

# Brexit and Our Wildlife

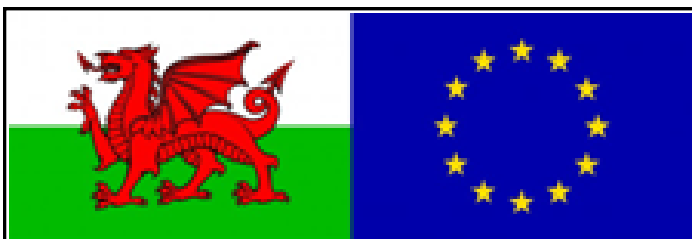
On 23<sup>rd</sup> June the people of the UK voted to leave the EU – a decision with far-reaching implications in many areas, including biodiversity conservation.

Underpinning much of our conservation legislation are EC Directives such as the Birds, Habitats and Water Framework Directives. One of the aims of these directives is to ensure that no member state of the EU can gain a competitive advantage in the market place by weakening environmental regulations and degrading their habitats or polluting their rivers.

Our wildlife does not recognise national borders and is often dependent upon areas spanning multiple countries. For example, Pembrokeshire hosts about half the world population of Manx Shearwaters in summer as they breed. They fly south via the eastern seaboard of the US to over-winter in South America.

In Wales, recent domestic legislation strengthens the commitment to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and promoting the resilience of ecosystems for current and future generations. However, much of the primary legislation affecting the protection of species and habitats in Wales is UK wide.

Domestic UK legislation such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act often transposes much of the EU directives into UK law. Many conservation organisations are now warning that without the underpinning directives, the UK's wildlife legislation could be weakened in order to attract investment in UK industry and development.



## PEMBROKESHIRE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



## PARTNERIAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH SIR BENFRO

Volume 13 Issue 3  
Autumn/Winter 2016

### In this Issue

Brexit and Our Wildlife  
**Pages 1-2**

Boardwalk Damage and  
Closure at Goodwick Moor  
Nature Reserve  
**Pages 2-3**

The Long Forest  
**Page 3**

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum  
**Pages 3-4**

Stitch in Time  
**Pages 5-6**

Eco-Schools, Bees and  
Biodiversity  
**Pages 6-7**

Pembrokeshire Blackening  
Waxcap Study - An Update  
**Page 8**

Courses and Events  
**Pages 9-11**

Contact Details  
**Page 12**



**Manx Shearwater**  
Photo: Trevor Theobald



Only time will tell the full implications of the vote to leave, but one thing is abundantly clear: 'taking back control' from Europe comes with the obligation to take responsibility for protecting our natural environment for current and future generations.

**Ant Rogers**  
Biodiversity Implementation Officer

## Boardwalk Damage and Closure at Goodwick Moor Nature Reserve

Goodwick Moor has sadly closed its 'doors' to the public after the main boardwalk suffered repeated damage over the years by various users. The 38 acre nature reserve nestled between the urban environments of Fishguard and Goodwick and managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, generates no income for the Trust, but the charity has historically invested in supporting recreational access for visitors' quiet enjoyment.

The reserve is a popular wildlife site dominated by reed-bed and wet woodland, with species such as bog myrtle, Cetti's warbler and otter also found. The boardwalk passes through the reserve and is the only access allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the natural world

away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The Wildlife Trust has been looking to secure funding to replace the entire boardwalk with a more robust, recycled plastic system (at a cost of £50,000), without success to date.

Recently, I was shocked to find that horse riders had been using the existing timber structure, and had caused extensive damage. The damage was too great to repair quickly and costs for doing so were too high. The risk to the health and safety of members of the public was also too great to ignore and so the boardwalk had to be closed to all users.

### Damage to the Boardwalk

Photo: Nathan Walton



The nature reserve has sadly suffered a lot of misuse over the years through general vandalism, cyclists, small motorbikes and now horses using the boardwalk. Another real problem is dogs being off lead, running





into the reed-bed and fouling on the foot-paths. Signs have been erected to ask owners to keep their dogs on a lead yet these have all been ripped down.

Unfortunately, the Trust can no longer justify spending money to keep maintaining something that keeps being damaged – especially when coupled with the impacts of disturbance by dogs and other users to local wildlife.

The Wildlife Trust's main remit is for the protection of wildlife and habitats. It is a fine balancing act in trying to encourage people onto a nature reserve to engage them with wildlife while at the same time protecting and enhancing what is there.

It is a shame that society seems to show little respect for the environment. We are constantly fighting a battle with different users, vandalism, litter and noise on many of our reserves. I do hope the public can understand our decision to remove the boardwalk and not replace it. There may be a day when enough money can be found to reinstall a better form of access to the reserve, although I am hesitant to promote any access unless we get the cooperation of every user visiting the site. Without the constant presence of a reserve warden, I feel this will sadly never be the case. I hope to be proved wrong.

**Nathan Walton**  
Wildlife Trust Officer  
for Pembrokeshire



## The Long Forest

Heritage Lottery funding has recently been confirmed to protect hedgerows across Wales. The Long Forest is a partnership project involving Keep Wales Tidy and the Woodland Trust which aims to significantly increase community interest and practical involvement in the management of hedgerows. The interconnected network of hedgerows shapes the character of much of our cherished landscapes, as well as providing vital habitats for wildlife.

The project will provide advice across all of Wales through a website and app, as well as practical action in four locations: Pembrokeshire, Anglesey, Monmouthshire and NE Wales. In these areas local stakeholder groups will be set up and volunteers will be supported in recording and restoring existing hedgerows and creating new ones.

The project will also include recording the historical and cultural significance of hedgerows. For more information on the project in Pembrokeshire please contact:

[mari.williams@keepwalestidy.org](mailto:mari.williams@keepwalestidy.org).

**Mari Williams**  
Keep Wales Tidy



## Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF) has been working with stakeholders to review, update, and refresh the Pembrokeshire Marine Code. The Pembrokeshire Marine Code protects marine wildlife around the coast of Pembrokeshire through codes of conduct and agreed access restrictions that have been drawn up by conservation experts and coastal users. The codes have been agreed to preserve and protect the marine environment that makes the Pembrokeshire coastline so special.

### Marine Code Buoys

PCF have been working with Tenby Boat trips (a local wildlife boat tour operator) using an innovative new approach to protect marine wildlife. Educational buoys to raise awareness of the Pembrokeshire Marine Code and wildlife sensitive areas have been deployed in the waters off Tenby again this year. The buoys mark the boundaries for four key wildlife areas and display information on how to minimise disturbance to the Atlantic grey seals and cliff



nesting seabirds such as cormorants, shags, and guillemots. The ground breaking approach is now in its second year and is unique in Wales. The aim is to help water sports users minimise their disturbance and protect the marine environment.



### **Wildlife Facts Booklet Created for Walkers and Marine Leisure Users**

Handy booklets have been created about Pembrokeshire's spectacular fauna and flora with beautifully illustrated wildlife factsheets. The wildlife factsheets have a whole host of interesting and fun information on what you can see while adventuring on the Pembrokeshire coast. Everything is covered from coastal birds and cetaceans to jellyfish and geology. The booklets will teach you more about the natural, coastal and marine environments along your journey and also highlight how to minimise your impact through following the Pembrokeshire Marine Code. The Pembrokeshire Wildlife Factsheets booklets are bound in A5, which can easily fit into a large pocket or backpack and are for sale through local partners. Proceeds will support the Pembrokeshire Marine Code.

### **Pembrokeshire Wildlife Sightings Event and Photographic Competition 2016**

Celebrating all things natural in Pembrokeshire, the 2016 Wildlife Sightings Event aims to highlight the amazing landscapes and wildlife that we have here on our doorstep. Throughout the evening expert speakers will share stories and images of their wildlife sightings around the county, and will provide information on how you can get involved. Now in its 7th year, the event will feature a range of speakers which last year included the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Pembrokeshire Bird Group and the Wildlife Trust.

Alongside this, our annual photography competition is currently underway, and the winners will be announced on the evening. Nearly 100 entries were received last year from both amateurs and professionals, and the images are part of the celebration of the diverse and special wildlife of Pembrokeshire, both on land and under water.

To enter the photography competition, please go to:

[www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/wildlife-sightings](http://www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/wildlife-sightings)

To book tickets to the Wildlife Sightings Event, go to: <http://torchtheatre.co.uk/events/wildlife-sightings-event-2016/>

The event will be held on Friday 21st October from 6:30pm - 10pm at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven.

**Holly Pretious**  
Pembrokeshire  
Coastal Forum





# Stitch in Time

The *Stitch in Time* project aims to eradicate the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and *Rhododendron ponticum* from the Gwaun Valley catchment. It is funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (administered by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority [PCNPA]) with additional assistance from Natural Resources Wales.

A part-time INNS Project Coordinator post has been funded by the project, whose main role is to devise and implement a control strategy for the target INNS.

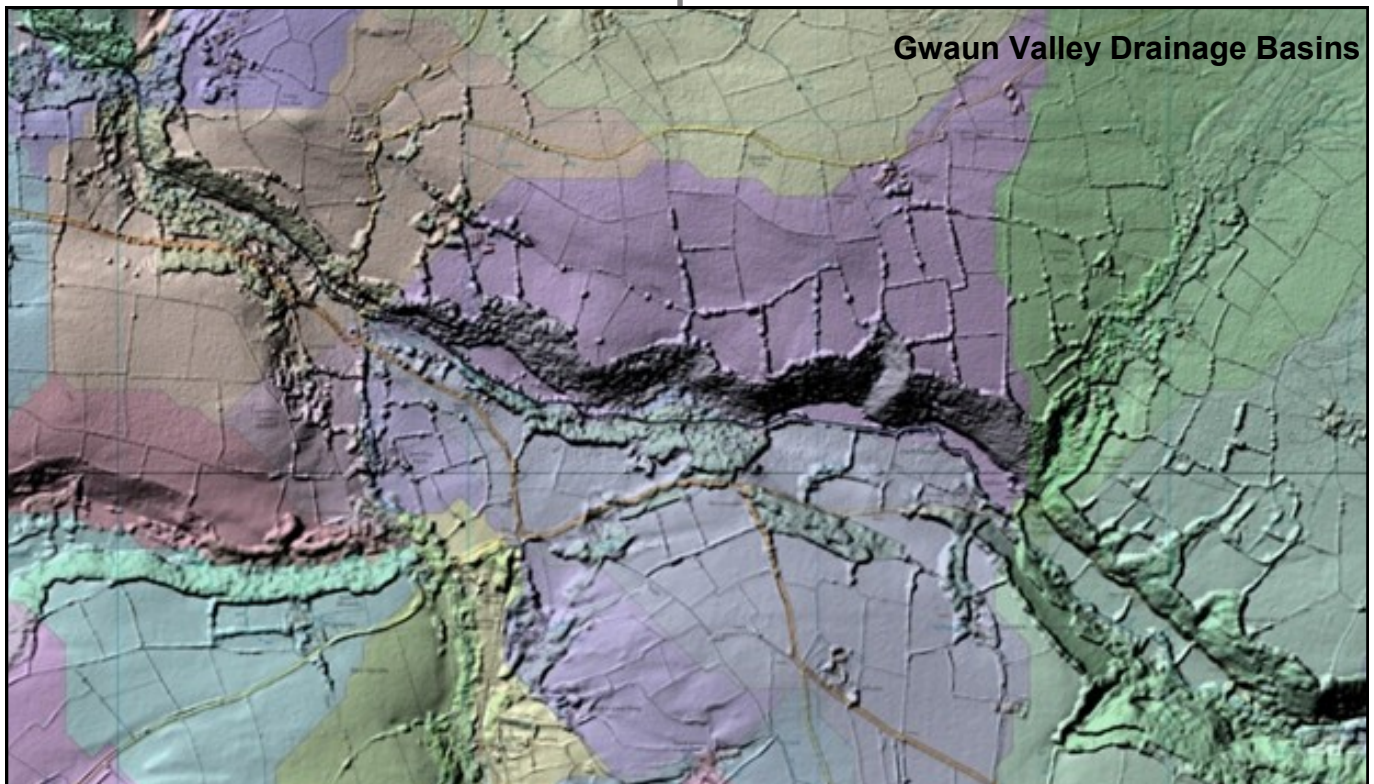
Systematic eradication (or near-eradication) from a defensible area is the most cost-effective solution in the long term. As INNS often spread along watercourses, river catchments are an appropriate scale at which to work.

A systematic survey of the Gwaun catchment was undertaken by the project officer and benefitted enormously from dedicated survey

volunteers as well as sightings by members of the public. The survey recorded INNS at 120 sites in the Gwaun Valley, locating 4.5ha of Himalayan Balsam, 9ha of Japanese Knotweed and 11ha of Rhododendron.

Volunteers have contributed over 115 days and have been critical to the management of Himalayan Balsam. The Project Coordinator has received support from groups and individuals including Cymdeithas Llandudoch, Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust and Nevern Angling Association. Some groups have subsequently “adopted” sites for ongoing monitoring and pulling any Himalayan balsam that emerges – allowing the Project Coordinator to focus on other sites. The response from landowners has also been great, with the majority of landowners within the valley participating in the project.

Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron, require specialist control and have either been treated by contractors or PCNPA staff. However, four volunteers were funded to undertake spraying training and put this to good use in 2016. Newport Paths Group were provided



with a brushcutter for the 2016 balsam season in the Nevern and Clydach catchments. The Group funded brushcutter training themselves and are now able to work alongside contractors.

So far, control is in progress on 3.5ha of Himalayan Balsam with a projected date for eradication from the Gwaun Valley by 2019. Around a quarter of all Rhododendron has been treated and around 2ha of Japanese knotweed.

The project has applied learning and skills from other initiatives, including the SDF-funded Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication Projects (2012 and 2013), run by Cymdeithas Llandudoch.

The funding for the project is now coming to an end and while excellent progress has been made, the job is clearly not over. Delay gives a chance for INNS to re/colonise, so continuity of resourcing is highly desirable in order to keep up the momentum of control and to protect resources already invested.



**Briefing Youth Rangers ahead of a Himalayan Balsam pull.**

An application was submitted for a Heritage Lottery Fund Heritage Grant development phase project in June 2016. If this application is successful, a second round application would follow in 2017 for delivery from 2018 – 2023.

**Sarah Mellor**  
PCNPA



## Eco-Schools, Bees and Biodiversity

Eco-Schools is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world. It is operated by the Foundation for Environmental Education, a non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education in over 60 countries worldwide. In Wales it is managed by the environmental charity Keep Wales Tidy.

Keep Wales Tidy firmly believes that the Eco-Schools programme inspires and empowers pupils to be leaders of change in their communities and widens learning beyond the classroom to develop responsible attitudes and commitment to the natural world, both at home and within the broader community. Eco-Schools is recognised by ESTYN school inspectors and is funded and supported by Welsh Government.

The programme provides a progressive award structure which not only acts as a vehicle for delivering education for sustainability, but also provides the pupils with real life experiences of influencing their school's impact on the environment. Pupils drive the changes and monitor the results, providing them with a clear sense of action and consequence.

The programme is designed to be run by the pupils, with an adult co-ordinator acting as a facilitator - be it a teacher, governor or parent. It also highlights the importance of involving the wider community in projects.

Biodiversity enhancement forms a major component of the Eco-Schools process, with many schools choosing to improve their school grounds as a first step to launching their eco work. Recently 20 Pembrokeshire schools benefited from grant funding from the Welsh Government's







**Pembroke Dock Community School receiving their Platinum Green Flag**

Natural Buzz scheme that enabled schools to purchase hundreds of plants for pollinators.

Pembrokeshire as a county is blessed with a wealth of organisations that can assist schools with their eco work, these include Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, the National Trust and the Darwin Centre to name a few. Pembrokeshire County Council also has its own dedicated scheme (Pembrokeshire Sustainable Schools Award) that many schools are already involved with.

Much of the work that schools already do for the local scheme can be used as supporting evidence for the international Eco-Schools criteria. The main differences between the schemes are that the Eco-Schools model is heavily pupil-centred and practical in its actions. There is great merit in doing both the local and international scheme as it means little extra work for achieving two awards and provides exceptional learning benefits for the pupils.

Pembrokeshire has its own dedicated officer who can support and assist schools through the award programme. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Eco-Schools programme further, please get in touch.

**Kiri Howell**  
Eco Schools Officer  
[kiri.howell@keepwalestidy.org](mailto:kiri.howell@keepwalestidy.org)



**Solva Community School's Eco-Club**



## Pembrokeshire Blackening Waxcap Study - An Update

This note provides an update on progress with the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network “Blackening Waxcap” project described in the Spring 2016 PBP newsletter.

To recap: last Autumn PFRN enthusiasts collected specimens of the blackening waxcap from various locations across the County. After measuring the spores, and documenting habitat and morphological details, the collections were dried and stored as voucher material.

Earlier this year, we removed tiny sections from each sample and, using a protocol recommended by Gareth Griffith (Aberystwyth University), we extracted portions of DNA from 12 different collections. Following extraction of the DNA, we used a process called polymerase chain reaction to isolate a small “barcode” section of the DNA and amplify this portion to provide sufficient DNA for subsequent analysis. The extracted DNA barcode specimens were sent to Aberystwyth University where they were subject to a quality check (necessary to show the extracts contained sufficient DNA for analysis) and sequencing.

Sequencing provides the “barcode” information - a sequence of letters which represent the 4 bases which act as markers along the DNA

chain. The portion of DNA used for barcoding has sequences which are sufficiently similar to demonstrate that specimens belong to the same genus, but have minor differences that allow different species within the genus to be separated.

All 12 extracts produced sequences of which 11 were of high quality and demonstrated our local procedures for extracting and amplifying the DNA worked well.

The beta-test Bento Lab unit we described in the last report has now completed its 6-month trial and been returned to the suppliers. Later this year we will receive one of the first production models as a replacement. On receipt of the new equipment we will resume our exploration into the fascinating world of molecular biology and continue our work on the blackening waxcap.

Particular thanks are due to the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership/Natural Resources Wales for providing financial support, Gareth Griffith and colleagues at Aberystwyth University for their continuing encouragement and technical support, and the Bento Lab team for accepting us onto their pioneer programme.

**David Harries**  
Pembrokeshire Fungus  
Recording Network



The Bento Lab





# Biodiversity Events September—December



Date	Title	Information	Contact
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 11:00 – 15:00	Pond Dipping. Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cardigan.	Discover the amazing aquatic wildlife of Teifi Marshes in our brilliant pond dipping sessions! Come along at either 11am or 2pm	Booking is highly recommended 01239 621600
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept 10:30 – 12:00	Reptile Ramble, Broad Haven South	Join our National Park ranger on this ramble with a difference as he seeks out the different reptiles that call the National Park home. Slithering snakes and iridescent lizards are just some of the creatures to be discovered. But why do these creatures make their home in Pembrokeshire? What makes it a special place? Children must be accompanied by an adult. Participants are advised to wear wellingtons.	Booking Essential. 01834 845040
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference, Bangor.	For full details and to book your place, see: <a href="http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Biodiversity-Partnership-Conference">http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Biodiversity-Partnership-Conference</a>	Booking Essential
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 09:45 – 15:00	Seals in September St David's	The seal pupping season has arrived. Join our National Park Ranger as he guides you to their favourite haunts, and teaches you how to safely watch seals. This full day trip uses the coastal buses to explore the coastline around St. Davids on this 6 mile walk. Bus fare extra.	Booking Essential. 01834 845040
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept 10:30 – 12:30	Wildlife Watch. Teifi Marshes	Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trust aimed at inspiring and educating children in nature, wildlife and generally getting outdoors and having fun. The Teifi Marshes Wildlife Watch group is run by volunteers and is aimed at children between 6 and 12yrs.	For more information please contact Nia Stephens 01239 621600
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept 13:00 – 15:00	Seals in September Llanwnda	The seal pupping season has arrived. Join our National Park Ranger as he guides you to their favourite haunts and teaches you how to safely watch seals. This half day trip explores the coast between Strumble Head and Goodwick, close to Llanwnda on a 1 mile walk.	Booking Essential. 01834 845040



# Biodiversity Events September—December



Date	Title	Information	Contact
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept 09:45 – 15:00	Seals in September St David's	The seal pupping season has arrived. Join our National Park Ranger as he guides you to their favourite haunts, and teaches you how to safely watch seals.	Booking Essential. 01834 845040
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 13:00 – 15:00	Seals in September Llanwnda	The seal pupping season has arrived. Join our National Park Ranger as he guides you to their favourite haunts and teaches you how to safely watch seals. This half day trip explores the coast between Strumble Head and Goodwick, close to Llanwnda on a 1 mile walk.	Booking Essential. 01834 845040
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	UK Fungus Day	Visit the website for events near you.	See: <a href="http://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/">http://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10:30 – 12:30	Wildlife Watch. Teifi Marshes	Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trust aimed at inspiring and educating children in nature, wildlife and generally getting outdoors and having fun. The Teifi Marshes Wildlife Watch group is run by volunteers and is aimed at children between 6 and 12yrs.	For more information please contact Nia Stephens 01239 621600
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 18:30 – 22:00	Wildlife Sightings Event. Torch Theatre, Milford Haven.	A celebration of the wonderful wildlife of Pembrokeshire with a range of guest speakers.	<a href="http://torchtheatre.co.uk/events/wildlife-sightings-event-2016/">http://torchtheatre.co.uk/events/wildlife-sightings-event-2016/</a>
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10:00 – 12:00	Wild Woodland Adventures. Colby	Join National Park and National Trust staff and find out how the wildlife living in the many habitats of Colby Woodland Gardens prepare for winter. Where does the squirrel hide his food? When do hedgehogs and badgers begin to hibernate?  This drop in session includes a short stroll through the gardens and woodlands and a craft activity.	01834 845040





# Biodiversity Events September—December



Date	Title	Information	Contact
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 19:30 – 21:00	Wildlife Trust Talk: Land Management Cashfield Community Centre, Haverfordwest	Andrew Tuddenham, the National Trust's Area Manager, will give a talk on Land Management for the National Trust in North Pembrokeshire. Entrance will be £2 and include tea or coffee and biscuits.	John Steer 01646 278966 or <a href="mailto:biojohn@tiscali.co.uk">biojohn@tiscali.co.uk</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 19:15 – 21:00	Wildlife Trust Talk: Waders Foundry House, Pembroke.	Clive Hurford will speak about winter waders and where the best places to see them are in the local area. Entry will be £1.50 for members and £2.50 for non members and includes tea or coffee and biscuits.	For more information please contact Lynda on 01834 810307 or Christine on 01646 673912
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10:30 – 12:30	Wildlife Watch. Teifi Marshes	Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trust aimed at inspiring and educating children in nature, wildlife and generally getting outdoors and having fun. The Teifi Marshes Wildlife Watch group is run by volunteers and is aimed at children between 6 and 12yrs.	For more information please contact Nia Stephens 01239 621600
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 09:30 – 16:30	Pembrokeshire Bird Group Conference Picton Centre, Haverfordwest	Full details, including booking forms, will be available shortly.	Please contact Bob Haycock via <a href="mailto:bob.rushmoor1@tiscali.co.uk">bob.rushmoor1@tiscali.co.uk</a> or Peter Royle via <a href="mailto:pdroyle@orlandon.co.uk">pdroyle@orlandon.co.uk</a> .



## PBP Contact Details

### Biodiversity Implementation Officer:

Ant Rogers. Tel - 01437 764551

[anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

Pembrokeshire Biodiversity website:

[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk) (search - biodiversity)

Wales Biodiversity website:

[www.biodiversitywales.org.uk](http://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.*

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.

## 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



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

