

20 Years of Partnership Working

October saw the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the formal launch of the LBAP Partnership, forerunner of the current Nature Partnership. The Partnership has operated continuously ever since with an officer in post to coordinate and promote action to protect and enhance biodiversity in our county.

Pembrokeshire is the only county in Wales to have operated a Nature Partnership continuously for this period and the continuity provided by the long term commitment of partners is widely recognised as an exemplar of partnership working for conservation. The Partnership has been influential in forming local and national policy and in delivering practical action across a wide range of species, habitats and communities.



The anniversary was marked by an online 'gathering' due to restrictions on meeting in person during the Covid 19 pandemic. Fifty people representing 23 organisations signed up for the event which featured presentations highlighting recent partner work, a re-cap of the highlights of the last 20 years and breakout sessions to look forward to future projects.

The Partnership is currently part of a three year project to increase capacity in the sector by reinstating Local Nature Partnerships in each Local Authority and National Park in Wales. More details of the LNP Cymru Project can be found here: <https://lnp.cymru/>.

PEMBROKESHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP



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I look forward to continuing to work with you all to build on the successes of the last 20 years and together reverse the decline in nature in our county and beyond.

Ant Rogers
Biodiversity Implementation
Officer



The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust

The aims of the Trust are to promote conserve and protect the environment and to educate people about the special qualities and benefits of nature and the outdoors. We are committed to supporting the best projects delivered by the best people and informed by the PCNPA Management Plan, local communities, and environmental and heritage experts. The trustees are committed to raising funds to support and deliver a number of projects and activities with partners in Pembrokeshire.

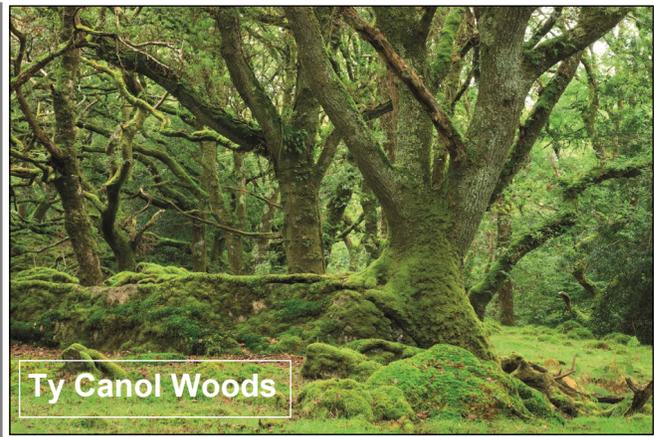
Earlier in the year the Trust published its first impact report. Having raised over £50,000 the Trust was able to support 5 projects that were identified as priorities for the National Park in 2019/20.

These were:

- Stitch in Time – tackling invasive non-native species
- People, Paths and Pollinators – ‘pollinator friendly’ management of the coast path
- Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools – supporting outdoor education in the county
- Gwreiddau Roots – working with a cluster of schools on food, farming & the environment
- Coastal Path Storm Damage Restoration

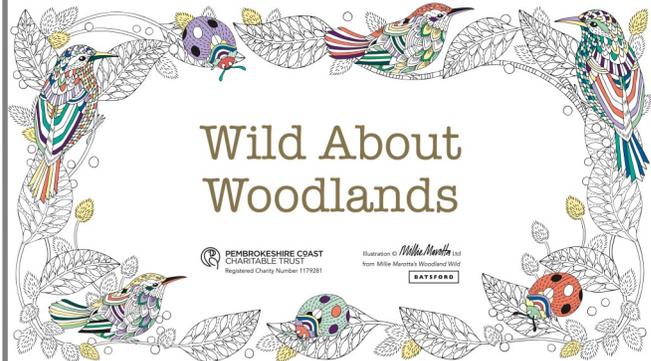
The whole report can be viewed on the website www.pembrokeshirecoasttrust.wales

Wild About Woodlands is our latest fund-raising campaign, which aims to help plant and protect 1,000 trees. Partnering with local illustrator Millie Marotta as her new Woodland Wild colouring book launches, we want to create new woodland corridors across the National Park for wildlife to grow and thrive.



The campaign coincides with the release of Millie's latest book - Millie Marotta's Woodland Wild (Batsford), a celebration of the unique wildlife found in the world's woodlands, and will see every person who donates to the appeal receive an exclusive colouring sheet created especially for the appeal and featuring an animal that can be found in Pembrokeshire's woodlands.

To donate online and find out more about the Trust's partnership with Millie Marotta visit: www.pembrokeshirecoasttrust.wales/how-you-can-help/wild-about-woodlands/



The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust is a charity registered by the UK Charity Commission. Its registered charity number is 1179281.

The Trust launched 2019 and sits alongside the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) however, it is an entirely independent body. The Trust has a board of six trustees which includes two PCNPA Members.

Jessica Morgan
PCNPA



Ecosystem Profiles

The South West Area Statement team are delivering across Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out the legislative framework to ensure that natural resources and ecosystems are resilient now, and for the future. In order to deliver the priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources through the Area Statement we hope to develop a better understanding of ecosystem resilience across SW Wales.

Ecosystem resilience is the ability of ecosystems to deal with pressures and demands, whilst retaining their ability to deliver environmental services and benefits. Directly quantifying resilience is difficult because ecosystems are complex and dynamic. One pragmatic approach is to treat ecosystem diversity, extent, condition, connectivity and adaptability as attributes of resilience.



Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo

Our team are keen to work with Local Nature Partnerships and our NRW colleagues operating throughout the South West, to draw on expertise and local insights.

You have a wealth of knowledge, that when combined with existing data and approaches, will help us to agree ecosystem classifications and co-produce ecosystem profiles to develop an accurate picture of resilience throughout South West Wales. Ecosystem

profiles will provide us with a baseline of information and evidence to strengthen our understanding of ecosystem resilience, which in turn, can be used to identify opportunities and inform decision making to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystems resilience for today and for the future. We are keen to work with Local Nature Partnerships and their members to help us frame the landscape for ecosystem profiling throughout South West Wales.



Bryony Wiffen

Natural Resources Wales

southwest.as@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Growing Better Connections

Growing Better Connections is a practical and far sighted response to the many challenges upon us, with a roadmap to resilience based on connecting communities and landscape in North-East Pembrokeshire.

The project began in March 2020 with newly appointed Project Officers adapting straight away to Coronavirus restricting community engagement. The project team responded with a determined focus on putting in place the groundwork for future action, strengthening and building relevant networks and identifying groups and individuals as potential stakeholders.

Responding to the upsurge in public awareness to food growing and appreciation of time in nature, the GBC team quickly adapted events and activities to suit the contingencies of the times. This included self-guided nature walks, a nature blog and plant giveaways in partnership with local community halls.

Project Officers have designed and trialled site surveys; ways to feed into national and



regional ecology databases and the project team have been trained in preparation for bringing citizen science into potential future landscape interventions. Connections with stakeholders are being created to benefit the aims of Growing Better Connections, including Frenni Fawr Research Group; the Frenni Fach Graziers Association; and the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre, as well as a Steering group made up of relevant local organisations.

As lockdown eased, GBC were ready to hold a timely and informal event, Garej y Sgwar Bugs Day. The afternoon of hunting insects in long grass and making bug hotels built on existing community connections, and was a good opportunity to road test the GBC team protocols, process and resources. Plans are also underway for Tegryn to be planted with trees this Winter, and to control balsam to improve habitat in Boncath working with Coed Dulas and neighbouring landowners.



Bug Hunt

Growing Better Connections is looking to partner with other organisations to deliver its aims of community connection and landscape regeneration across an even wider area and for many years to come. Anyone can make a difference, everyone can get involved - contact us to find out more; www.cwmarian.org.uk/gbc gbc@cwmarian.org.uk 01239 831602

Holly Cross
Growing Better
Connections



Birding success at Teifi Marshes

This year has seen a real success for a number of species at Teifi Marshes nature reserve. What with the dry, sunny and warm months of April and May, the benefits have been seen with a few key bird species on the reserve.

Kingfishers have been most bountiful with one photo catching 6 individuals on a branch perch overhanging the Kingfisher pool. They are regularly seen feeding from all areas of open water and numbers are greater this year than previous years. Little Egrets are also faring well and greater numbers can be seen wading along water edges and the river Teifi.



Kingfishers
Photo: Tommy Evans

One species that we are particularly excited about is the Barn owl. Numbers for this species are decreasing at an alarming rate across the UK yet this year has seen the fledging of 3 barn owl chicks on the reserve. All chicks have now left the nest yet continue to stay on the reserve, feeding over the meadows and reedbeds. The Teifi Ringing Group managed to ring and photograph the chicks (under license) and will continue to monitor them. Barn owls have also successfully bred on Dowrog Common nature reserve just outside St. Davids. We are unsure as to the number of chicks that have flown the nest, yet do know that adults have successfully raised their young.



Another exciting bird species to add to the list is the Bittern. A young bird, most probably a two-year-old, has decided to take up residency on the reserve and can be regularly seen poking its head up from the rushes on the large pool on the marsh, seen from the car park. They usually migrate this way for the winter months and so it is very encouraging to see that this individual has decided to make the reserve its home all year round. It is hoped that it can attract a mate this winter and in turn create the first ever breeding population on the reserve.



Bittern
Photo: Tommy Evans

The reserve continues to also be the only Reed Bunting RAS (Re-trap Adult for Survival) site in the UK. Sightings of colour-ringed Reed Buntings are particularly valuable from photographers. We thank them for their contribution to this project.

Nathan Walton
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales



Marine Area Statements

The Marine Area Statement team are delighted to work with colleagues in the South West to fund Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum's engagement work package of the '[Coastal Communities Adapting Together](#)' project. Its focus is to create engagement tools for local communities to raise awareness of climate change impacts and take ownership for adaptation. NRW, PCF and Pembrokeshire PSB are working together with town councils

of communities to identify a suitable pilot community in the South West.

The South West team are also contributing to the PCF project 'Responsible Use of the Outdoors' along with the Marine Area Statement team to encourage a sense of responsibility for our seas and natural environment amongst South West Wales tourism and recreation operators.

The Marine Area Statement team will be hosting a national marine online event on 13th and 14th January 2021. The event will bring together a range of local and national partners and stakeholders with an interest in Wales' marine and coastal environment. It will provide a platform for collaboration, networking and information sharing at a local and regional scale, with the aim of exploring and developing ideas for projects. The event programme is currently being developed and invites will be sent out soon with more information. Please contact [ma-
rine.as@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:marine.as@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) to be included or hear more about the event.

Emma Lowe
Natural Resources Wales



Newport Area Environment Group

Newport Area Environment Group has been meeting online over the last few months and using the time to re-group and plan for the future, taking the opportunity to restructure the organisation into 'sub-groups' to focus on particular areas of local interest, in order to give each subject the time and attention that's needed. Open to all, the following groups are currently meeting via zoom: Built Environment; Natural Environment; Food Security.

There are several exciting projects in the pipeline including a biodiversity and carbon reduction project and a catchment wide non-



native invasive species project. We hope to engage as many local residents of all ages - gardeners, businesses, landowners and groups in enhancing the biodiversity and natural environment in Newport and surrounding areas. With a new set of officers, Newport Area Environment Group aims to continue the dedicated work of the last 14 years. We invite new members and new ideas, so please do get in touch.

Please visit our website www.naeg.org.uk or email Rose Seymour r.seymour132@gmail.com, NAEG Secretary, for more information.

Rose Seymour
NAEG



EcoDewi

As with most groups, EcoDewi's work slowed down massively due to COVID-19, however one successful project was as a direct result of the virus.

Peninsula Beach Stewards was a project that came to life as local residents in St. David's watched in horror as beaches around the UK became covered in litter as people rushed to enjoy coastlines, as lockdown rules eased, without consideration for their waste impact. After meeting with residents, our joint concern was that beaches in the St. David's peninsula might suffer similar fates and that increased litter could harm local wildlife, on land and in the sea. Working with the local community and following liaison with local stakeholders (including Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA), Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, Surfers Against Sewage, Keep Wales Tidy and St. David's City Council), the project began in earnest on the hunt for volunteers. In total over the summer, we worked with 30 brilliant volunteers at Whitesands Beach. We were especially grateful to the support of the Pembrokeshire Eco Champion project, led by Mark Bonds, and a generous grant from PAVS. The project has also reinvigorated a group of residents keen to carry out beach cleans which we now aim to carry out every couple of months over the Winter.



In other areas, our work on a local community solar project partnering with a private landowner continues and our pre-planning application has now gone in to PCNPA along with an ecology survey, which has been financially supported by the Welsh Government Energy Service. More info will be shared on our website and social media pages as the project develops.

Exciting conversations continue with St. David's Cathedral as to how we can work with them to improve their land for biodiversity and the community, and we are also having conversations about how we can support the new Peninsula Producers Food Hub (part of the Open Food Network) as well as future Sustainable Agriculture projects.

For more information search for EcoDewi on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, visit our website at ecodewi.org.uk or email us at hello@ecodewi.org.uk

Jeremy Wadia
Eco Dewi



Weir Removal Set to Bring Multiple Benefits to Eastern Cleddau

A joint project between Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the West Wales Rivers



Trust (WWRT) to open the upper reaches of the Eastern Cleddau to migratory fish has been completed. WWRT led on the removal of the weir at Vicar's Mill and it is the culmination of more than six years of planning by NRW and WWRT and will play a key role in improving the health of the River Cleddau and its fish population.



NRW will continue to work with partners to explore river restoration opportunities, working with natural processes through the [South West Wales Area Statement](#) work. There will be particular focus on opportunities within the Milford Haven and Swansea Bay areas.

These are two of 10 [opportunity catchment areas](#) that NRW has identified for focused work on sustainable management of the water environment. Within the Cleddaus and Milford Haven Opportunity Catchment we hope to work collaboratively at a catchment scale to tackle issues such as invasive species, habitat fragmentation and nutrient enrichment which threaten important and protected wildlife and habitats.

To progress Opportunity Catchment work and maximise the potential of both we intend to establish local working groups. If you are interested in finding out more and/ or would like to get involved at a local level please contact a member of the Area Statement Team on: southwest.as@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Bryony Wiffen
Natural Resources Wales



British Dragonfly Society Update

With lockdown restricting outdoor activities the BDS has been focused on developing online outreach resources and communication during 2020. This includes the new website which features new tools, such as the 'where to see dragonflies' interactive map of top dragonfly sites to visit. If you would like a site to be featured please get in touch with the Conservation Officer Eleanor Colver (eleanor.colver@british-dragonflies.org.uk). You can also find a wide variety of dragonfly-related resources (including a free to use photo library, educational leaflets and kids' activities) in the new Resources section <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/get-involved/resources/>

Staff are currently in the middle of planning the spring issues of the BDS magazines. If you have a dragonfly or wetland related story you would like featured, please contact the Outreach Officer fiona.mckenna@british-dragonflies.org.uk.

We hope recording activities will return to normal next year. A quick reminder: our main recording activity involves volunteers adopting wetland sites to visit at least three times a year in order to complete a simple species survey. You can find out more about the 'Adopt A Site' recording activity here: <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/recording/bds-recording-scheme/>

Assistance in promoting the activity in the spring would be most appreciated. We would also appreciate assistance in encouraging existing recorders who already survey wetlands regularly to register their sites via the webpage.

Eleanor Colver
British Dragonfly Society



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Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership website:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/biodiversity>

Wales Biodiversity website:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

Nature Newsletters

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

PNP 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.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of the article and may not represent the position of the wider Partnership or its constituent members.

PNP Members

amphibian and reptile conservation  **gwarchod amffibiaid ac ymlusgiaid**

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national park resort

buglife
Cymru

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

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