

Invasive Non-Native Species Action Plan

Over the course of the last year, the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership has been working to produce an action plan to provide a coordinated approach to tackling Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the County. Factors such as the increasing ease of global travel, global trade and climate change all combine to increase the risk of INNS entering the UK. Pembrokeshire has taken the lead in developing a local plan to coordinate efforts on the species deemed most likely to pose a threat to native biodiversity and/or human economic interests at a County level.

A list of some 200 species identified at a UK level as being of concern was considered by the Partnership and paired down to 40 species of local concern, of which 31 were deemed high priority for action. Links are provided to factsheets and control measures published by the Great Britain Non-Native Secretariat (GBNNS) where available.



American Skunk Cabbage. One of the priority species in Pembrokeshire.
Photo: GBNNS.

It is hoped that the plan will provide a rationale for conservation action and assist in accessing funding for coordinated projects across the County.

At the time of writing, the plan is due for publication imminently and once published will be available to view here: <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/project/show/37479>

PEMBROKESHIRE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



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The publication of this plan coincides with new EU legislation on INNS to ban the possession, transport, selling or growing of species deemed as of Union concern.

For more information, or if you would like to propose some practical conservation actions to contribute to the aims of the new plan, please contact the Biodiversity Implementation Officer.

Ant Rogers

Biodiversity Implementation Officer

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A SHARK'S TALE IN PEMBROKESHIRE

You may be used to hearing stories about weird and wonderful objects being washed ashore our coast... but this one really is a Shark's tale!

Mari Williams, **Keep Wales Tidy** Project Officer for Pembrokeshire, was excited and stunned when she stumbled upon a strange device, which turned out to be a satellite shark tag originally planted on a Greenland shark in the high Canadian Arctic, while holding a beach clean at West Dale Bay in Pembrokeshire on March 6th.

Mari Williams holding up the satellite tag on the beach where it was found.



Recognising it as a tag, Mari tweeted a photo to the Shark Trust, a shark conservation charity. After seeing the photo and recognising the device, Dr. Simon Pierce, of Marine Megafauna Foundation, California suggested she contact the manufacturer; Wildlife Computers based in Seattle. The serial number was reported and tracked back to Nigel Hussey, a scientist at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research in Canada.



"We've never got one back before, it's just fantastic.", said Hussey, who has planted numerous tags on sharks and rays off the coast of Sudan as well as in the Canadian Arctic. *"We never would have thought that after putting it out in such a remote place that it ever would have been found."*

"This tag never transmitted any data to the satellite; it just seemed to disappear so we gave up hope."

Similar in size and shape to a microphone, the device remains on the animals for months at a time, recording a variety of data such as location, water depths and temperatures. After a certain time, the devices are programmed to release from the animal, float to the surface and transmit the data to a satellite, which the scientists can access from their labs and get a more complete picture of the animal's behaviour. However, not all the data is transmitted, so getting one back can be a potential gold mine, but extremely rare.



Thanks to Mari's find, Nigel Hussey and his team in Canada have now extracted the data from the tag.

Hussey said:

"This is the most detailed data we've ever had for a Greenland shark!"

Based on the data they recovered from the device, Hussey determined it must have come off the animal in December of 2012 in the middle of the Davis Strait, between Baffin Island and Greenland, and floated all the way to Wales – a distance of about 6,000 kilometres.

Want to get involved and find out more about the Pembrokeshire coastline? In May we celebrate our beautiful coast with **Clean Coast Week May 10-18**. Organise and register your own coastal clean-up event to see what you may find! For more information and to register, visit www.keepwalestidy.org/cleancoast

Mari Williams
Keep Wales Tidy



Hazel gloves (*Hypocreopsis rhododendri*) new to Pembrokeshire

Hazel gloves (*Hypocreopsis rhododendri*) is a rather lichen-like fungus that occurs in oceanic hazel woods and was unknown from Europe until its first discovery on Mull in 1975. Hazel gloves appears to be parasitic on another fungus, the 'glue crust' (*Hymenochaete corrugate*), a common fungus of dead and dying hazel stems.

The pale brown finger-like lobes of hazel gloves make it an easily identifiable, distinctive species. It is however not easily found

as it may occur quite high in the canopy and is the colour of dead leaves. Growing in the tree canopy it is perhaps more likely to be spotted by lichenologists than by mycologists!

Hazel gloves is generally restricted to stands of ancient, undisturbed Atlantic coastal hazel wood with its core populations in Western Scotland and Western Ireland. The species has also been found in Devon and Cornwall, two sites in Carmarthenshire and a very recent record from North Wales.



In December 2013 a new population in the Brandy Brook area in North West Pembrokeshire was identified. At least ten mature fruiting patches were found as well as numerous small fragments. The population here occurs on at least five hazel trees beside a public right of way, one of which actually overhangs the footpath. A nearby sycamore has what looks like the dead remains of Hazel gloves on it as well. The identity of this patch is currently being confirmed. If this turns out to be hazel gloves then this would be a completely new substrate for the species.

The site of this record is of interest - it is not ancient woodland but in an old abandoned field that is being invaded by hazel. Much of the valley here is slowly reverting to woodland through natural regeneration. The old fields were hedged in and had mature trees around



them and the valley has probably always had a fairly wooded aspect. The area where hazel gloves was found is one of the more mature stands of secondary woodland in the valley.

The nearest stand of ancient woodland has a canopy dominated by oak with just a little hazel in the understorey. It is therefore unlikely to support hazel gloves and so the appearance of this species here may result from a long distance colonisation event. Given the distribution of hazel gloves in Ireland and prevailing wind directions, colonisation from Ireland seems unlikely with the North Devon populations providing a more likely spore source. However, we should not exclude the possibility of a core West Wales population. Any stands of canopy forming hazel in the county should be searched for hazel gloves, perhaps particularly those in South Pembrokeshire. The species is known to also occur on blackthorn, willow and wild rose. The possible extent of the species in Pembrokeshire is unknown. Anyone managing hazel (e.g. for dormice) might consider the possibility that this species could be present.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows of stands of hazel, particularly where it is canopy forming in a humid valley or coastal location and we could try to arrange some surveys for this species.

Jon Hudson

Natural Resources Wales

Park Rangers Share Future Challenges

The challenges of managing the unique landscape of the Pembrokeshire Coast were shared with Rangers from National Parks across the country recently.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority played host to Rangers from other National Park Authorities across England, Scotland and Wales, holding a conference themed 'Managing Recreation for Positive Outcomes'.

The conference aimed to demonstrate the importance of working with local landowners, communities and businesses in managing access to the countryside while striking a balance between conservation and recreation.

The Authority's Ranger Manager Libby Taylor said: "It was invaluable to meet up with 20 colleagues from the other UK National Parks and share knowledge and experience. The Rangers work in UK National Parks, each with a unique landscape, native wildlife and thriving communities.

"Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is an area which presents recreation management challenges as much of the activity is focused on a very narrow corridor, including the 186-mile Coast Path National Trail and

Distribution map of *Hypocreopsis rhododendri* (Courtesy of Dave Genney (SNH) and colleagues).



a number of “hotspot” beaches. This was a great opportunity to share our experiences and listen to businesses and landowners.”

The group of Rangers visited local sites, including Aberdeidi and St Justinians, and met with local business people and landowners including the National Trust, which provided a valuable opportunity to discuss coastal recreation issues from a landowner’s perspective.



PCNPA Ranger Ian Meopham with UK National Park Rangers at Aberdeidi beach.

The development and ongoing work of the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group was also on the agenda, and ideas and insights were shared on issues such as large scale events, managing dogs and using social media.

Libby added: “It was a highly successful gathering, and it was apparent that all the Park Authorities rely upon the co-operation and support of local businesses and landowners in meeting the balance between conservation and recreation.”

The *Valuing Wales’ National Parks* report last year found that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the surrounding area attracts 4.2million visitors a year, supports 7,039 jobs and contributes £187million Gross Value Added to the Welsh economy.



PCNPA
01646 624823

Coastlands School Grounds : A Wildlife Haven

Coastlands school based in St Ishmaels is lucky to have some fantastic school grounds. Over the past 5 years the staff, pupils and parents have worked hard to develop their grounds for wildlife so that they can be used increasingly as an 'outdoor classroom'.

Roll back 5 years, the grounds looked like that at any typical school. A large grass field used for sports, a token hedge on one side and a school garden that looked like an unloved bramble patch!

Action was taken with the help of a workforce of volunteer parents and using skills and support of the local community to transform the grounds.

Growing vegetables, fruit and herbs

We cleared the school garden (with the help of a digger) and built raised beds for vegetables and fruit growing and some smaller ones for herbs. Local farmers delivered a huge pile of manure and top soil which has really helped get things growing. The children do gardening most Fridays and have grown a huge variety of produce – their highlight is always harvesting and taking home a selection of vegetables – favourites are the sugar snap peas, sweet corn, cherry tomatoes and the giant



pumpkins. To boost the garden production a plastic bottle green house was built – it took a year as 2000 plastic bottles had to be collected and re-used. It was started in 2011 but finished in March 2012 just in time to grow tomatoes and cucumbers.

Trees, hedges and willow

Each winter from 2009 to 2012 trees were donated by the Woodlands Trust and the children have enjoyed planting these around the school grounds. They will take time to grow but the first planted are really looking good now, especially the silver birch. To help plant a new hedge an army of local Pembrokeshire Coast National Park volunteers arrived with 200 plants and they worked with the children. In addition, to create some areas for the children to play, we planted a willow house and tunnel which after 4 years is looking fantastic. Each winter we have to prune them back but then we can use the cuttings to plant out more areas or to do willow weaving.



Wildlife Pond

The big highlight has been our wildlife pond. Funding was given by the South Hook LNG community grant so we could get the professionals in to build it! The diggers arrived in January 2012 and dug us a pond in the corner of the school field. The pond was lined and a path built around the edge. The pond filled quickly with rainwater during February and March and then wildlife plants were put in. A pond diary was started to record everything that happened and in May we did our first 'pond

dipping survey' and were very excited to find a newt! In another session in September we found 12 different creatures – amazing in just 9 months. In spring 2013 we had our first tadpoles!

Wildlife Meadows

A corner of the school grounds was cleared and planted with wild meadow seed. As it has grown we have persuaded our grass cutting contractors to just mow some pathways through it so that we have long grasses left to explore. The children love doing net sweeps through the grass to see what they can find and catching grass hoppers is now a playtime activity throughout the summer.

School grounds are fantastic areas to develop for wildlife and is an ideal place to develop as an outdoor classroom. All it takes is some dedication and energy from the whole school community.

For more information about our projects contact : Kate Lock rumbalock@tiscali.co.uk or Mr Harries (headmaster) Head.coastlands@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Kate Lock
Coastlands School

Wildlife on your Patch

The 2014 Wildlife on your Patch events started on 3rd May with a walk along the delightful wooded valley of Brandy Brook in Roch. 'Wildlife on your Patch' is a joint programme between Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership and PLANED's Valuing the Environment Initiative. It offers opportunities for communities to find out about the wildlife on a site in their area. The project is designed to encourage those with an interest in wildlife to develop and improve their identification skills, support people to create records for WWBIC and inspire them to protect their local environment.



Wildlife on Your Patch in Date in 2012

Photo: Sarah Gerlach



On Sunday 29th June there will be a 'Pollinators' wildlife on your patch event at the Wildlife Centre in Cilgerran, from 12noon till 3pm, and we will be looking at the importance of pollinators and the diverse roles that they play.

For more information about these and other events, check out our new online calendar, click the link at the bottom of the Valuing the Environment page:

<http://www.planed.org.uk/valuing-the-environment>

If you would like to include your events on the calendar, please send details to Valuing the Environment Officer, Sarah Gerlach sarahg@planed.org.uk

For more information about Valuing the Environment, please 'like' our Facebook page or 'follow' us on Twitter

www.facebook.com/ValuingTheEnvironment

www.twitter.com/VTEEnvPLANED

Sarah Gerlach
PLANED



Park Orchards Project has Real Appeal

The race is on to ensure traditional fruit varieties are not lost from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

The National Park Authority has launched the *Heritage Orchards Project* and wants anyone in or close to the National Park who owns old fruit trees or old orchards to get in touch.

The Authority already looks after two old heritage orchards in the Park, at St Brides and at Brownslade on the Castlemartin Range. Staff have been working to safeguard the old varieties of trees that grow there. Cuttings are being taken and will be used to grow trees at existing sites and at new community orchards which National Park Rangers are helping to set up.

Pembrokeshire Mencap will also be helping to grow on the young trees at Stackpole Walled Garden which is itself an historic orchard.

The Authority has also started training sessions to advise owners and volunteers on how to manage trees for fruit production and for wildlife.



Volunteers learn about orchard management. Photo: PCNPA.

The Authority has also started training sessions to advise owners and volunteers on how to manage trees for fruit production and for wildlife.

Orchard Project Officer Haydn Garlick said: "As well as being part of our heritage and providing peaceful community spaces, orchards are important habitats for wildlife and can support unusual and threatened species such as bats and lichens. They are also good for supporting pollinators, such as the native honey bee. Historically fruit trees were selected and



planted to suit the local conditions of climate and soil type. Many of these old varieties have been forgotten about or lost altogether as the trees have died or been removed. We want to identify these old varieties and safeguard what remains to protect the genetic diversity of trees and the important habitats they provide in the National Park.”

The Heritage Orchard Project is funded through Natural Resources Wales’ Ecosystems Resilience Grant.

If you have old fruit trees and would like help to identify them or to learn how to look after them contact the Park Authority on 0845 345 7275.

PCNPA

West Williamston Gets a Face Lift

Those who are familiar with West Williamston Nature Reserve will have noticed that a variety of works have occurred over the past few months. The majority of these have involved fulfilling management regimes set out under the site’s Better Woodlands for Wales scheme. These included the thinning of Ash to allow more light onto the woodland floor and create a variety of structure in the canopy layer, identifying veteran trees, opening glades and removing dangerous overhanging limbs from footpaths. There was surprisingly little tree damage after the heavy winter storms although some of the impressive Beeches were not so lucky and lost several limbs. None-the-less the woodland is the healthiest it has been for many years. I dare not think of the effect Ash dieback would have on this site and it is something that the Wildlife Trust are monitoring. Nothing found so far yet it may only be a matter of time.

Other projects included repairs to footpaths where local limestone has been used to infill

Photo: Litter pick at West Williamston



dips and level areas, the use of a contractor to top and flail bramble encroaching onto valuable meadow habitats and most recently, a litter pick which came away with 18 bags of rubbish and one Needlefish!

The reserve’s iconic Brown hairstreak butterfly species has also been monitored throughout the winter months. Eggs laid last season were counted, loss to predation noted and their hatch rate is currently being surveyed. Just over 1,600 eggs were counted and on the 9th of April the first eggs started to hatch. Do keep your eye out for this elusive species during summer months, especially during August when the females come down from the Ash canopy to lay their eggs on the young Blackthorn.

Spring is most definitely here and it is at this time of year when Wood anemone, Bluebell, Primrose and Dog violet carpet the ground with Wild garlic providing an earthy aroma. The Greater spotted woodpecker is certainly making itself heard with its drumming echoing throughout the wood on most days.

Nathan Walton
Wildlife Trust of South &
West Wales



Biodiversity Events

May - June



Date	Title	Information	Contact
25 th May 11:00 – 12:30	Rockpooling, Newport	Join the search as we take a closer look at the fascinating wildlife and natural wonders on the shore. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	PCNPA 01834 845040
25 th May 17:00 – 18:30	Crab Catching, Porthclais	A great fun activity for all the family. Find out more about these fascinating creatures. All kit provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult	PCNPA 01834 845040
26 th May 11:00 – 12:30	Rockpooling, Caerfai	Join the search as we take a closer look at the fascinating wildlife and natural wonders on the shore. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	PCNPA 01834 845040
27 th May 20:15 – 21:45	Brilliant Bats, Carew Castle	Family friendly walk to look for bats and listen to their calls on special detectors and to learn about their unusual lifestyles.	PCNPA 01834 845040
27 th May 20:30 – 22:00	Brilliant Bats, Little Haven	Family friendly walk to look for bats and listen to their calls on special detectors and to learn about their unusual lifestyles.	PCNPA 01834 845040
28 th May 14:00 – 15:30	In the River, St David's	A great fun activity for all the family. A chance to get in close and find about river life. Nets provided, but bring suitable footwear to walk up the riverbed. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	PCNPA 01834 845040
28 th May 14:00 – 15:30	In the River, Manorbier	A chance to get in close and find about river life. Nets provided, but bring suitable footwear to walk up the riverbed. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	PCNPA 01834 845040
4 th June	Guided nature walk at Freshwater East. 10:30 start.	Learn the names of local flowers and discover some of their culinary uses as well as the myths and medicines that they have inspired.	Vicky Tomlinson 01646 672615



Biodiversity Events June



Wythnos Bioamrywiaeth Cymru
Wales Biodiversity Week

7 -15 Mehefin /June 2014

Date	Title	Information	Contact
10 th June 10:30 – 12:30	Penpedwast Walk	Join the National Park walk leader on this guided walk of 2 miles through the woodland and farmland that surrounds Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort.	PCNPA 01834 845040
10 th June 14:00 – 15:30	Flowers on Castle Hill	Join the National Park leader at Castle Hill, Tenby; an overlooked natural gem. Discover more about the wild flowers that carpet the coastline of Pembrokeshire. Meet at the National Park Visitor Centre in Tenby for this guided walk.	PCNPA 01834 845040
13 th June	Bee ID Day, Scolton	As part of Wales Biodiversity Week, Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership and Bumblebee Conservation Trust are organising a Bumblebee ID course. Booking essential.	Ant Rogers 01437 776146 Anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
13 th June 18:30 – 20:00	Skylark and Wildflowers at St. David's	This evening walk starts at Fachelich and follows the footpaths around the St. David's Airfield. A chance to see wildflowers and listen to the soaring song of the skylark on this early evening ranger-led walk.	PCNPA 01437 720392
18 th June 07:00 – 09:00	Early Morning Otter Walk, Stackpole	A family friendly, early morning two mile stroll along the upper reaches of the Bosherton Lily Ponds in search of the elusive otter and other wildlife.	PCNPA 01834 845040
22 nd June	Guided nature walk at Freshwater East. 15:00 start.	Learn the names of local flowers and discover some of their culinary uses as well as the myths and medicines that they have inspired.	Vicky Tomlinson 01646 672615
28 th June	Pembrokeshire Fish Week Open Day, Milford	Stalls and activities celebrating all things fishy in Pembrokeshire!	www.pembrokeshirefishweek.co.uk



Biodiversity Events

June - July



Date	Title	Information	Contact
29 th June	Guided nature walk at Freshwater East. 15:00 start.	Learn the names of local flowers and discover some of their culinary uses as well as the myths and medicines that they have inspired.	Vicky Tomlinson 01646 672615
29 th June 18:00 – 20:00	Sea Watch at Stack Rocks	Join our National Park rangers at the beautiful Stack Rocks in South Pembrokeshire as they watch the lives of the seabirds on the stacks, as they lay their eggs and raise their young.	PCNPA 01834 845040
06 th July 13:00 – 14:30	Crab Catching, Porthclais	A great fun activity for all the family. Find out more about these fascinating creatures.	PCNPA 01834 845040
16 th July 14:00 – 15:30	In the River, Castell Henllys	A great fun activity for all the family. A chance to get in close and find about river life. Nets provided, but bring suitable footwear to walk up the riverbed.	PCNPA 01834 845040
23 rd July 07:00 – 09:00	Early Morning Otter Walk, Stackpole	A family friendly, early morning two mile stroll along the upper reaches of the Bosherton Lily Ponds in search of the elusive otter and other wildlife. Warm clothing and sturdy shoes advised.	PCNPA 01834 845040
27 th July 14:00 – 15:30	Rockpooling, Newport	Join the search as we take a closer look at the fascinating wildlife and natural wonders on the shore. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	PCNPA 01834 845040
29 th July 14:00 – 16:00	Saltmarsh Safari, Dale	Discover the plants and animals living in this unique and constantly changing environment. A chance to go netting for crabs and fish. Please wear old clothes as you may get muddy, and no bare feet.	PCNPA 01834 845040



PBP Contact Details

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Pembrokeshire Biodiversity website:

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

Wales Biodiversity website:


















www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

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 Members

County Landowners Association		Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust	
Farmers Union of Wales		Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group		Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development	
Keep Wales Tidy		Prince's Trust Cymru	
 MANOR HOUSE Wildlife Park		Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	
National Farmers Union – Wales		The National Trust	
Natural Resources Wales		The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	
Pembroke 21C Community Association Limited		 Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government	
Pembrokeshire County Council		West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre	