

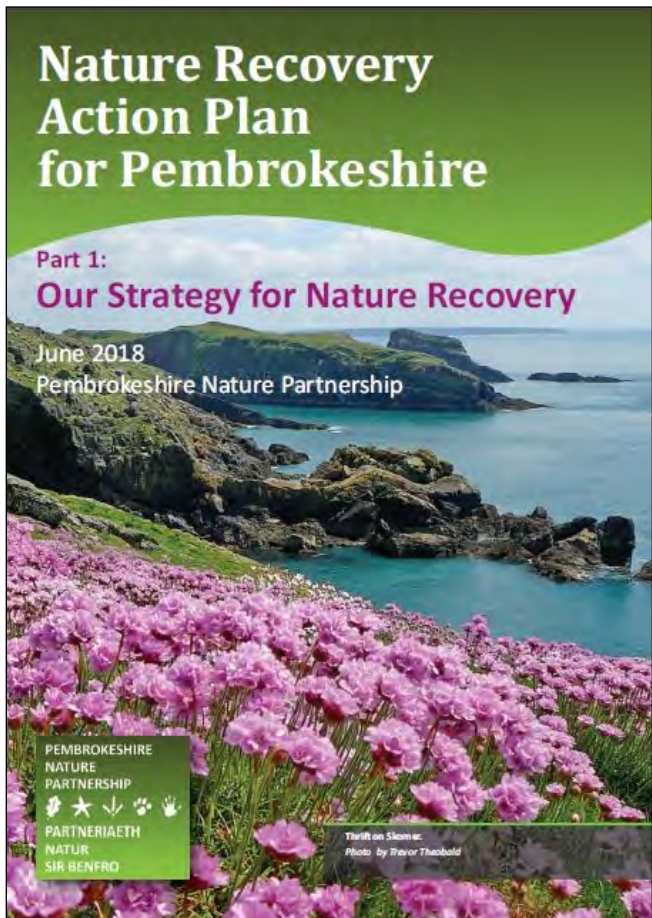
Pembrokeshire Nature Recovery Action Plan Launched

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Pembrokeshire sets a series of objectives and suggested themes for action to halt the decline in biodiversity and improve the resilience of ecosystems in our county. It uses the NRAP for Wales as a starting point, but tailors actions to the local context.

A series of themed action plans covering common situations such as agricultural holdings, allotments and gardens, schools and campsites are now planned to provide accessible information.

The plan is available to download here: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/biodiversity/pembrokeshire-nature-partnership-plans-and-guidance>

Ant Rogers
Biodiversity Implementation Officer



PEMBROKESHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP




PARTNERIAETH NATUR SIR BENFRO


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Habitat Creation at Craig y Borion Farm

The National Trust have received a grant of £1,528 from the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership to help with our programme of habitat restoration and creation at Colby on Craig y Borion farm. Work has been going on throughout the Autumn and Winter. So far, we have undertaken base-line wild-flower and bird surveys, plus a soil condition assessment and regular moth recording sessions have been instituted. Data on bee species present has been gathered. 10 species of bats currently using the estate woodland have been identified. A program of regular Rivers-Trust kick-sampling of both streams is in place.

Purpose built bat roosts have been incorporated into both Little Craig-y-Borion farmhouse volunteer basecamp and the woodstore.

All gates on fields have been restored to control stock density for winter-grazing.

365m of hedges have been widened to 5m wide woodland strips, connecting Little Craig-y-Borion woods with Craig-y-Borion woods to provide corridors for woodland species and sheltered flightpaths for bats. A collapsing outbuilding at Pwll-y-Grippin has been rebuilt and a new owl box installed for the nesting Barn-owls.

Woodland strip planting



0.2ha of orchard has been restored, using old Welsh apple varieties. 8.05ha of scrub-woodland

nesting habitat has been created in five parcels spread across the farm, safeguarding stream-water quality in the process.



Volunteers planting trees

A tree nursery was also created in 2018 and we have begun growing our own local provenance seedlings, collected from the estate, concentrating on high species and genetic diversity. The aim is to carry out a series of hedgerow improvements, to produce robust, threat-resistant, high nature-value woodland and hedgerow ecosystems for the future.

3 new footpaths were created to allow public access across the farmland (over 1km in total).

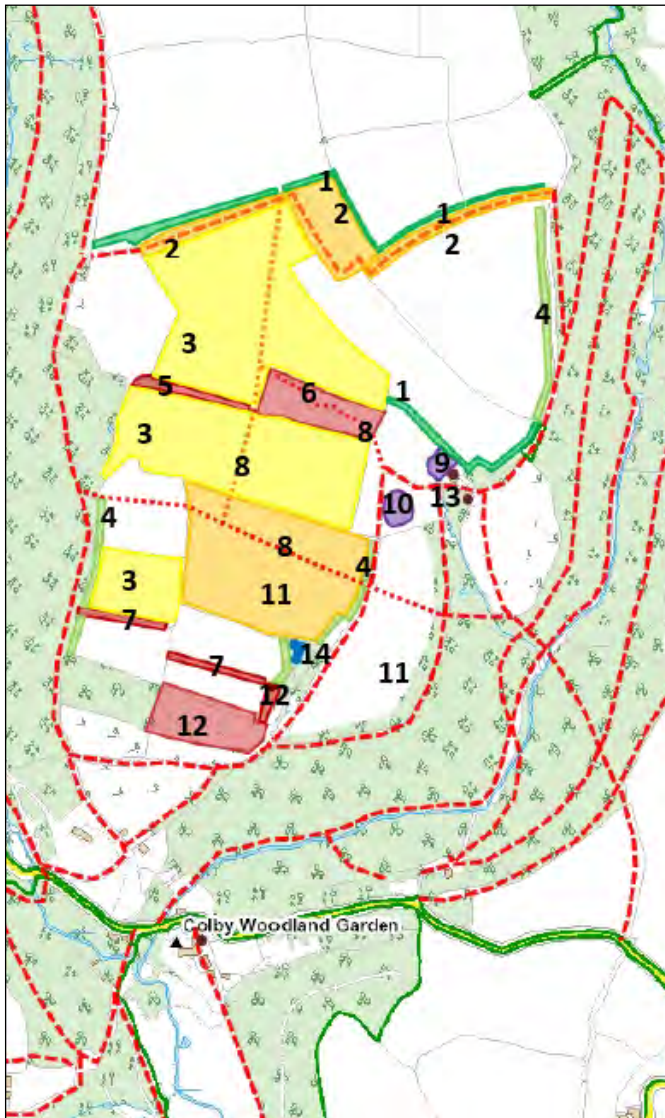
5m wide fallow field margins and 10m wide wildflower strips have been created on 1,986m of field margins. This gives us 3.98ha of wildflower rich grassland to harvest from in Autumn 2019, 7.92ha in 2020, etc. We should be able to restore all 12 fields completely (65.7ha) on the southern part of the farm, to high-biodiversity meadows by 2023.



Meadow Creation



Four further fields have now also been identified for woodland creation projects, the remaining fields to be restored to high-diversity meadows using seed from Craig y Borion farm.



1. Hedge enhancement 2019
2. Meadow restoration 2017
3. Meadow restoration 2019
4. Bird seed margin 2019
5. Hedge enhancement 2017
6. Woodland 2017
7. Hedge enhancement 2017
8. Footpath 2018
9. Orchard 2017
10. Orchard 2018
11. Meadow restoration 2018
12. Scrub/woodland 2017
13. Bat roosts 2016
14. Beehives 2018



Steve Whitehead
National Trust

**Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust**

When the Bumblebee Conservation Trust met the People's Orchard Project..

Deep in the heart of West Wales, around the beautiful village of St Dogmaels, fruit trees have been appearing! Funded by The Big Lottery "People and Places", the 'People's Orchard' is an environmental project run by the community charity Hanes Llandocho, with the aim of improving habitat for pollinating insects. Historically St Dogmaels was known for its plentiful orchards, planted by medieval monks in the twelfth century. The loss of these orchards and the habitats they supported, have contributed to the loss of biodiversity documented over the last century and the vision for the project grew out of this unique local history.

In order to create corridors for insects, the 'Beelines' devised by Buglife were used as the basis for extensive fruit tree planting, alongside other habitat improvement activities. Nia Siggins and Sophie Jenkins (The People's Orchard Project Team), along with a band of committed volunteers also attended Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT) Identification sessions and a Beewalk Information day at the start of 2018.





We were delighted to hear that following this, they had planned four Beewalks as part of the People's Orchard, taking in a variety of habitats and locations within the project area. A calendar was drawn up which encompassed a different walk on the same day every week, thereby each route was covered once a month as specified in the Beewalk guidelines. Each week brought a keen band of volunteer helpers though Nia and Sophie were rigorous in implementing the specific methodology of Beewalk, keen to ensure that these walks, whilst engaging and informing local people, were primarily about accurate recording and capturing of data. By the end of October 2018, 30 Beewalks were undertaken, attended by approximately 250 volunteers. The team are currently busy inputting their data into the Beewalk website and we estimate it will be many hundreds of new bumblebee records!



The Orchard project, with support from BBCT, has combined far reaching and effective public engagement with targeted and carefully managed biological recording. They have reached people from a variety of backgrounds, sometimes inviting specific groups on their Beewalks, including young people recovering from substance misuse and adults coping with mental health difficulties. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and some of their regular volunteers have now increased in confidence and enthusiasm so much that they are planning their own Beewalks for 2019. The data they have collected will provide much needed information on the bumblebee species present in the area with the potential to assess the changes that may occur over time and in response to their inspiring and rather fruity habitat creation activities.

For more information on Beewalk, see: www.beewalk.org.uk . The People's Orchard Project website is here: <http://www.stdogmaelsabbey.org.uk/peoplesorchard>

Clare Flynn
Bumblebee Conservation Trust



Leat Restoration on Dowrog Common

Dowrog Common nature reserve, a 242-acre extensive tract of wet and dry heath with pools and fen in west Pembrokeshire, has been the focus of much volunteer effort in recent months.

An old leat that once fed a mill on the edge of the reserve is in the process of being cleared and reopened. Although the mill no longer operates, the leat itself is still valuable to the reserve for moving water through the



site and feeding some of the many areas of open water that are present. These areas of open water are important for a variety of species, most notably amphibians and aquatic invertebrates, but also rare aquatic plants. The 600m waterway will be reinstated in 75m sections each year in order not to have too big an impact on the species that currently reside in the boggy channel.



Volunteers clearing the Leat

There are areas that require much scrub clearance to expose the channel and this is where volunteers are playing an active role. Dense thickets of blackthorn, gorse and willow are being cleared and roots removed from the channel. Once the scrub has been removed, further funding has been found to employ a contractor to remove the build-up of silt with a digger. This is just the start of a project that will take some years to complete yet the benefits to species dependent on open water will be seen after each section is cleared.



The digger in action

Other work on the reserve has involved clearing gorse and scrub from areas of open heathland to prevent encroachment onto this valuable habitat, whilst at the same time ensuring some cover is left for reptile species such as Adder and Grass snake.

Nathan Walton
Wildlife Trust of South
and West Wales



Wales Threatened Bee Report

Wild bees (and other pollinators) face many pressures in our modern landscapes - from habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, to pesticides and pollution, climate change, and disease. These pressures have caused severe declines in wild bee populations, raising concerns about the under-pollination of many wildflowers and food crops and wider biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

Wales is home to important populations of rare and threatened bee species and for some, Wales supports the last known populations in the UK. There has been growing concern, however, that these species are in decline in Wales. Using the data holdings of the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS)



and the four Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs) in Wales, Buglife Cymru has recently launched the *Wales Threatened Bee Report* - the first report of its kind to examine the status of Wales' most threatened bee species.



Andrena marginata
Photo: Steven Falk

Alarmingly, the report has found that seven of our bees have already gone extinct in Wales, and a further five are on the brink of extinction. This includes the extremely rare and much declined Spined blood bee (*Sphecodes spinulosus*), which is now seemingly restricted to just a single location in Wales at Caer Bwdy Bay, Pembrokeshire. Furthermore, many others – such as the Small scabious mining bee (*Andrena marginata*) - have suffered serious range contractions, raising concerns about the future prospects of these species in Wales.

Action is urgently needed to restore populations of declining wild bees and prevent further extinctions in Wales. The Wales Threatened Bee Report aims to increase our understanding of threatened bees in Wales (including their life-cycles and distribution) to better inform local and national conservation efforts. It recommends a series of actions to support the conservation of threatened species and is therefore a means to support delivery of the outcomes listed within the Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales. The report also works alongside our B-Lines Initiative, helping wild bees and other pollinating insects by connecting and restoring flower-rich habitats across the countryside. B-Lines have now been mapped across

all of Wales and are a resource to be used by everyone to prioritise and target action on the ground. By linking these projects and working with other organisations and land-owners, we can work towards reversing the decline in Wales' wild bees.

For more information and to download the report, please visit <https://www.buglife.org.uk/wales-threatened-bee-report-0>.

Liam Olds
Buglife Cymru



Pembrokeshire Marine Code Environmental Training Days

An opportunity to learn more about the Pembrokeshire coastline, to enjoy and share...

The Pembrokeshire Marine Code aims to encourage people to show respect and consideration for the environment and marine wildlife via codes of conduct with advice on how to act around wildlife and seasonal access restrictions for certain, sensitive locations. The agreed access restrictions are unique, developed by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum with conservation bodies, tour boat operators and activity providers to minimise wildlife disturbance.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is continuing to educate people on how to minimise wildlife disturbance and would like you to join us on one of our environmental training events in 2019.



Our series of environmental training events in 2019 will focus on wildlife identification, places of interest along our stunning coastline and introduce the free Pembrokeshire Marine Code App. The App puts all the codes of conduct and agreed access restriction maps into one place and provides fun and interesting facts on wildlife that users may see when exploring the coast, giving you the ability to report a wildlife sighting. Help us by reporting sightings through the App, which will provide important information to the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre.

Topics to include:

- Learning more about the array of animals and plants we share our coastline with
- Discovering the awesome geology of Pembrokeshire
- Exploring best practice and codes of conduct to help minimise disturbance
- Highlighting the Marine Code App, as a tool to identify and report wildlife sightings

Pembrokeshire Marine Code
 Environmental training days
Cod Morol Sir Benfro
 Diwrnodau hyfforddiant amgylcheddol

GET IT ON
 Google Play

Available on the
 App Store

To keep up to date with event details and further information, register your interest on our Marine Code training day page here: <https://www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/marine-code-environmental-training-days/>

or contact us with any queries: <https://www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/contact-us/>

Alec Denny
 Pembrokeshire
 Coastal Forum



West Wales Rivers Trust

Who are the West Wales Rivers Trust?

We are what it says on the tin really! We are the West Wales branch of the UK-wide Rivers Trust and we operate over Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. You may have known smaller River Trusts in the area in recent history, but in 2017 we formed from an amalgamation of many of these to extend the reach of our work.

What do we do?

We are concerned with the enhancement and protection of rivers and their wildlife. These vital arteries of our countryside are under great threat, particularly from pollution and blockages which disrupt vital life-cycle migrations. Public awareness of the issues affecting our rivers is paramount to us and we strive to reach out to people in the community.



Our current projects

We're trying to build on our relatively small organisation, but feel that our current projects are delivering great clout!

Redressing the pH of the Doethie, a major tributary of the River Tywi. <http://westwalesrivertrust.org/an-update-on-the-doethie-in-river-sand-liming-and-leader-forestry-gully-liming-pilot-project/>

Our Catchment Advisers, Gareth and Jim, are working with the farmers in the Ceri Brook and Western Cleddau catchment areas respectively to prevent agricultural pollution and to improve riverbank integrity. <http://westwalesrivertrust.org/projects-partnership-is-the-key/>

We believe that collaboration is key and we're working with the Carmarthenshire Fisherman's Federation, Keep Wales Tidy, Carmarthenshire County Council and Birch Farm Plastics to remove litter from four tributaries of the River Tywi.

Led by the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer, volunteers are being trained to assist with the SWEPT initiative to record environmental details in the Milford Haven waterway. <http://westwalesrivertrust.org/swept-surveying-the-waterway-environment-for-pollution-threats-volunteer-project-2018-19/>

We are expanding the Fishing Passport Scheme across West Wales. This should be of interest to anglers and riparian owners alike.

Going forward

Imminently, we have hopes to expand our education programme 'Adopt a Riverbank' across the three counties and have a major blockage removal scheme planned to improve access to salmonid spawning grounds.

We're all ears to hear about river conservation and education project ideas that you might have. Please drop us a line on [in-fo@westwalesrivertrust.org](mailto:info@westwalesrivertrust.org).

Get involved

Help spread awareness – follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook and sign up to our website mailing list to hear when our articles are published.

New supporter scheme – supplement our work for as little as £15 for the entire year. Join as a family and receive an Adopt a Riverbank workbook too.

Volunteer – interested in any of our projects? Let us know! We are particularly looking for volunteers to help us with the SWEPT project in Pembrokeshire and riverfly monitoring across the region. Training will be provided for both. Please email [in-fo@westwalesrivertrust.org](mailto:info@westwalesrivertrust.org).

Kathy James

West Wales Rivers Trust



Managing Llanion Cemetery for Nature



Llanion Cemetery in Pembroke Dock, managed by Pembrokeshire County Council, underwent a change in cutting regime of one area in 2014. Only the perimeter and a path were regularly cut through what quickly became a meadow community.

The summer of 2018 saw a buzz of invertebrates feeding on grasses, brown knapweed and ox eye daisy. Scattered throughout were approximately 800 Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and 300 Common Twayblade *Neottia ovata*.

Trevor Theobald
Pembrokeshire County Council



There are approximately 4,500 churches and chapels in Wales with many and varied grounds which are home to a diverse range of species - mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi and higher plants that together with the buildings, boundary walls and headstones provide habitats for invertebrates and vertebrates alike.



Biodiversity Events March—May



Date	Title	Information	Contact
03 March	World Wildlife Day	The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March, the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.	http://www.wildlifeday.org/
11 March 19:30	The Green Man and the Green Wood Haverfordwest Leisure Centre	Join Mid Pembrokeshire local group for a talk with Peter Hatherley entitled 'The Green Man and the Greenwood: tales of folklore and wildlife. Entry is £2 and includes tea/coffee and biscuits.	John Steer: 01646 278966 or biojohn@tiscali.co.uk
19 March 19:15	The Stackpole Estate Foundry House Community Centre	Join South Pembrokeshire local group and Haydn Garlick who will tell us about his work on the Stackpole estate and his family's involvement over the years.	chrissiejones58@gmail.com
06 -21 April	Discover National Parks Fortnight	In 2019 National Parks Week is changing to Discover National Parks fortnight and the annual National Parks family festival will keep championing all that is unique and special about National Parks.	https://nationalparks.uk/visiting/national-parks-week
16 April 20:00 – 21:30	Brilliant Bats Carew Castle	As darkness falls, find out what is emerging from the nooks and crannies. Discover more about what these elusive nocturnal creatures get up to, and tune in to their chatter on our echolocation detectors. £4 per child, £6 per adult.	www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/events 01437 720392
24 April 14:00 – 16:00	Wildflower Walk Freshwater East	Explore hidden wildflower hotspots getting to know our dazzling array of spring and summer wildflowers more intimately. Stroll with our local guide and expert as she shares stories and tips on identification as well as medicinal, culinary and household uses of our common flora. £4 per person.	www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/events 01437 720392
17 April 10:00 – 12:00	Discover Reptiles	Join our local ranger to discover elusive reptiles and their habitats along this magnificent stretch of Coast Path. A moderately strenuous walk. £4 per child, £6 per adult.	www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/events 01437 720392
22 April 19:30 – 21:30	Brilliant Bats Bishop's Palace St David's	As darkness falls, find out what is emerging from the nooks and crannies. Discover more about what these elusive nocturnal creatures get up to, and tune in to their chatter on our echolocation detectors. £4 per child, £6 per adult.	www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/events 01437 720392

Biodiversity Events March—May



Date	Title	Information	Contact
01 – 31 May	Walk in the Woods	Walk in the Woods is the The Tree Council's festival to encourage everyone to enjoy trees and woods. Across the UK, walks, talks and other events take place in town and countryside - an invitation to go down to the woods or to a local park or just enjoy tree-lined streets. Flowers, birdsong and leaf colour make them particularly inviting.	https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Walk-in-the-Woods
05 May	International Dawn Chorus Day	Join in with an early start to celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day	http://www.idcd.info/
13 May	Guided Walk, Skomer	Join Dave Astins of West Coast Birdwatching as he guides you around Skomer on a day where the island is closed to all others. £49, not including boat fare which is to be paid on the day.	BOOKING: 01656 724100 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
20 May	Guided Walk, Skomer	Join Dave Astins of West Coast Birdwatching as he guides you around Skomer on a day where the island is closed to all others. £49, not including boat fare which is to be paid on the day.	BOOKING: 01656 724100 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.	https://www.cbd.int/idb/
25 May 10:00 – 15:00	Seabirds on Nests Stack Rocks	Drop by and see who has made a nest on the dramatic sea cliffs around Stack Rocks. See how many eggs and chicks you can spot, and have a chat with our local ranger to find out more about the lives and habits of the residents. The cliffs are particular hotspots for guillemots and razorbills amongst others. Follow the signs from the car park. FREE.	www.pembrokeshire.coast.wales/events 01437 720392



PNP Contact Details

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anthony.rogers@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

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

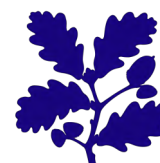


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bluestone
national park resort



Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust

PLANED



Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy



Plantlife



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



WEST WALES
BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION CENTRE
CANOLFAN WYBODAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH
GORLLEWIN CYMRU



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