

Ceredigion Local Nature Partnership Steering Group Meeting



Minutes

Date:	25/04/25
Location:	Llanina Arms, Llanarth – Hybrid Teams

Present

Alison Heal	AH	Senior Ecologist, Ceredigion County Council
Al Prichard (online)	AP	Tir Coed
Ann Owen	AO	Partneriaeth Bwyd Ceredigion
Bob Jacques	BJ	Pencoed Top
Chris Harris	CHa	Biodiversity Assistant, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Claire Hannington	CHn	Llanerchaeron, National Trust
Cllr Eryl Evans <i>Meeting Chair</i>	EE	Biodiversity Champion
Cllr Keith Henson	KH	Rural Housing Enabler
Dafydd Lloyd	DL	National Forest Liaison Officer, NRW
Daniel Williams	DW	Dŵr Cymru
David Anning (online)	DA	RSPB
Elizabeth Riches	ER	Yr Ardd and Fferm Pen y Banc
Evelyn Hollingdale	EH	Ranger National Trust. Butterflies & Bellflower
Fiona Moran <i>Vice Chair</i>	FM	Biodiversity Assistant, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Gillian Clark <i>Facilitator</i>	GC	Service Support Officer CCC, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Jake Rayson <i>Note Taker</i>	JR	Biodiversity Assistant, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Joe Wilkins	JW	BDW Consultancy Ltd and UK Youth for Nature

Molly Gilbert	MG	Horse breeder, Llanarth
Paul Taylor	PT	County Recorder, Butterfly Conservation
Rachel Auckland	RA	Coordinator, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Sean McHugh (online)	SMH	WCVA
Sian Jones	SJ	Translator
Tim Strang (online)	TS	Farmer, Bwlchllan
Yusef Samari	YS	West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre

1	Welcome from KH to EE who is picking up the Biodiversity Portfolio for CCC and taking over as Chair of the LNP.
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2	Introductions from attendees
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3	Dates of Future Meetings
	11 th July 25 - Aberystwyth 18 th October 25 - TBC 16 th January 26 - Online

4	WALES NATURE WEEK
4.1	RA – Wants us to have a stronger presence during this week (5 - 13 July). A stronger team means more support and she wants to know if anyone has any events/ideas to share at biodiversity@ceredigion.gov.uk .
4.2	SMH – Wants people to get in touch so that LNP Cymru can promote them/ their events on social media.
4.3	JW – Has an event planned at the Bandstand (Saturday 5th July) in Aberystwyth and has been working with FM and GC on that. He is also part of a book launch event at The Bookshop by the Sea, Friday 11th July 6pm.
Actions	

5	Member Updates and Discussion
5.1	DW - Cardigan treatment works has now got planning approved and will hopefully be finished by 2027. Lampeter treatment works to the phosphate removal scheme has started. Storm overflow mapping online is now live for all sites, 2,300 in total.

5.2	<p>JW – Has recently started a freelance contract with BDW. He is working towards identifying gaps and issues between the planning department in Ceredigion and the development community to see how they can move forward together rather than seeing each other as opponents.</p> <p>UK Youth for Nature have just launched their campaign in Wales for freshwater, looking at agricultural pollution, from the aspect of better engagement with farmers on a policy level and campaign for the similar things as Welsh Government.</p>
5.3	<p>CH – At Coed y Bont they are redoing their management agreement. They have received £2000 Greening Funding from Fargo for a first aid kit, tools and bird boxes. They have volunteer days on Sundays. They are pleased to have worked well with NRW including DL and have won four awards since 2020.</p> <p>CH – Also does work for the Squirrel Partnership and will be going to their 10 year anniversary conference. They are self-funded and he is hoping to get better DNA work this year at the Tywi forest area. He believes there could be 120 Pine Martens in Wales at the moment and TS said he has seen one in his area too, captured on a night vision trail cam.</p>
5.4	<p>EH – They have a Bioblitz on Friday 20th of June 11am-6pm at Rhos Cwmsaeson and posters to share of the Butterflies and Bellflowers Project which is run in partnership with Butterfly Conservation. Paul Taylor will be doing walks and talks on the day. They are planning for some community engagement up at Lochtyn and a walk at Cwm Soden on 18th May.</p>
5.5	<p>Chn – They are still working on doing damage clearance across all of their sites including working with NRW removing timber that was causing a blockage at river Aeron and other places.</p> <p>On EH's project, they have done winter scrub clearance in areas to help the Pearl Bordered Fritillary. Chn has also worked with volunteers at Lochtyn doing ten days work over one day.</p>
5.6	<p>YS - Over the past two years they have produced the Wildlife Recording Toolkit Project and a plant guide which included all the Welsh names. They are in talks with Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Local Nature Partnerships about a more comprehensive programme of community training and engagement in wildlife ID monitoring which could include people adopting a patch. This will allow pathways between beginners and knowing how they fit into the bigger picture.</p> <p>KH – Asked if the areas with a high density of records, where better recorded or had more species. YS – Responded that they had methods to account for that.</p> <p>YS – Had shared paper copies of the work he was describing and will email a copy to online meeting participants if they wanted it.</p> <p>ER – Asked how interested parties should register. YS – Responded that it is not a working project yet and GC would put that information into the newsletter when they were ready.</p> <p>JR and YS gave ER information about Aderyn, the LERC Wales database aderyn.lercwales.org.uk</p>
5.7	<p>AH – Has created a draft Section 6 plan. There has been a clear up on the nature reserves. Returning to JW's update AH asked if he wanted to talk to the planning department could he contact her and the planning ecologists first. JW agreed they could have a meeting.</p>

5.8	<p>Regarding DW's update AH said that at the Cardigan Waste Water Treatment sites there were some quite significant biodiversity enhancements, which is in line with the Section 6 duty for the Council and it is important that it happens.</p> <p>For YS's update AH thought that the new WWBIC project idea was a game changer and important for Ceredigion because we have less recording happening so appear to have less wildlife. This will also help JW and the planning ecologists give the right advice to developers on what they shouldn't do and what they can do.</p>
5.9	<p>ER – Yr Ardd With support from Capel Dewi Energy Loca have got a number of sessions happening over the summer. There will be a wildflower ID taking place on the 7th of June. Then on the 28th a wildlife gardening session. On 8th of July there is a family nature day. They have been working with Ysgol Bro Teifi's additional needs Team. The school has planted local provenance trees and is interested in changing their cutting regime. Fferm Penybanc have been working with Wildlife Trust and have a couple of sessions coming up, one on the 14th of June surveying and monitoring wildlife and a follow up session on the 27th of September. They have a Welsh government startup grant and are working with approx. 15,000 seeds. They want to move to a Community Tree Nursery model.</p> <p>EE would like to link ER up to a primary school in her ward.</p>
6.0	<p>DL – The National Forest schemes were launched two years ago. A target was to get 30 sites in within two years. They managed 60, with more waiting on decisions. He wants anyone wanting to join the National Forest Network to share information with him on what and where the potentials are.</p> <p>Naturewise Forest Garden in Cardigan a good example of National Forest partner.</p>
6.1	<p>BJ - spent most of the winter tackling Sitka spruce regrowth which is a large problem. There are volunteers but he is the only one with the chainsaw license. Has been developing a method of ring barking which can be done by hand, using a rope chainsaw, which kills trees over a period of two to three years. An advantage of this method is that you've got standing deadwood for insects or birds. He is interested to learn people's view, whether this is a method that can continue throughout the year without too much disturbance to birds and other wildlife. He is recruiting for more volunteers for a site near Ffostrasol.</p>
6.2	<p>DA – Was struggling with audio during the meeting. They had a busy winter at RSPB Ynys Hir.</p> <p>They had 10 green and white fronted geese this is a massive decline on what there was last year, which was 16.</p> <p>It was a good winter for management work and for breeding rates of populations there are approx. 45 pairs of Lapwings and 50 pairs of Red Shank, which is similar to last year. They used National Policy for Wales pilot money to clear some rhododendron and do lower plant surveys, and they've done a lot of work with the insurance.</p> <p>They have done some habitat monitoring work on their wider species monitoring work. They are looking at the distribution of the Climbing Corydalis which is one of the few global sites for a weevil on the reserve.</p>

6.3	<p>TS – With a group of private landowners they are trying to form a rewilding group with support from Rewilding Britain. They hesitate to use the term as farmers prefer to talk about nature recovery.</p> <p>TS has 20 to 30 acres of SSSI and was concerned about a lowering of the water table being used to improve access for horse riders. He requested a visit from NRW which emphasised the importance of the site. There is talk of moving the site higher up the list of priorities and try to get a hydrological survey and encouraging neighbouring landowners to go with peatland restoration.</p> <p>TS – He had planted about 30 acres of woodland about 17 years ago. The ash trees died and the larch have all had to be taken out under a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN).</p> <p>TS – Has used cattle to knock over dead trees and graze a bit and is exploring options whether to replant or go for peatland restoration which is the most favourable option.</p> <p>TS – He explained that there will be an open day at Cefn Garthenor on Friday 13th June.</p> <p>PT – Would like to go and look to see if TS's area is suitable for Marsh Fritillary and will be in touch at some point.</p> <p>TS – Had a visit from Sheena Duller from Plantlife regarding eDNA of Waxcaps.</p>	
6.4	<p>AP – They have had a successful year of woodland management and horticulture courses. Their funding has ended, so they're trying to find different projects and people to work with such as a compost toilet building course.</p> <p>They are in the early stages of applying for the National Lottery Heritage Fund to carry out more traditional woodland management, such as coppicing and hedge laying. They are reaching out to people and Ceredigion to find any sites that they could possibly use.</p> <p>CHn – Said that she had a meeting with Kath, who's CEO of Tir Coed as part of the National Trust and is looking at being part of the grants that they're going to be applying for.</p> <p>SMH – Thanked RA for mentioning Wales Nature Week (WNW) and is happy that the Section 6 plan is not far off and would like a link when it is completed. With regards to WNW SMH will publicise with permission, any events.</p>	
6.5		
Actions		
5.6	GC – To promote WWBIC project	No launch date confirmed.
5.9	EE to contact ER	Before 11/07/25 As soon as details are found.
6.3	GC – To promote the open day.	
6.5	GC to send SMH the Section 6 link	When available.

BREAK

7	STAFF UPDATES
7.0	GC Apologised for the lack of internet at the start of the meeting and then describe the end of the grants scheme as successful with only a £200 underspend left out of £350,000 and 23 projects.

	<p>She wants to go to the Council and ask for there to be voluntary ban on Plastic Flying Rings on Ceredigion beaches. The success will depend on public support and sending out the information through CCC, the partnership, organisations. Tesco, Pets at Home and coastal Asda branches have already got their own ban in place so they can be used as support.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Team are keen to have a Nature Festival for Wales Nature Week. GC is asking for anyone who would like a stand, to give a presentation to lead an activity to get in touch at biodiversity@ceredigion.gov.uk</p>
7.1	<p>FM Since the last meeting she has been helping to finish the grants and working on the National Forest Wales pilot scheme with lots of different partners. 1 project was in the Dyfi Biosphere and FM would like to do more work there.</p>
7.2	<p>CHa – Works on the Local Nature Reserves and has done a lot of work at Penparcau and Llwyn yr Eos doing storm work. There is an issue at Penparcau of people dumping their garden waste. Aberystwyth Conservation Society (ACV) have said that they want to do some work there and CHa wants to see if they have some volunteers to do some jobs. At Parc y Llyn he has been working with the grounds maintenance team and has arrange a Lantra qualification for two of them. They have also carried out path work and cut meadow areas.</p> <p>CHa and some colleagues worked with the ACV and collected 30 bags of rubbish including a lot of tents, and done some tree work in that area too. He has also done meadow work at Pendinas, cutting back vegetation and working with the fire brigade regarding fire breaks.</p> <p>CHa and the ACV have cut out the entrance to the Donkey Field in Aberystwyth, worked on steps at Parc Natur Penglais and done tree safety work. At Coed y Cwm there is a boardwalk that needs to be replaced and safety work.</p> <p>CHa has also been working on interpretation boards for Cenarth and Llanina. He has also been putting up bird boxes, installing otter holts, putting in height restrictors and helping PT and the Badger Society.</p> <p>Cefn Garsai has been cut back and he will hopefully put in reptile boards. At Maes y Pwll he has done tree safety work and step repair.</p> <p>AH said that he had done a phenomenal work since he started with help from Local Places for Nature funding and asked for people to get in touch if they could help volunteer on the nature reserves.</p>
7.3	<p>JR – Has been working on a personal project which is a community garden in Cilgerran including creating a canvas shelter for an outdoor classroom which could be of interest to other groups.</p> <p>There's a horticulture day at the Flower Meadow on Saturday 3rd May. JR asked if anyone had any nature related leaflets he would share them out. JR will be giving a talk on the Glaswelltir Ceredigion Group.</p> <p>The newsletter platform is in the final stage of creation and will make information easier to share. The previous newsletter will be archived there.</p> <p>JR is very excited about the topic of maps and think it is key to communication.</p> <p>JR talked about the £10,000 grant from Dŵr Cymru and thanked DL. It has been used for a Citizen Science Project/Grassland I.D and is looking forward to using that experience to do</p>

7.4	<p>bigger things. DL explained that the funding had ended but they were looking forward to the future and how things would work including possible combining funds.</p> <p>As part of this pilot project JR worked with half a dozen primary schools in Cardigan and partnered with local landowners by going out with school children with butterfly nets, ID cards and insect pooters.</p> <p>There's an online quiz that Jake is looking to get some more funding to take to other schools. The project is about other habitats not just grassland.</p> <p>JR is happy to share his information and items that have been created and thanks YS for his help, including making handmade pooters.</p> <p>There is amenity grassland at schools that JR has been talking to Hywyn at Gwynedd and Isobel at Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership.</p> <p>JR has taken inspiration from work done by BJ and had created the QRFPP Project (QR Code Fixed Point Photography) which is a steel bracket with a phone cradle. The QR code uploads to the online image gallery on a website. He is planning to test it on a couple of sites in the next six months.</p> <p>AH – Said that Welsh Government had confirmed the Local Places for Nature revenue funding for the Nature Partnership and Local Places for Nature. GC will continue full time, JR 4 days, FM 3 days, RA 15 hours a week.</p> <p>Capital funding for nature recovery is coming. The amount will be less than last year. Welsh Government and WCVA are working on the guidance for the criteria of the spending. A work plan for the next two years needs to be submitted.</p> <p>There is likely to be another grant scheme which will be smaller than the last, have a time for Eols and an earlier opening window. AH wants to spend some money on things like JR's QRFPP project. Capital doesn't have to be trees etc. It can also be a decent report. AH is hoping the work will be approved by the end of May.</p> <p>There will be Challenge Fund opportunities on themes of National Forest, Marine Literacy and one aimed at Town and Community Councils. Other people can come up with challenge fund projects, but the application has to go through the CLNP.</p> <p>AH - Would like any ideas for capital projects.</p> <p>DL asked if there was plans for land purchasing opportunities AH said no as it been very difficult trying to buy the Llanina site from Dŵr Cymru.</p> <p>JW - The Ocean Literacy Coalition for Wales which is part of the Coast and Seas Partnership is meeting in Aberystwyth on May the 8th at the Welsh Government offices on the 8th and can connect interested people with that meeting.</p>
Actions	

8	Nature Recovery Action Plan and Mapping
8.0	<p>RA - Is working 15 hours a week and focused on the nature Recovery action plan. Her contract has been extended until the end of the funding period. She has been working on a work plan and critical path document to assist with this work as there's a lot of interlacing of categories going on. RA would like a mapping element to run alongside the text element.</p>

	<p>Discussions about governance, finance and resourcing are ongoing. JW - worked as a consultant to produce the 1st and 2nd drafts. The next step is to put the second bilingual draft on Ceredigion County Council's consultation pages and give people to the end of June to comment on the current draft.</p> <p>RA has already got some other material integrated. If anyone wants to see the live document, she can send it out.</p> <p>The NRAP will need to be signed off by somebody, with a forward from the Chair EE. Then go to CLNP, and then Ceredigion County Council. There has to be public scrutiny. There are ToR for a grant panel, but there isn't any Partnership ToR yet.</p> <p>RA Would like the draught ToR to go out with the minutes of this meeting for comments by 30th June. RA will prepare an item about this for the next newsletter. RA will then redraft the ToR if necessary and bring to the next meeting in July.</p> <p>The NRAP needs to be integrated with the Wales Recovery Action Plan.</p> <p>AH – Said that the July meeting might be in the bandstand with the aim of a hybrid meeting.</p>
8.1	<p>RA will find out if the NRAP needs to go past the Project Management Panel, the Leadership Group and planning policy etc. before it goes up in front of the main Council meeting.</p> <p>All of the drafts, illustrations and translated designs cost money which RA would like to be considered in the workplan and she will create some ballpark figures.</p> <p>The second draft consultation, when it is closed for editing, will be left open for people to refer to before the consultation window opens again.</p>
8.2	<p>RA with JR and GC has drafted the terms of reference. The overview of sections are; Nature Partnership, aims, approach, status, membership. Anyone can be on the mailing list but <i>Member</i> means a member of the CLNP. Natur Ceredigion is the partnership brand. If people want to become a member, they tick a box on (the soon to be launched) Natur Ceredigion website. GDPR will remain the same. Ticking the box gives you voting rights. The next section is about structure and responsibilities. There's one clause that says the whole terms of reference gets reviewed if the host body changes. It would be down to partners and members to try and raise the funds to do that.</p> <p>There's a section about meetings and decision making followed by policies. There are equal opportunities, communications policy, language policy. if anyone wants to add anything or change anything email biodiversity@ceredigion.co.uk.</p> <p>RA – Talked about the importance of knowing who is doing what in the county and she sees the NRAP and mapping work as two strands which will be integrated. The Wales NRAP had six objectives, and five cross cutting themes. RA made a grid with 30 squares reflecting this. Information was added about everything that people were doing or knew about and where it would sit in that matrix. RA did a surgery for members of the public who did not understand.</p> <p>With 30 x 30 RA envisions a Rubik's Cube element.</p>
8.3	<p>SMH – Would like RA to send him copies of the NRAP draft. He said that NRAP is a living document due to funding and policy changes.</p>
8.4	<p>RA – Thinks that the Natur Ceredigion website will be the principal source of communication but is concerned that some people will have accessibility issues with it being online. SMH said some councils do a small print run and leave copies in places like libraries, sometimes one for children as well. RA was concerned about the costs and translation involved. SMH suggested a small version to be taken to events.</p>

	<p>AO – Asked if RA would like community growing spaces and allotments added to the mapping. RA responded yes.</p>	
8.5	<p>JR – Mapping Presentation All Maps Are Wrong grwd.cc/wrong-maps</p>	
8.6	<p>CM – Gave a summary of a project with JW that links in with the meeting theme of NRAP and mapping.</p> <p>They had had a conversation previously with CHa and EH about how meetings are useful but it is helpful to get a broad feel for what's being done for nature recovery.</p> <p>CM and JW are thinking of a mapping activity for everyone, not just CLNP members. With one event initially with the themes from the Wales NRAP and asking people to become familiar with those themes. This would be a physical map. The map might be color-coded to fit the themes, have a summary of the activity, what NRAP theme it sits in and possibilities for follow up. A point of contact for people without an organisation or Facebook could be biodiveristy@ceredigion.gov.uk.</p> <p>The project is standalone but also connected to the NRAP document with the aim of complementing each other.</p> <p>They are doing this on a voluntary basis.</p>	
8.7	<p>RA – Asked if they would attend the Nature Festival with the map. JW said it is a possibility.</p> <p>JW – Would like more of a discussion as to whether there should be the initial event just for members of the CLNP. His preference is to have an open venue where anyone can come and join in. CM confirmed this. They are focusing on facilitating and engaging with people, existing LNP partners, potential new LNP partners and the wider public.</p> <p>RA asked if they were bringing in an external evaluator.</p> <p>CM Said that this had not been discussed. They will be doing the actual facilitating of those conversations, They are keen for it to be a partnership activity and not facilitated by the Biodiversity Team through CCC to avoid confusion.</p> <p>AH – Said the Biodiversity Team were hosted by CCC but are not actually CCC, although they have to follow CCC policy and procedure. She said it was nice to get that direct feedback.</p> <p>YS spoke about the Wales Biodiversity Partnership mapping website and about a mapping/planning tool that was not public access but could be used by partners.</p> <p>FM – Spoke about a large map of the Dyfi Biosphere which people might like to see.</p>	
8.8	<p>Paul Taylor – Ceredigion Butterflies presentation.</p>	
Actions		
8.3	<p>RA – To send SMH NRAP draft</p>	Before end of June