

Llys y Frân Catchment Project

Work began on the Llys y Frân Catchment Project in July. This new initiative, led by Afonydd Cymru in association with Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust, is a trial collaborative partnership with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The project is based on the Afon Syfynwy catchment, a tributary of the Eastern Cleddau, which drains into the Rosebush and Llys y Frân Reservoirs and lies within the Eastern Cleddau River Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – concentrating on the area from the source of the Afon Syfynwy to the dam at Llys y Frân.

Llys y Frân Reservoir has been susceptible to Blue Green Algae blooms in recent years. The project aims to achieve a better understanding of factors impacting on water quality and nutrient loading within the catchment in relation to land use, looking at activities such as forestry operations, sewage inputs and farming. It is hoped that this initiative will deliver positive measures to help improve water quality, minimise the risk of pollution incidents and help to gain favourable conservation status.



Blue Green Algae at Llys y Frân
Photo: Natural Resources Wales

PEMBROKESHIRE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



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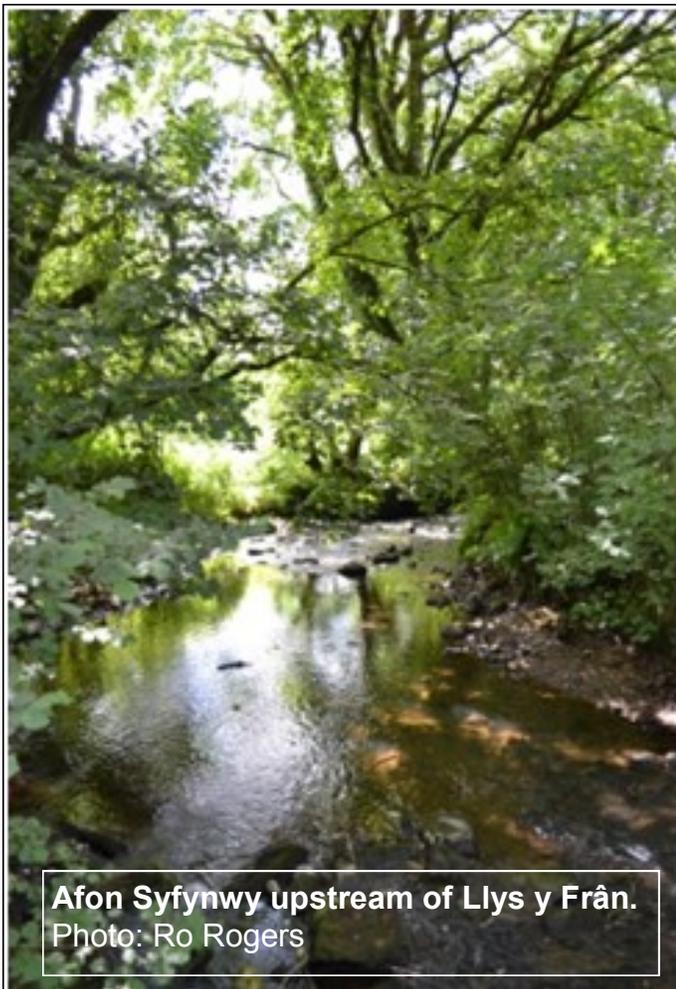
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Afon Syfynwy upstream of Llys y Frân.
Photo: Ro Rogers

The project will include the installation of sondes to monitor water quality. Biological monitoring of river invertebrates at selected sites will provide supporting information about the status of the river and a programme of river walkover surveys will evaluate the condition of the river corridor and identify factors adversely impacting upon it.

Landowners in the catchment will be invited to attend a farm workshop and it is hoped that a number of farmers will take the opportunity to receive free soil sampling, nutrient management plans and a one to one session with an agronomist giving advice and practical assistance with land management issues.

Through this work, it is hoped to identify opportunities for habitat and infrastructure improvements with the possibility of delivering these through future funding opportunities.

Further information about the project can be obtained by emailing the Catchment Project Officer, Ro Rogers at:

ro@afonyddcymru.org

Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust is always keen to recruit new volunteers. If you are interested in helping with our project work to improve your local river environment, where you could receive training to develop your skills and experience and meet like minded people, please visit <http://www.pemsbrt.org/how-you-can-help/> or contact us on 01437 783070, email enquiries@pemsbrt.org

Ro Rogers

Afonydd Cymru / Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust



Hedgehogs in Pembrokeshire

The European hedgehog or *Erinaceus europaeus*, is endearing, endangered and it eats garden pests. It has been suggested that **if we save the hedgehog we save the world**. This is not as far fetched as it may sound, since most of the problems affecting hedgehogs are environmental and are therefore shared with many other species. Loss or fragmentation of their habitat means that hedgehogs have to travel between breeding and feeding sites, often crossing roads in the process. Increased predation by domestic predators such as cats and dogs can also be a problem. Providing suitable warm, dry nesting places within easy reach of food resources can greatly reduce hibernation related mortality and reduce the need for hedgehogs to travel during their foraging trips, thereby reducing their exposure to road traffic and predators.



Hedgehog in a Pembrokeshire Garden

Photo: Trevor Theobald



Hedgehogs will soon be preparing to hibernate for the winter, so now is a good time to make space for them in your garden. A cat flap in the fence, a broken panel, a gap under a gate or ivy over the wall will all suffice to help give the Hedgehog access to your garden. Leaf piles, overhanging shrubs or a hedge are all good nesting places. Special nesting boxes stuffed with hay can be left or a feeding station is even better. This can be a rectangular plastic storage box, around 60cm long with a lid. Cut a hole in the narrow end large enough for a hedgehog but small enough to keep a cat out. Place the food at the end farthest from the opening, out of reach of a cats paw. Food can consist of meaty dog or cat food, meaty cat biscuits, meal worms, sultanas, chopped, unsalted peanuts and various fruits like banana and strawberries plus a dish of water. Remember the hedgehogs are nocturnal so put the food out around dusk.

Anyone wishing to attract these useful little friends into their garden can do so very easily but should make the garden safe first:

- Look before you strim or mow. Many small animals hide in long grass and a strimmer injury is one of the worst injuries you can think of. Strim to within 30cm of the ground, then check before going lower.
- Light bonfires as soon as they are set or check them thoroughly for inhabitants.
- Ponds need a slope or a step so that Hedgehogs can clamber out, netting needs to be 30cm off the ground (including tennis and football nets), cover drains.
- Do NOT use slug pellets even “safe” ones. The hog will eat the poisoned slug.
- A compost heap provides food and warmth, but take care when forking it over.



Its not all bad news for Hedgehogs though. The Pembrokeshire Hogspital reports far fewer cases of Hedgehogs suffering with lung-worm this year. It may be that the cold spring and hot, dry early summer kept slug numbers down meaning that Hedgehog diet contained a lower proportion of slugs this year. Slugs are the main vector of Lung-worm for Hedgehogs, so the shortage may actually have benefited them!

Beryl Steadman
Pembrokeshire Hogspital
wobblyhogs@gmail.com 01437 779461

Habitat for Rare Dragonflies Saved

An area of habitat for the rare Southern Damselfly has been saved thanks to the combined

effort of several conservation organisations, the landowner and local farmers. The endangered Southern Damselfly is at risk of extinction in this part of the Preseli Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Pembrokeshire which is one of its traditional strongholds in Europe. Projects like this that maintain its habitat are vital for the species' survival in the area.

The partnership project between the British Dragonfly Society (BDS), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) has safeguarded the specialist habitat at a site known as Pensarn Corner. The project was funded by Environment Wales and was supported by the landowners (the Barony of Cemais) as well as local farmers, who graze this extensive area of common land.

NRW's Senior Conservation Officer, Jon Hudson explains 'this is an area with

Male Southern Damselfly
Photo: Dave Smallshire.



several specialist wetland features including streams, bogs, flushes and pools. It is the confluence of several streams and an important access area for livestock, graziers and walkers to the common'. The habitat was at risk because access to the Common was becoming difficult and the streams were at risk of getting choked up. This essential work has created clear access to the Common for walkers and graziers whilst ensuring that the sensitive wetland features are maintained.

The project will ensure that one of the small areas across the Common where the endangered Southern Damselfly is found is maintained into the future. This species is rare throughout Europe and protected by law both in the UK and Europe. The matchstick-sized blue and black damselfly has very specific habitat requirements and is currently under threat through changes in land management. Projects like this are vital if we want to continue to see this species in Pembrokeshire.

Pensarn Corner is also home to the near-threatened Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly. The project also means that the disturbed habitat required by Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly is maintained by directing livestock across an area of wetland favoured by this species. It lives and breeds in muddy areas with little vegetation and shallow water. There are also several other species of dragonfly in this small area and it is considered to contain one of the most important dragonfly populations in Pembrokeshire.



More projects like this are needed to ensure the Southern Damselflies survival in Pembrokeshire, without the hard work by the BDS, PCNPA and NRW, support of Environment Wales with support from the Welsh Government, landowners and local farmers, this would not have been possible.

Claire Install
Conservation Officer, British Dragonfly

Hayscastle Feed the Birds Day

If you enjoy wildlife then why not spend 26th October between 2:00 and 5:00 pm at this event? Run by the Hayscastle Environmental Society at their Community Woodland, it consists of exhibits, activities and competitions for all ages centred around the winter feeding of birds but covers many other aspects of wildlife.

Apart from interesting feeding ideas there is the opportunity to make boxes for nesting birds, insects and bats, bug and hedgehog hunts, fungi, bird's nests, moths and much more to keep your attention. Supported by many local organisations this annual event is now in its fourth year with expert advice on hand.

Dave Baster.
Hayscastle Environmental Society

Rare Fish Caught in the Haven

A very rare fish caused great excitement amongst anglers at Hobbs Point, Milford Haven Waterway on Friday 2nd August. Local boys caught the Sturgeon using a small rod and sausage bait, it wasn't quite the crab they were hoping for! Everyone was astounded when they realised that the strange looking fish was likely to be none other than the 'royal fish' currently critically endangered (one step removed from being extinct in the wild).



Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation officer Sue Burton commented “It’s wonderful that such an amazing fish has been found – it just goes to show how the sea can constantly reveal big surprises. Milford Haven Waterway is part of the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation, designated for its marine wildlife of European importance. This is certainly an important sighting.”

Local Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Marine Conservation Officer, Anne Bunker was able to narrow down identification of the fish to either the European Sturgeon or an Atlantic Sturgeon (the species caught in Swansea Bay in 2004). Anne remarked “This is the only official record of a sturgeon having been caught in Pembrokeshire that I know of.”

Although it was about a meter long this was quite small for a Sturgeon. A female can reach 3.5 meters and live to 100 years old.

Caviar, the luxury delicacy, is prepared by salting the unshed eggs of Sturgeon. Sadly, overfishing, pollution of estuaries and building of locks and weirs that stop migration up rivers to spawning grounds has made the Sturgeon one of the most endangered species in Europe.

If further photographs of this particular landing become available it may help identify which species of Sturgeon was caught, but sometimes DNA analysis is the only way to tell them apart. Anne (01646 624000) or Sue (01646 696108) would be pleased to have any further photographs or records.



If you accidentally catch a Sturgeon, please follow these four steps:

- Note the date of the catch, the size and weight of the fish and the location (GPS or zone);
- If it has a marking, leave it there and note the number;
- Release it with care;
- Report your accidental catch and your details to Jim Ellis, Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Email: jim.ellis@cefas.co.uk (Web: <http://www.cefas.co.uk/sturgeon>), or one of the contacts in this article.

Sue Burton

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer
Sue.burton@mhpa.co.uk

Wildlife Trust Supports Local Charcoal Maker

Although there are now a multitude of different fuel sources available, the traditional skill of charcoal making is still truly alive in many woodlands across the UK.

The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales (WTSWW) has a good history of producing charcoal from its reserves on the Gower, where there is a dedicated woodland team managing woodland sites in this part of Wales. These sites are primarily managed for the habitats and species they support yet with timber felled through activities such as coppicing, a saleable resource such as charcoal can be produced to help generate income for further management prescriptions.

One of Pembrokeshire’s best woodland reserves is Pengelli Forest, located just north of Newport. This 65ha site is part of the largest block of ancient coppiced oak woodland in Wales and supports key species



such as the Dormouse and Barbastelle bat. Recent management projects implemented through the Better Woodlands for Wales scheme have enabled the Wildlife Trust to create a number of clear-fell coups roughly 0.2ha in size to encourage new growth and provide a variety of structure within the woodland canopy. Much of the larger felled timber has been extracted and sold locally whilst the smaller lengths are a resource now being utilised by a local charcoal maker. Using a type of charcoal burner called a retort (of which there are only a few in the UK) which is fixed to a trailer and so can therefore be transported from site to site with ease, he is helping to manage a number of woodlands within the county. The Wildlife Trust is always keen to support traditional skills and trades, especially where they benefit the conservation and management of its sites and the

wider environment. It is great to see a traditional skill such as charcoal making returning to Pengelli where remains of old charcoal kilns can be found dotted all over the reserve. Even though the technology has changed in its production, the sight of a small steady stream of smoke emerging from the woods is somewhat enchanting, especially when you know it's nothing to worry about!

For more information, see: <http://www.welshwildlife.org/wildlife-trust-supports-local-charcoal-maker/>

Nathan Walton
Wildlife Trust Officer for Pembrokeshire



Play Your Part for Nature

Protecting Wildlife for the Future



Hang On To Your Tackle!

Anglers love Pembrokeshire but recent underwater clean-ups by volunteer diver group Neptune's Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC), have discovered that anglers, so often environmental and marine enthusiasts, are leaving behind snagged lines, lost tackle, fishing weights and monofilament line on beaches, ledges and rocky outcrops.

This littering, sometimes intentional but often accidental, has a terrible impact on wildlife and habitats – crabs can be tethered to the sea floor and sea fans tangled by line which could take more than 600 years to breakdown!

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Hang On To Your Tackle project aims to encourage anglers to put their fishing litter in specially provided bins at angling hotspots around Pembrokeshire (see map).



Photo: NARC

By following our top tips, novice sea anglers can help to minimise the amount of tackle lost in the first place:

- Use an overhead cast and 30 lb breaking strain line straight through when bottom fishing or feathering to allow you to pull free of snags
- Use hooks that will straighten and biodegradable line
- When bottom fishing use extra-long wire grip weights and cast in excess of 50m to find a sandy bottom

Location of Angling Bins © MCS

The map shows the outline of Pembrokeshire in green, with the name 'Pembrokeshire' written across it in white. Ten numbered black dots are placed along the coastline, each with a small icon of a fishing bin next to it. The dots are numbered 1 through 10, corresponding to the list of locations on the right.

1. Whitesands Beach
2. Martins Haven
3. Hobbs Point
4. Broadhaven South
5. Stackpole Quay
6. Freshwater East
7. Manorbier
8. Tenby South Beach
9. Tenby North Pier
10. Saundersfoot Pier



- If you feel the bottom or a snag reel in faster and always increase your reeling speed as you get closer to the shore
- Always fish at high water to minimise snags
- When spinning or feathering use a light, 2-3 oz weight and avoid grip leads

More information can be found on our website: <http://www.mcsuk.org/wales/Working%20with%20you/Working%20with%20you/Hang%20on%20to%20your%20tackle%20campaign>

If you are interested in setting up a similar scheme in your area then please get in touch at: anglingbins@mcsuk.org

Emma Cunningham
Marine Conservation Society



Orielton Fungal Bioblitz

Orielton Field Centre is hosting its first Fungal Bioblitz event. One day to discover, identify and record as many fungi species in and around the Orielton Estate as possible. The event ties in with similar events across Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire to celebrate UK Fungus Day on 13th October 2013. More details are available at: <http://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/>

There will be local experts and enthusiasts on hand to help. The event will focus on the fungal diversity of the estate but in the true



nature of a Bioblitz event we will be recording sightings from all other walks of life.

There will also be sessions aimed at kids exploring the diversity of Orielton woods in fun and exciting ways.

Accommodation is available for the Friday night. The event will take place on Saturday 19th October 2013 10.30am-5pm
To book a place and for further details please contact:
admin.or@field-studies-council.org
01646 623920

Ant Rogers
Biodiversity
Implementation
Officer



Biodiversity Events

September / October 2013



Date	Title	Information	Contact
04/09/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
09/09/13	A Life at Sea – St David's Guided Walk 10:00 – 16:00	Whether on the wing, or by fin or flipper, many creatures visit the Pembrokeshire Coast. These walks have been designed to give you the clues that make spotting everything from a porpoise to a gannet a little easier. Booking essential	01834 845040
17/09/13	A Small Matter of Trees	WTSWW evening talk by NT Ranger Jim Light. 7.30pm at Foundry House, Pembroke.	Contact Nikki Anderson: pembrokenikki@hotmail.co.uk
18/09/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
23/09/13	A Life at Sea – Fishguard Guided Walk 10:00 – 16:00	Whether on the wing, or by fin or flipper, many creatures visit the Pembrokeshire Coast. These walks have been designed to give you the clues that make spotting everything from a porpoise to a gannet a little easier. Booking essential	01834 845040
02/10/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
02/10/13	Cardigan Ramblers' Walk – Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran	Easy 3 mile walk with afternoon tea at Welsh Wildlife Centre. Meet: Station Road, Cardigan. Grid ref. SN179457.	01239 710544
16/10/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
19/10/13	Orielton Fungal Bioblitz	One day to discover, identify and record as many fungi species in and around the Orielton Estate as possible. There will be local experts and enthusiasts on hand to help.	admin.or@field-studies-council.org 01646 623920



Biodiversity Events

October - December 2013



Date	Title	Information	Contact
26/10/13	Hayscastle 'Feed the Birds' Day	14:00 – 17:00 at Hayscastle Community Woodland. Fun for grown ups and kids alike!	Dave Baster. 01437 710656
28/10/13	Wild Woodland Adventures – Colby Woodland Garden 11:00 – 15:00	Watch out for the woodland wildlife preparing for winter in these family activity events.	01834 811885
29/10/13	Wild Woodland Adventures – Colby Woodland Garden 11:00 – 15:00	Watch out for the woodland wildlife preparing for winter in these family activity events.	01834 811885
30/10/13	Wild Woodland Adventures – Colby Woodland Garden 11:00 – 15:00	Watch out for the woodland wildlife preparing for winter in these family activity events.	01834 811885
30/10/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
13/11/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
19/11/13	Our Pembrokeshire Islands	WTSWW evening talk by Steve Sutcliffe, former island warden. 7.30pm at Foundry House, Pembroke.	Contact Nikki Anderson: pembrokenikki@hotmail.co.uk
27/11/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600
01/12/13	Brown Hairstreak Transect Count	Meet in car park 10.00am West Williamston SSSI. It is a joint event between the Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation.	Contact Nikki Anderson: pembrokenikki@hotmail.co.uk
11/12/13	Guided Walk, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran 14:00 – 16:00	Weekly guided walk with resident ranger Howard Jones	01239 621600



Biodiversity Newsletters

Mae'r cylch-lythyr hwn ar gael yng Nghymraeg, cysylltwch â Ant am gopi cymraeg.

PBP would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write an article for the next newsletter please contact Ant.

PBP Contact Details

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anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire Biodiversity website:

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk (search - biodiversity)

Wales Biodiversity website:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

PBP Members



County Landowners Association



Farmers Union of Wales



Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group



Keep Wales Tidy



MANOR HOUSE Wildlife Park



National Farmers Union – Wales



Natural Resources Wales



Pembroke 21C Community Association Limited



Pembrokeshire County Council



Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership
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Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust



Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development



Prince's Trust Cymru



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



The National Trust



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

