Trust Data (eg treeless landscape characterisation), existing woodland and high priority lakes as defined under River Basin Management Plans.

There will be further refinements at a strategic level taken forward with various consultees to improve some data sets such as phase 1, soil information and interpretation, treeless landscape characterisation and buffer zones around protected areas where new native or mixed woodland could make a significant contribution.

At a scheme level, as with any replanting or new woodland creation, all will be bound by the UK Forestry Standard and it's associated set of eight UK Guidelines. The UKFS and it's Guidelines are currently under revision and should be published towards the end of this year. The FC are piloting a Woodland Carbon Code which sets out robust requirements for voluntary carbon sequestration projects that incorporate core principles of good carbon management as part of modern sustainable forest management.

For further information please visit these web pages:

- **Forests and climate change** Forestry Commission Great Britain <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infcd-7m8f59> including download of The Read Report
- **Woodland carbon code** Forestry Commission Great Britain <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infcd-84hl57>
- **Woodlands for Wales – the Welsh Assembly Government’s strategy for woodlands and trees** March 2009 <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7GDE7A>
- **Grants and Regulations** Forestry Commission Wales, for more detailed information about the new woodland grant scheme and transitional arrangements <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infcd-5z8jcr>
- **Adapting woodlands in Wales to a future climate** Forest Research <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7FXBYQ>

Action Requested

- All WBP members asked to note the above points.

Title: Ensuring due regard to section 42 list habitats and species in the development control process

Produced by: Hazel Drewett, Countryside Council for Wales

Background/Progress

A paper on the above topic (paper 5) was discussed at WBPSG8 on 8 July 2009. The paper highlighted the need to ensure that CCW's responses to consultations from local planning authorities support those of LA ecologists and those of other bodies in respect of the section 42 list. The decision taken at that meeting was that CCW would include a standard paragraph about the section 42 list in all responses to planning consultations.

Plan/Proposals

CCW reminds planning authorities and other regulators about the section 42 list through general liaison and reiterates the point in response letters when we consider that there is a risk of local interests being overlooked. CCW's current 'no comment' letter includes the option of stating:

'Please note that we have not considered possible effects on all local or regional interests. Therefore, although we do not wish to comment on this case, you should not rule out the possibility of adverse effects on such interests, which would be relevant to your Authority's general duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity, as set out in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006).'

We have decided to strengthen the current paragraph, which will be used in our responses, by making more specific references to legislation and guiding the planning authority in how they can fulfil their duties. The new paragraph will read as follows:

'We have not considered possible effects on all species and habitats listed in section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, or on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and other local interests. To comply with your Authority's duty under section 40 of the NERC Act, to have regard to conserving biodiversity, your decision should take account of possible adverse effects on such interests. We recommend that you seek further advice from your Authority's ecologist and/or nature conservation organisations such as the local Wildlife Trust, RSPB, etc. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership's web site has guidance for assessing planning proposals that have implications for section 42 habitats and species at: <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/Sec%2042%20planning%20guidance%20Feb%202009.pdf>.

The Welsh Assembly Government is monitoring the implementation of this

duty placed on public bodies by the NERC Act.’

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above

YES/NO

Title: Academic Representation on WBP Ecosystem/Species Expert Groups

Produced by: WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

The membership of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) Species Expert/Ecosystem Groups consists primarily of representatives from statutory environmental bodies and conservation NGOs. Representation from within the research community is currently lacking. Better links with current academic research would greatly benefit the BAP process through up-to-date information on management advice, autecology, survey methods, responses to climate change etc. The groups have also been asked to keep the Welsh Assembly Government informed of research needs and priorities that can be fed through to DEFRA, and academics could also help greatly in this respect.

Plan/Proposals

The Wales Environment Research Hub (WERH) acts on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government and its agencies to help coordinate research in support of the Wales Environment Strategy. The WERH, led by Dr Shaun Russell, are assisting the Government in identifying potential participants for the work of the WBP.

A number of academics or appropriate members of their research groups (e.g. postdocs) have therefore been invited to contribute to one or more the other of the following groups:

1. Woodland Ecosystem Group
2. Freshwater Ecosystem Group
3. Lowland Grassland and Heathland Ecosystem Group
4. Enclosed Farmland Ecosystem Group
5. Wetland Ecosystem Group
6. Coastal Ecosystem Group
7. Marine Ecosystem Group
8. Upland Ecosystem Group
9. Urban and Brownfield Ecosystem Group
10. Species Expert Group

The WBP Technical Officer has been collating responses to this invitation and to date a very positive response has been received. At present offers of involvement from 24 academics have been received, offering to contribute either directly or thorough correspondence. Currently the Enclosed Farmland Ecosystem group is the only group lacking academic representation.

The intention is to contact individuals directly over the next few weeks, to discuss in more detail their potential involvement. Contact details will then be passed to the Chairs of the relevant groups.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above

YES/NO

DRAFT: Ecosystem Groups Terms of Reference: DRAFT

Each Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) ecosystem group focuses on a range of related ecosystems. Each specialist group works on their own specialist function (e.g. invasive non-native species or information sharing etc). Every group has the following responsibilities with regard to their particular focus:

- Collaborate with others in Wales to develop and implement the ecosystem approach as set out in the WBP Framework and Living Wales, taking into account ecosystem health, resilience and services.
- Work with stakeholders, including Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Partnerships, Local Record Centres (LRC) and others on practical projects to provide ecosystem benefits.
- Work directly with appropriate WAG Officials to secure ecosystem outcomes and reduce policy barriers to ecosystem enhancement and protection within all areas of WAG policy and delivery.
- Through academic members and via links with Living Wales Evidence work stream, ensure that appropriate monitoring, surveillance and reporting are carried out. Identify knowledge gaps, and either address these directly or recommend how they could be filled.
- Through links with Living Wales Evidence work stream and WAG Officials ensure that positive use is made of scientific evidence within in policy, delivery and action.
- Report actions and encourage others to report actions in a timely fashion on the Biodiversity Action Recording System (BARS) and Special Sites Database (Environment Strategy Wales Outcome 21).
- Within all of the above to maximize positive outcomes for BAP, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) Act Section 42 species and Environment Strategy Wales Outcome 21 features.
- Work with each other and with FCW, CCW and EAW funding managers to coordinate bids for research and/or action.
- Work with Living Wales Evidence work stream to provide advice on ecosystem management for land managers and sea users.
- Coordinate reporting on status and trends for habitats and associated species.