

Building Resilience in Catchments

Building Resilience in Catchments (BRiCs) is a collaborative research project working with 30 farms to improve water, nutrient and habitat management in three Pembrokeshire Rivers. BRiCS is:

Providing expert advice, guidance and support to farmers

Delivering nutrient focused advisory plans (for up to 30 farms)

Helping to secure funding for targeted nutrient soil mapping, precision farming and where applicable constructed farm wetlands

Developing a framework for creating an enterprise capable of running a nutrient based trading scheme that is able to pay land managers for undertaking actions that benefit the natural environment beyond regulatory requirement and secure sustainable economic development and future investment opportunities

In conjunction with Puffin Produce two soil health and cultivation workshops were held in the Winterton Marsh catchment area.

Mark Stalham, a renowned soil health and potato agronomy expert from NIAB Cambridge University Farm, led two detailed and highly

Soil health workshop



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engaging practical workshops. Farmers attending were offered advice on how to assess the health of their soils and were also able to benefit from Mark's wide breadth of knowledge and experience on ways to improve their soil through better cultivation. There was plenty of opportunity for discussion about rooting, water-logging, nutrient uptake, and soil water holding capacity.

Thanks go to R E Evans Farms Ltd and J Llewellyn and Co. who kindly hosted the workshops. BRICs is funded through the Sustainable Management Scheme which is part of the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-20

Any farmers in the Llys y Fran, Pelcomb Brook or Winterton Marsh river sub-catchments who would like to participate should contact Emma Taylor (BRICs Project Officer) on 01834 870038.

Emma Taylor
BRICs



New Planning Ecologist for Pembrokeshire

My name is Rebecca Blackman, the new planning ecologist for Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

My background is very much wildlife conservation and ecology, having spent a lot of time volunteering after graduating in various places including the Isles of Scilly, Shropshire, the Avon Gorge, Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire and dolphin surveying in New Quay.

After a 12 month internship with the RSPB, I worked as a Visitor Experience officer on a lovely RSPB woodland reserve in Staffordshire. Despite the tranquillity and beauty of the woodlands the sea was calling and I found myself working as a wildlife guide on the boat trips



around Ramsey Island. Following this, I started working as the graduate ecologist for Carmarthenshire County Council where I assisted the planning ecologist and helped out the rest of the conservation team with various jobs including dormouse and butterfly surveys. I am also currently in the process of writing my MSc dissertation on dormice in my spare time.

My work in Carmarthenshire, particularly in planning ecology, has set me up well for taking on this new role and I am really excited to be working for both PCC and PCNPA alongside lots of enthusiastic and passionate people helping to keep Pembrokeshire beautiful. I am always keen to get out and learn new things, so I may come across some of you at various events.

Please feel free to get in touch at: rebecca.blackman@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Rebecca Blackman
Planning Ecologist



Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park



Free Range Future at Bluestone

2019 has seen Bluestone create a brand new department- Corporate Responsibility. The new Head of Corporate Responsibility at Bluestone is Marten Lewis, formerly Executive Director at the Darwin Centre. There is a programme of new initiatives at the resort aimed at elevating the responsibility agenda. Marten Lewis says "We have a whole new movement at Bluestone 'Free Range Future'; a Sustainable Development revolution throughout the whole business. Training on the UN's Global Goals and local sustainability issues is being carried out with Directors and part time staff alike. We are committed to exploring all our outputs and asking if we are being responsible in the way that we do business, encompassing; procurement, supply chain, staff wellbeing, local community, cultural heritage, waste, energy, and biodiversity".

In terms of Biodiversity, Bluestone is working with as many relevant local stakeholders as possible. A recent partnership with NRW, the Bat Conservation Trust, and the Pembrokeshire Bat Group saw (at last count) 51 Barbastelle Bats from at least 13 roosts recorded.



Mist Netting

Photo: Sam Dyer, NRW

In partnership with National Park Ranger Chris Taylor and his team of volunteer rangers, Bluestone have built an Otter Holt, after finding the first evidence of Otters in Penglyn stream this spring.

West Wales Biodiversity Records Centre arranged a species recording day in June which saw over 120 species of Moth recorded (awaiting other records).

In partnership with Ginny and Russ from the Pembrokeshire Hogspital the resort developed habitat and built seven hedgehog nests and feeding stations as it became a release site for overwintered hedgehogs, the habitat work was done with kind support from the National Trust at Stackpole through their international volunteers.

A large area of Blackthorn is earmarked for management over the winter in order to improve the conditions for Brown Hairstreak butterflies; this is in partnership with Nathan Walton and a team of volunteers from the Wildlife Trust.

Three different groups of Pembrokeshire College students are regularly using Bluestone as a work experience destination on habitat management, working closely with Senior Ranger Rob Mackeen.

There are plans over the winter to work with the Pembrokeshire Amphibian and Reptile Group to develop projects in Bluestone's 550 acres.

Bluestone is proud to be a main sponsor of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum's 10th Anniversary 'A View on Wildlife' event on the 11th Oct.

For more info on any of Bluestones 'Free Range Future' initiatives please contact Marten Lewis through mlewis@bluestonewales.com

Marten Lewis
Bluestone Resort

bluestone
national park resort



Connecting the Dragons

Connecting the Dragons (CtD) is a large-scale, four-year project across southern Wales that aims to restore and raise awareness of its declining and fragmented amphibian and reptile (herpetofauna) populations. A key element to the project's success is community involvement; Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC) will undertake habitat creation and restoration in strategic locations, with trained and mentored volunteers, to improve habitat permeability for wildlife meta-populations in an increasingly urbanized environment.

Enthusiated interns and volunteers will be trained to survey and monitor their local herpetofauna populations, with the data feeding directly into nature conservation. Furthermore, a campaign will be launched utilizing social media and community events to bring herpetofauna conservation up the agendas of partner bodies, raise partner knowledge, and improve species' image. ARC will work with bilingual volunteers and partners to deliver the project in both English and Welsh.



ARC have consulted 195 representatives from 45 stakeholder organizations, as well as 251 potential volunteers from local communities. There is widespread enthusiasm for engagement with the project from both individuals and organizations, and ARC have already signed Memoranda of Understanding with nine partners, allowing us to work on up to 42 sites in the first year of delivery alone. ARC plan to work

on approximately 76 sites during the four years. The project's legacy, with the help of our partners, will be both a physically better-connected natural heritage and communities with a better understanding and connection to that heritage.

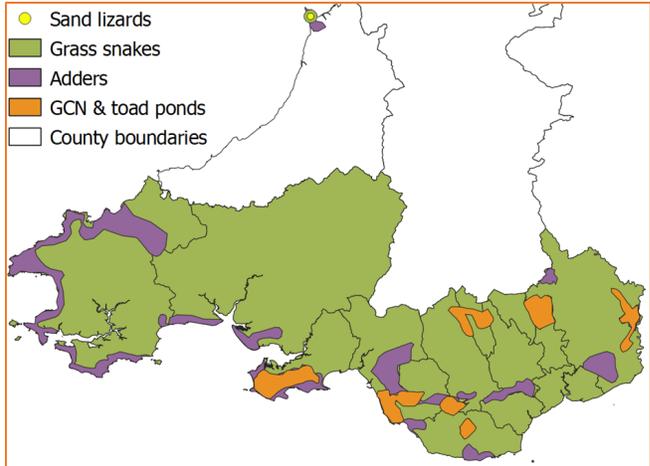
The three aims below summarise the project's objectives:

Aim 1: To increase habitat connectivity and colony robustness of our target natural heritage species

Aim 2: To create a network of skilled, motivated volunteers and partners undertaking surveying and monitoring of our target natural heritage species now and into the future

Aim 3: To improve the image and increase understanding of our target natural heritage species in the public eye

The CtD project has a wide reach across southern Wales:



The project's work in Pembrokeshire will focus around the adder and grass snake:

- Securing robust adder populations through influencing and helping with habitat management is a key element, in particular along the coast and Preseli's, but elsewhere too. Reinforced through adder habitat management workshops/ site visit days.

- We need more recording and monitoring of sites that are under management, using computer modelling to direct us, and securing the legacy through a certificated adder training programme.
- An adder awareness campaign will be launched, using both physical and social media materials (talks, banners, posters, infographics, videos, etc). Do you know of any human/dog adder bite hot spots?
- Encouraging grass snake egg laying sites is a smaller element of the project. Do you have verge / meadow management arisings (or even animal manure) that aren't needed? We need big piles in sunny connected corners, created and monitored with staff / volunteers.

Contact HLFDragons@arc-trust.org for more info or to get involved.

Mark Barber
ARC

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

The Long Forest

Help us record our hedgerows in Pembrokeshire!

Hedgerows form a vital part of our landscape, but they're at risk from neglect, damage and removal. As part of the Long Forest project, we are aiming to survey hedgerows across all areas of Wales, gaining vital information about their condition and the tree species within them.

It's easy to do, anybody can get involved. We have developed the Long Forest App which allows you to survey hedgerows and identify hedgerow species quickly and easily, whatever your level of experience. The app can be used in all areas of Wales, even where there is no mobile phone signal. Why not

check out our handy Species ID guide to see what is in your hedgerows today?



The app is available on Google Play and Apple App store for Android and IOS. Visit our website www.longforest.cymru for more info.

Mari Williams
Keep Wales Tidy



A View on Wildlife 2019

Passionate about wildlife? Then we have the event for you.

Join us for an evening celebrating all things natural and have your eyes opened as experts come together on 11th October at 7pm to share images and stories of their



experiences working with wildlife - both on land and underwater. Come along and find out how you can get involved in local projects, or just be wowed by some amazing photography and be inspired to get out with your camera.

Hosted by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF), the event is now in its 10th year and all money raised will support the work of the Pembrokeshire Marine Code - a voluntary code of conduct aimed at helping people understand and respect the marine environment.

2019 is Wales' 'Year of Discovery' and this event is a celebration of the amazing creatures we have here in Pembrokeshire. We want you to get out and about, exploring our coast and spotting wildlife, and because of this PCF is also hosting its annual wildlife photography competition. Entry is completely free and there are some fantastic prizes up for grabs. It is open to anyone of any age or ability and photos can be taken on any type of camera – even your phone!

Tickets for the event are available to buy from the Torch Theatre box office on 01646 695267 or online at - www.torchtheatre.co.uk/a-view-on-wildlife-2019

Keep checking the website as speaker details will be announced soon....

Winners from the annual wildlife photography competition will be announced on the evening. Entries and voting can be made on PCF's website:

www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk/photo-competition-2019

For further information please contact: Holly Pretious, Marketing and Communications Manager, 01646 405690 or holly.pretious@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk

Holly Pretious
PCF



Biodiversity Events October—December



Date	Title	Information	Contact
9 th October	Seal Watching Llanwnda 18:00	Join the National Park Ranger on a seasonal seal watch.	01646 624800
11 th October	A view on Wildlife Torch Theatre. 7pm	Join us for an evening celebrating all things natural and have your eyes opened as experts come together on 11th October at 7pm to share images and stories of their experiences working with wildlife.	Holly Pretious 01646 405690
28 – 31 October	Halloween Quiz Trail, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cardigan.	From Monday 28th-Thursday 31st October at the Welsh Wildlife Centre, have a go at our spooky Halloween quiz trail! Follow a trail of clues around the nature reserve and solve the puzzle to win a prize!	01239 621600 wwc@welshwildlife.org
28 October	Autumn Nature Walk and Crafts, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cardigan. 11:00 and 14:00	Join us for a walk around the reserve to look for signs of Autumn. Collect seeds, leaves and other bits to use for a nature collage or woodland crown. Just £3 per child. Suitable for ages 3+ accompanied by an adult.	01239 621600 wwc@welshwildlife.org
01 November	Hogtastic Hedgehog Event, Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cardigan. 11:00 and 14:00	Join us at the Welsh Wildlife Centre for a day of fun, facts and crafts with a hedgehog theme. Pembrokeshire hogspital will be here with helpful information and maybe a friendly hog to meet and greet.	01239 621600 wwc@welshwildlife.org



PNP Contact Details

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Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership website:

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

Wales Biodiversity website:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

Nature Newsletters

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

PNP would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write an article for the next newsletter please contact Ant.

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

PNP Members

amphibian and reptile
conservation



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cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy

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Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales



Ymddiriedolaeth
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