

WBPSG7

 10th February 2009

Gregynog - Powys

AGENDA

The 7th Meeting of the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group will be held at Gregynog, Nr Newtown, Powys (location map can be found at <http://www.wales.ac.uk/defaultpage.asp?page=E3011>), starting at 10.30. Coffee will be available from 10.00am.

TIME	ITEM/ PAPER No:	TITLE	LEAD
10.00		Assemble, tea/coffee	
10.30		Welcome, introduction and apologies	
10.35	1	Main paper: workshop activity – CABI, Japanese Knotweed control	Dick Shaw
11.05	2	Main paper: Review of Wales wildlife crime priorities	Ian Guilford
11.25	3	Main paper: Review recommendations in Scotland's review of their methods for preventing, investigating and prosecuting wildlife crime	Ian Guilford
11.45	4	Main paper: Biodiversity Indicators next steps	David Allen
12.05	5	Issues from LBAPs	
12.10		LUNCH	
1.00		Presentation: The marine crayfish (<i>Palinurus elephas</i>) - collation of records from old log books of recreational divers.	Kate Lock, West Wales Seasearch Co-ordinator
1.10		Discussion: What can we do to help these species?	
1.20	6	Main paper: Statutory protection for sensitive habitats in the Milford Haven waterway from dredge fishing activity	Aethne Cooke
1.40	7	Main paper: North Wales Making the Connections project group – discussion to address concerns	Stephen Jones
2.00		Papers to Note - A: Invasive non-native species action plan - B: Update on Organisations use of BARS - C: Wildlife Crime update - D: Wetlands - E: Red Squirrel - F: WBP Planning - G: Wales Biodiversity Policy Group	Heli Gittens Juliet Hynes Ian Guilford Peter Jones Liz Haliwell Sean McHugh Julia Korn
2.20		Feedback from WCMP	Steve Moon

2.30		Feedback from Standing Committee	Diana Reynolds
2.40		Confirm minutes and actions from last meeting	
3.50		AOB	
3.00		Date of next meeting	
3.05	Afternoon tea and finish		

Return train to Cardiff and Bangor 16.46

Return train to Aberystwyth 16.05

WBPSG7

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Paper 1

Japanese knotweed control

Background

CABI has been commissioned by a consortium of sponsors to carry out research into the use of natural enemies for the control of the invasive weed Japanese knotweed, *Fallopia japonica* in the UK. This research has been ongoing since 2003 and is nearing its conclusion. Applications for release of an exotic psyllid, *Aphalara itadori* are under consideration by the responsible UK Authorities.

The background on the project can be found at:
<http://www.cabi.org/japaneseknotweedalliance/>

Plan Proposals

Though this paper will be presented as an information provision exercise it is likely that various member of the WBP will be asked for their opinion on the proposed release. There are pathways of authorisation

Release of these organisms into the environment in England is regulated by the Plant Health Act. When a new plant pest is found in the UK a "Pest Risk Assessment" or PRA is carried out to identify the risks. The PRA is then placed on the Defra website and comments invited from stakeholders to establish whether official control measures should be taken. A PRA has been carried out on the psyllid but this is undergoing a final iteration.

The release of the psyllid (as a non-native animal) is also regulated by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which requires Ministers to seek advice from the independent Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE). ACRE has been consulted and given its views on the psyllid (see section 12 of their latest minutes <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/acre/meetings/08/min081204.htm>)

The presentation to the WBP will introduce the principles and practice of Classical Biological Control of weeds and provide information and data generated during the safety testing studies on this psyllid.

Decision Points

- To consider consultation document(s) which will follow later in the year and based upon these, and on the information provided today, endorse the application to release this specialist natural enemy for the permanent suppression of Japanese knotweed in Wales

Review of Wales Wildlife Crime Priorities

Background/Progress

At the meeting of the WBPSG5 on the 15th July 2008, the subject of a review of the Wildlife Crime Priorities for Wales was discussed, it was agreed that these need reviewing and possibly revising. The priorities are currently:

- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through off-road vehicles
- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through illegal burning
- European Protected Species affected by unlawful development

These priorities supplement the National Priorities which are currently:

- Bat Persecution
- Illegal Trade in CITES Species with particular focus on the illegal trade in Caviar, Elephant Ivory, Ramin Timber, Tortoises and Traditional Medicines.
- Freshwater Pearl Mussels.
- Hen Harrier Persecution.
- Poaching encompassing Hare Coursing, Fish and Deer.

On the 13th January 2009 a meeting took place at the JNCC offices in Peterborough to discuss the current National Priorities as they related to conservation issues, the result of the recommendations of this meeting will be fed into a meeting of the High Level Group (HLG), which is the strategic Tasking and Coordination Group (TCG) for the national priorities. The HLG is due to meet on the 3rd February to discuss and set the National Priorities for 2009.

Plan/Proposals

Before a review of the current Welsh Crime Priorities takes place it is felt that it would be beneficial to wait until the National Priorities have been reviewed and set, once this process has been carried out a review of the Welsh Priorities can be made without the fear of duplicating those set by the HLG.

A brief review of the current priorities has been made and it is felt that those relating to Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through off-road vehicles and European Protected Species affected by unlawful development are probably still relevant, the third priority relating to Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest through illegal burning may well be reviewed to see if it is still relevant, this together with any other perceived priorities can then be

discussed and reviewed at the earliest opportunity utilising a similar process used to set the national priorities.

Decision Points

- Is a review of the current Welsh Wildlife Crime Priorities required?
- Who will be involved in the decision making process.
- Are there any issues/areas that may be considered?

Review recommendations in Scotland's review of their methods for preventing, investigating and prosecuting wildlife crime

Background/Progress

At the meeting of the WBPSG5 on the 15th July 2008 the paper 'Natural Justice: A joint thematic inspection of the arrangements in Scotland for preventing, investigating and prosecuting wildlife crime' was brought to the attention of the group, a copy of this report can be found on the Scottish Government Web Site at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/03143616/0>

A summary of the recommendations together with a brief view of their applicability in Wales is attached at Annex 1.

Enquiries have been made to see the feasibility of carrying out a similar inspection within Wales and these are on going but it is believed, at the current time, this will not be attainable.

Plan/Proposals

It is proposed that further enquiries are made into the possibility of a similar inspection being carried out within Wales.

Further discussions and review of the applicability of the Scottish review to Wales to be carried out, one possibility is this to be looked at by the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Cymru group.

Decision Points

- Consider the relevance of the review to Wales
- Consider the feasibility of conducting a similar review within Wales
- Consider the implementation of the recommendations within Wales

Appendix 1

Recommendation 1 - that the Scottish Government creates a wildlife crime reduction strategy or equivalent policy statement. – **possible (partly addressed by the Welsh Environmental Strategy Action Plan)**

Recommendation 2 - that the Wildlife and Habitats Crime Prosecution Forum be constituted so that the maximum operational and policy benefit can be gained from open and forthright debriefing of cases between the relevant agencies. (Page 15) – **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 3 - that there is full implementation of the stated specialist wildlife prosecutor role within COPFS. (Page 16) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 4 - that there is increased communication within COPFS on the role of specialist wildlife prosecutors. (Page 16) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 5 - COPFS provide more information on the role of specialist wildlife prosecutors to partner agencies and to each police force area wildlife crime co-ordinator. (Page 16) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 6 - that in each COPFS area the specialist wildlife prosecutor ensures there is liaison and communication between them and the police wildlife crime co-ordinator. (Page 16) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 7 - that all reporting agencies indicate at the start of each report to COPFS that the case should be considered and marked by the area specialist wildlife prosecutor. (Page 19) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 8 - that there is set up and maintained a properly constituted sub-group of PAW (Scotland) 'Legislation, Regulation & Guidance' with representation from relevant wildlife and rural agencies to review existing legislation and regulation and make recommendations. (Page 23) – **irrelevant at this stage**

Recommendation 9 - that in order to produce clear and consistent guidance the Legislation, Regulation & Guidance sub-group of PAW (Scotland) take responsibility for such publications. The sub-group should work with the various wildlife and rural agencies to oversee and produce these under PAW (Scotland) branding, thus promoting the PAW (Scotland) partnership and demonstrating that the guidance has the approval of the Scottish Parliament. (Page 23) - **irrelevant at this stage**

Recommendation 10 - that the PAW (Scotland) Legislation, Regulation & Guidance sub-group consider whether it would be appropriate to place any provision for criminal vicarious liability before Parliament for its consideration on this matter. (Page 24) - **irrelevant at this stage**

Appendix 1

Recommendation 11 - that PAW (Scotland) consult upon, agree and publish comprehensive guidance on the various measures that can be used to deter or ultimately be applied as sanctions in relation to wildlife crime. (Page 24) - **possible**

Recommendation 12 - that COPFS carry out a training needs assessment for specialist wildlife prosecutors and provide a suitable training package for both newly appointed specialists and ongoing training. (Page 26) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Recommendation 13 - that forces have a formal interview process for appointing WECOs that includes the force co-ordinator or force lead on wildlife crime. (Page 28) – **possible (For WECO read Police Wildlife Crime Officers)**

Recommendation 14 - that a generic national role description for WECOs be agreed to allow training needs to be assessed. This could be carried out through the relevant PAW (Training and Awareness) sub-group structure. (Page 28) - **irrelevant**

Recommendation 15 - that a national training programme for WECOs be agreed, based substantially on existing arrangements and following good practice as identified by the Wildlife and Habitats Crime Prosecution Forum. (Page 28) - **irrelevant**

Recommendation 16 - that relevant Scottish Government Directorates consider whether they could benefit from the secondment of a WECO as takes place elsewhere within the United Kingdom. (Page 28) – **completed (secondments to CCW)**

Recommendation 17 - that those forces that do not already have a full-time wildlife crime coordinator post, create one and appoint a police officer to the role. (Page 29) – **possible but probably impracticable and unobtainable**

Recommendation 18 - that PAW (Scotland) assumes the strategic and pivotal role in reducing wildlife crime in Scotland and adopts the series of actions set out at pages 31/32 of this report. - **possible**

Recommendation 19 - that the chair of PAW (Scotland) through an appropriate sub-group, administers a fund to support certain high priority investigations and the development of more effective practices to combat wildlife crime. (Page 33) - **possible**

Recommendation 20 - that PAW (Scotland) consider the greater use of Crimestoppers as a means of reporting wildlife crime. (Page 36) – **completed but open to improvement**

Recommendation 21 - that ACPOS work with the proposed PAW (Scotland) structure to develop a common minimum standard of investigation for wildlife crime. (Page 37) – **irrelevant due to ACPO (equivalent to ACPOS) covers England and Wales**

Recommendation 22 - that the Wildlife and Habitats Crime Prosecution Forum initiate debriefs following significant wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions, either locally with partners or where appropriate nationally. (Page 37) - **possible (Welsh CPS Wildlife Crime Seminar 23.2.2009 – Llandrindod Wells)**

Appendix 1

Recommendation 23 - that where a specialist agency has played a significant part in an investigation the reporting officer will confirm to the agency whether or not a report is being submitted to COPFS. If one is being submitted the reporting officer will confirm with the agency that the report accurately reflects its involvement. The report will confirm the agency has been advised of the submission of the report and that the agency agrees the report accurately reflects its involvement. (Page 39) – **possible but subject to discussion**

Recommendation 24 - while the independence of COPFS to decide on proceedings emanating from a report is not questioned, it is recommended that where a specialist agency has played a significant part in an investigation and COPFS take proceedings, they will discuss charges and any proposed plea resolution with the specialist agency. (Page 39) - **possible but subject to discussion**

Wales Biodiversity Indicators: next steps

Background/Progress

A paper on UK and country biodiversity indicators was presented at the previous WBPSG (November 2008), and the question as to whether Wales would benefit from having a distinct set of biodiversity indicators was discussed. It was agreed that additional information on the current situation was required, and a small working group of staff from CCW, RSPB and Plantlife (and subsequently WERH) was actioned with undertaking further work.

Since the previous meeting, some further work has been done to update previously circulated information about biodiversity indicators, and to identify those indicators in development that might be disaggregated to provide information at country level. An example of the latter is the indicator of invasive non-native species that is being developed as part of the UK headline biodiversity indicators set – the research consortium undertaking this work has been charged with exploring options for country-level indicators.

An approach to identifying and evaluating datasets that might form the basis of a Wales biodiversity indicators set has also been sketched-out since the previous meeting (Annex 1).

Plan/Proposals

The suggested approach has a pragmatic emphasis, and works with existing datasets, rather than seeking to develop a theoretically ideal set of indicators for which entirely new datasets might need to be collected. This approach would involve collating summary information about existing datasets and evaluating them against agreed criteria that reflect desired properties of indicators. A means of capturing some basic information about candidate datasets is presented in Annex 1. This simple matrix needs to be populated – in the first instance, information could be extracted from the Baseline Monitoring database produced by CEH for CCW in 2003. Initial validation of this collation could then be provided by WBP, prior to any necessary wider circulation among other possible data contributors.

An opportunity to obtain wider input to the process exists in the form of the Wales Environmental Information Forum workshop on 11 March 2009. The workshop organisers have offered help with exploring data gaps for biodiversity indicators where Wales experiences difficulty in locating baseline or trend data/information.

Following on from this collation exercise, further work would be undertaken to evaluate the datasets against criteria that reflect desired attributes of indicators, and also to ensure that the indicator set included a balanced representation of different environments and the main pressures thought to be acting upon them.

Decision Points

- To agree the basic approach outlined in Annex 1, or to identify another approach.
- To agree a deadline by when a set of Wales biodiversity indicators should be established.

Development of Wales biodiversity indicators

Indicator development typically seeks to make use of existing data, rather than to commission collection of entirely new data.

This note provides a brief outline of one possible way to approach the development of a Wales biodiversity indicator set, drawing mainly on existing datasets. Two initial steps are suggested:

1. Identify candidate datasets
2. Evaluate candidate datasets

Identify candidate datasets

The draft, partly populated, matrix below might be a suitable initial means of capturing some basic, though relevant, information about existing datasets. The aim here would be to identify extant datasets that relate to defined aspects of biodiversity and that operate on a defined cycle of monitoring. The listed biodiversity elements are illustrative.

	Frequency of data collection			
	Annual	2-3 years	4-6 years	>6 years
Land cover	Satellite data		Aerial photos	LCM?
Habitat extent	Satellite data		Aerial photos	Countryside survey square data; [NIWT? (woodland only)];
Habitat quality	Satellite data	ECN veg?	[Aerial photos?]	Countryside survey plot data
Birds	BBS, WeBS etc			National Atlases?
Mammals	Bats?			Otters
Fish				
Invertebrates	BMS			
Plants		Flowering plants of cons interest?; Arctic-alpines		CS; plant atlases
...				
...				

Frequency of monitoring is included as it might be one of the key factors on which decisions are made to accept or reject a candidate indicator. Indicators that could only be updated infrequently might be thought to be of limited use.

Evaluate candidate datasets

Of the candidate datasets, identified through the above process, a subset might be selected for further evaluation. Evaluation might take the form of some scoring of each datasets against defined criteria that reflect desired indicator characteristics, eg. Geographical coverage; adequacy of sample size (statistical power); understanding of causal relationship with environmental pressure; ease of interpretation/immediacy/appeal etc.

In this way, we could build up a picture of relative strengths and weaknesses of candidate datasets, and also differentiate those cases where weaknesses might be addressed with relatively limited investment and those that would require more substantial investment. For example, it might require relatively little investment to increase sample size of butterfly and bat monitoring schemes in Wales but much more to increase something akin to ECN vegetation monitoring (currently limited to one site).

In addition to evaluation of individual datasets, there would need to be some evaluation of the indicator set as a whole. For example, to check that terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments are each adequately represented; to check that indicators of major environmental pressures are included.

Statutory protection for sensitive habitats in the Milford Haven waterway from dredge fishing activity

Background/Progress

At WBP SG 2 (paper 4, 18th July 2007), a list of priority actions relevant to the conservation of marine biodiversity in Wales was presented. One of these actions identified the need to prevent use of fishing dredges within the Milford Haven waterway in relation to a maerl bed, seagrass beds and the native oyster.

These habitats, maerl in particular, are highly sensitive to dredging. Maerl is regarded as a non-renewable resource in the light of its slow growth rate. A single dredge pass can result in a high percentage loss (i.e. 70%) of live maerl with recovery, if any, being exceptionally slow (i.e. no recovery after 4 years). The maerl bed in the Milford Haven estuary is the only known example of this habitat in Wales.

The maerl bed and adjacent seagrass bed are component features of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and are listed for Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006. The maerl bed is known to support scallops which are of commercial fishing interest.

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has been liaising with the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (SWSFC), the Fisheries Policy Branch of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and representatives of the fishing industry since January 2006, advising of the need for a statutory exclusion zone around the maerl bed and an adjacent seagrass bed in the Milford Haven estuary. CCW has provided maps of an appropriate exclusion zone (including a buffer area around the habitats in question) to the SWSFC.

During this time, the SWSFC, and WAG have preferred to first try and progress the establishment of a voluntary industry-led approach to the protection of these sensitive features. This has not resulted in protection for the maerl and seagrass bed however. There has not been wide notification to fishermen of the voluntary exclusion area and although fishermen observed fishing in the sensitive area have been asked by the SWSFC to voluntarily cease, further damage has been sustained. Recently (January 2009), the SWSFC produced a map of the maerl and seagrass bed and issued this to all dredge fishermen (within the district) along with their annual dredge authorisations and have also shown this map on their web site. Unfortunately, the map issued simply shows the areas of known maerl and seagrass distribution and does not clearly identify an area to be avoided or show the exclusion area CCW had advised. WAG fisheries have indicated that their preferred approach in addressing scallop dredging issues is the application of a Wales-wide Statutory Instrument.

To date, the voluntary approach has kept local fishermen that were aware of the issue out of the sensitive area, but there has been recent incursion into the maerl bed. The subsequent voluntary action to exit the maerl bed once they were informed of the issue will have reduced the scale of impact and is welcomed. However, the area remains vulnerable to dredgers from outside the jurisdiction of the SWSFC. There is also uncertainty and delay associated with any possible Wales-wide approach.

There are two potential regulatory tools that would allow the statutory exclusion of dredge fishing – 1. under the SWSFC byelaw 40 under which it is possible to identify a restricted area, and 2. under the Seafish Conservation Act 1967 S5, a Stop Order issued by WAG fisheries.

No definitive action has been taken by either party to establish a statutory exclusion zone, and the annual authorisation for use of dredges by the SWSFC has still not been subject to consideration of its implications for SAC features as required under Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. Use of dredges and implications for SAC features has been considered by the North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee which has resulted in a number of closed fishing areas where sensitive seabed habitats occur.

The CCW remain of the viewpoint that a statutory exclusion zone is urgently needed for the maerl bed and adjacent seagrass bed in the light of their remaining vulnerability to dredge fishing activity, their inherent sensitivity and poor potential for recovery, and the damage that has occurred to date. Such measures, even if only temporary in nature (whilst moves are made for a Wales-wide approach) should be considered for immediate implementation.

Decision Points

- For the WBP to write to WAG fisheries branch in support of an immediate statutory exclusion zone for the maerl and seagrass beds in the Milford Haven waterway, the protection of which would contribute to the implementation of the priority marine actions identified by the WBP in 2007.
- For the WAG Marine Policy branch to clarify Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations with regard to the SWSFC annual authorisation for use of dredges by fishermen and the need for consideration of the implications for the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC.

Title - Invasive non-native species action plan

Background/Progress

The WBP NNS Wales group met for the 4th time on the 17th December 2008. The Draft Non Native Species Action Audit for Wales (Annex 1) was submitted, and will form the basis of the INNS action plan (Annex II).

Plan/Proposals

- As with the Audit, all agencies undertaking action involving invasive non native species will be asked to feed the details to the Task and Finish group. The action plan will then be updated at regular intervals.
- Ideas for events to take place on International Biodiversity day (22nd May) have been requested from the members of the NNS Task and Finish group, due to the theme being Invasive Species. These will be co-ordinated with events to be planned for Wales Biodiversity Week (6th – 14th June).
- The Environment Agency are planning to eradicate the African Clawed Toad from the one site where they occur in Wales. A site meeting will be held shortly to finalise arrangements. The same EA team have plans to control (and ultimately to eradicate) species such as the Top-mouthed Gudgeon.
- Work is ongoing with many species such as Himalayan Balsam, Mink, Rhododendron and Japanese Knotweed (see CABI's presentation today).

Annex I – Draft Non Native Species Action Audit

Annex II – Invasive Non Native Action Plan

Decision Points

- All WBP members asked to note the above points

DRAFT NON-NATIVE SPECIES ACTION AUDIT FOR WALES

	Project	Funding / timing	Partners	Notes/actions
MANAGEMENT				
	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	CCW in-house	CCW	Attempted eradication on recently re-excavated pool on Malltraeth Marsh . J Hanson & estate workers – about 20 man-days spent clearing & composting material. Result – failure – it came back next year. However some years later it has subsided and we concluded that it responds to P release from disturbed sediment.
	Ban on sale Of certain non-native species	2008 / 09	DEFRA	DEFRA hope to publish the outcome of their consultation the Ban on Sale of certain non-native species in Spring 2009.
	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus Rotundifolia</i>	2008	Swansea Council, CCW	Approx 3 ha cut, chipped and treated. Then will be included in BWW grant.
	Cotoneaster species and Strawberry Tree <i>Cotoneaster microphyllus agg. & C. simonsii (Arbutus unedo)</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn (establish 2008-2009, then ongoing)	CCW, Great Orme NNR.	Reinstatement of volunteer control of invasive <i>Cotoneaster</i> and <i>Arbutus</i> on small area of Great Orme. Work to start autumn/winter 2008/2009. Part of overall management plan with CCW to control invasives at this site.
	Feral Goat	CCW budget,	Partnership with SNPA, NT, Snowdonia Society	Control of numbers at various sites within Snowdonia National Park.
	Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	2008	EA	Eradication near Bethesda by complete mechanical removal. 2 phases of physical removal at Llanybi (more to follow) using EA Environmental Leave days. Advice on control in Criccieth. New sites December 08 at Dinas Dinlle and Wrexham
	Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	CCW 3 year project	CCW/ EA / IDB	Control programme on Gwent Levels SSSI
	Giant Hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzium</i>	2008	EA	Control on the Usk and Wye and Twyi (Wye & Usk Foundation and EAW Operations Delivery Team) and Twyi (Operations delivery)

				Ongoing spray programme in the Chester area and Dee floodbanks by EA (FRM department).
	Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	CCW funding?	Anglesey Red Squirrel Project /Menter Môn	The main projects are grey squirrel control on Anglesey and occasionally at Clocaenog (FCW)
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2007 - 10	CCW, Swansea Council	Hand pull on identified Gower sites
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2008 - 9	EA/Camarthen Rivers Trust	Possible mapping exercise on the Dualis (Twyi trib) as a baseline to control exercise
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	2008	RSPB/Menter Môn	Control programme on the Cefni, Malltraeth Marsh and Lleniog on Anglesey. Also Llyn Ystymlynn near Criccieth
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Ongoing	EA	Control at selected sites as part of Flood Risk Management programme across North Wales area.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	August 2008	EA	Survey at Tryweryn white water centre id'd one clump which will be removed
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Eradication programmes	Historical	EA	Afon Conwy – 98% successful using 7 applications of glyphosate over 3+ years Afon Ddu at Llanfairfechan – JK removed, but largely displaced by Himalayan Balsam – further control being considered. Afon Ogwen – 2 seasons control – funding required for final sprays.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Various Phases	3 years	City and Council of Swansea (CCS), CCW, WAG DE&T., landowners	Has one more year to go – a number of contracts to control Japanese Knotweed via herbicide contracts across CCS area.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	1 year	Cydcoed, Swansea Council	Winter ground spray with Tordon in Feb '08

	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Highways survey	1 year	Swansea Council	Survey of all Swansea Council highways by contractor
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Review of technical guidance	Ongoing	WAG, DE&T	Review and update of technical guidance on treatment of Japanese Knotweed in landscape and construction contracts.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Control programmes	Ongoing	WAG DE&T	Ongoing across numerous sites across Wales as part of regeneration and development
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Ongoing control at Coedmor NNR, Lovesgrove SSSI, Pant y Sais NNR, Cwn Clydach NNR, Coed Cymerau NNR, Hafod Garregog NNR, Crymlyn Bog NNR
	Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	S15	Private landowner	Eradication from Cadnant Dingle SSSI
	Licences CCW Reg 44 (2) licences	Ongoing	CCW	For selected species, licences now include conditions in respect of bio-security.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i>	2008/09 EA funding £15K	Wales Riparian Mammal Group, EA/Menter Môn	The Anglesey Water Vole Project currently has 70 mink rafts deployed over the Afon Cefni, Braint, Cors Erddreiniog, Llyn Cefni and Ceint. Records of sightings on Anglesey - mink rafts deployed.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> LIFE+ mink control bid and seminar	2008 ongoing	Game & Wildlife Conservancy Trust	Following from the draft minutes of the UK Water Vole Steering Group meeting on 24 May 08. “Game & Wildlife Conservancy Trust are now leading a consortium of several NGOs and government agencies aiming to apply to the EU LIFE funding stream for mink control in the UK. A consultant (funded by SNH, EA & Defra) will be preparing the bid for submission by November based on a seminar of interested parties to be held 11/12 June”.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Trapping	2008	EA	Trapping at Llangorse prior to Water Vole release
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Tir Gofal	Ongoing	CCW, TG	TG - CCW and a consortium of NGOs have been advising WAG on targeting Tir Gofal to benefit species of conservation concern. Areas have been drawn up

				within which a range of specific prescriptions (Species Packages) will apply. Tir Gofal can fund up to 80% of the costs of mink control in Water Vole Areas.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> BASC Greenshoots project	2008/09 £5K provided by EAW	BASC, EA	Associated with Menter Môn project – establish a “cordon sanitair” around Anglesey and at key water vole sites to remove Mink. Providing training on humane mink trapping, along with mink rafts and traps.
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Control at Newport Levels NNR
	Mitten Crabs	Ongoing	EA	Recording of spread.
	Mussel seed movement risk Investigations to determine the potential risk for certain non-native species to be introduced to North Wales with mussel seed dredged from wild seed beds	12k 2008	CCW contract with Marlin	A list of invasive non native species likely to be spread by the movement of mussel seed was drawn together and a risk assessment carried out into the impacts of any introductions into the Menai Strait.
	New Zealand Pygmyweed <i>Crassula helmsii</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / CCW (ongoing)	LBAPs	Monitoring of sites of Back from the Brink species (Pillwort, Marsh Clubmoss, Three-lobed Water-crowfoot) for infestation by <i>Crassula</i> , and notification to partners of need for control.
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Carried out in house by CCW	CCW	Tregaron, in flooded peat cutting. Drained/herbicide used. <i>Crassula</i> came back.
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	CCW	Herbicide eradication at Ynys Las (Mike Bailey)
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	EA / NEWW	<i>Crassula</i> removal at Hafod, Wrexham (SAC) Training and pond survey
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	EA	Advice on management and control. Eradication (Bala Lake Hotel and Llanfairfechan – pond infilling). Complete mechanical removal at Llan y Gors (Anglesey) and Brynchrug.
	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Advice to FC Newborough - awaiting action Control at Dyfi NNR

	New Zealand Pigmy Weed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	2008	EAW, North East Wales Wildlife (NEWW), Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd.	Experimental control of <i>Crassula</i> and fish at Johnstown by EAW. Method statement was exemplar. Paper delivered by NEWWildlife at Amphibian & Reptile group conference, 2008. Other methods of <i>Crassula</i> control carried out elsewhere in NE Wales.
	Primrose-willow	August 2008	EA	About to start eradicating from all sites in UK including Penllergaer in Wales
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	2006 ongoing	Snowdonia National Park Authority	SNPA have had an invasive species project officer for the last 2 years mainly concentrating on Rhododendron. He has written a Rhododendron strategy for the Park and undertaken a large amount of control in conjunction with the Tir Eryri grant scheme. Main areas around Mawddach, Dinas Mawddwy and Dyffryn Ffestiniog.
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / CCW (ongoing)	CCW SNPA	Small-scale eradication using volunteer help at sites where Rhododendron poses a threat to <i>Back from the Brink</i> species. e.g. threat to Sword-leaved Helleborine (<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>) at Arthog, Merionethshire. Monitoring of invasion at other sites and notification of partners of need for control. e.g. threat to Juniper at Cwm Bychan, Beddgelert, Merionethshire.
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	3 years	FC, Swansea Council	Clyne Valley CP – approx 35 ha cut, chipped/burnt and treated with re-treatment over 3 years. Then will be included in BWW grant
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	2008	CCW, Swansea Council, Gower Commons, Nat Trust	Graig Fawr – approx 32 ha on valley side north of M4. Control only by treatment of ‘outlying’ areas
	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Ongoing control at following NNRs – Dyfi, Ceunant Llenyrch, Coedmor, Hafod Garregog, Coed Rheidol, Rhinog, Cadair Idris, Yr Wyddfa, Berwyn, Coedydd Maentwrog, Coed Camlyn, Coed Cymerau, Ceunant
	Rose of Sharon (Hypericum)	CCW budget	CCW	Ongoing control on Stackpole NNR

	calycnum)			
	Ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	CCW budget	CCW	Control at Newport Levels NNR
	Ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> Ruddy duck eradication programme	LIFE funded	Defra led	Ongoing on Anglesey Lakes. The work is overseen by the 'Oxyura Project Advisory Group'. CCW's Senior Ornithologist sits on OPAG.
	<i>Sargassum muticum</i> Spreadsheet of records of presence around the Welsh coast	N/a	CCW	Records from CCW staff and others are kept on a spreadsheet in-house to track the spread of jap weed around the Welsh coast. This data has recently been put onto marine recorder.
	Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> Signal crayfish control on the Bachawy (Wye tributary)	£5,000pa ongoing	Wye & Usk Foundation, EA, CCW	Since 2006 CCW have grant-aided the Wye and Usk Foundation to trap signal crayfish in the Bachawy Brook. To date c.40,000+ signals have been trapped. Trapping is considered a holding operation pending a final solution.
	Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Ongoing	EA	Monitoring of spread on Dee by trapping. Recording of new sites. Advice provided to public, PR events (DEE Day and Royal Welsh Show) Investigation into introduction on the Lledr (assisted by North Wales Police). Policy to refuse all licensing of trapping to discourage illegal stocking of new sites.
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Project to ascertain extent in Milford Haven	?/August 2008	CCW contract	Part of the drop down video work being undertaken on contract for CCW. The aim is to see how far up the Haven <i>Crepidula</i> is present and to look at its abundance in places where it was previously of low abundance or absent (i.e. look at its expansion).
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Investigations to determine the past and current status of populations in North Wales	10k/ August 2008	CCW contract	Following on from the introduction of slipper limpet to the Menai Strait, a contract was let by CCW to investigate past and present sightings and to try to ascertain if the removal of the contaminated mussel seed had been successful in stopping wide spread dispersal of the slipper limpet in the Menai Strait.
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Seafish Standard Operating Procedure: Screening bottom culture seed mussel for the slipper limpet	Guidance produced in March 2008.	Seafish, CCW, NE, EHS, SFCs & Loughs Agency	A method for industry to screen mussel seed for <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> was developed to reduce the likelihood of <i>C. fornicata</i> being introduced into new areas and allow industry to monitor its presence / absence in wild mussel seed and farmed areas.
	Species Challenge Fund	2007 - 10	NEWWildlife,	Carrying out a programme of surveying and monitoring

			EAW, DCC, FCC, Chester Zoo and WCBC	of protected habitats for INNS across NE Wales since April 2008. Collating data with COFNOD. Also focussing on awareness raising and training. Remedial works on habitats identified as having a new INNS problem following the results of the survey schedule.
	Strawberry Tree <i>C. simonsii</i> (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>) Back from the Brink species recovery programme	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn	CCW, Great Orme NNR.	See Cotoneaster species for details.
	Terrapin	CCW budget	CCW	Removal of individuals at Stackpole NNR
	Topmouth gudgeon <i>Pseudorasbora parva</i>	EA budget	EA	EA have begun elimination work on EA sites
	Water primrose <i>Ludwigia</i>	2008 - 13	EA, Swansea Council	Suspected by SH, confirmed by Dr Newman, treated by EA
	Wells Catfish		EA	Active removal
	Wild goat Monitoring and control in Eryri (Snowdonia).	Ongoing	CCW, NT, SNP, Snowdonia Society and Gwynedd County Council	Culling takes place to control numbers. A position statement and management plan have been issued by the partners and agreed by all the organisations involved. Some issues with animal rights supporters.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Review of Schedule 9	2008 - 9	DEFRA	DEFRA hope to publish the outcome of their consultation on this and the Ban on Sale of certain non-native species in Spring 2009.
	Zebra Mussels	Ongoing	EA	Recording of spread

RESEARCH				
	BSBI Consultation All invasive non-native plant species	Plantlife / CCW (Sept 08- March 09)	BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles, Committee for Wales	Consultation to determine which invasive non-natives are actually damaging populations of threatened native plant species in Wales. Evidence gathered will be used to quantify actual problem (numbers of sites affected) and prioritise action depending on threat status of native species affected.
	Crassula control	2007 - 10	NEWWildlife	Carrying out research into <i>Crassula</i> control.
	Ghost slug <i>Selenochlamys ysbryda</i> Proposal to determine the spread of this potentially invasive species in the Cardiff area	£1,000 (CCW contribution 2008/09)	National Museum Wales, CCW	First discovered in a private urban garden in Cardiff in 2007. Well established and breeding at this sole known locality. Observations confirmed it to be a specialised subterranean predator of earthworms. Part I of the project will be a public response survey and Part II a more detailed targeted survey. Aims i) To determine whether <i>S. ysbryda</i> is established beyond the current known locality. ii) To clarify the native vs. exotic status of <i>S. ysbryda</i> in the British Isles and determine whether it is likely to become invasive. iii) To establish which, if any, other molluscs <i>S. ysbryda</i> are associated with and whether these include the apparently ecologically similar Shelled Slugs (Testacellidae). iv) To gain a basic understanding of the ecological requirements of <i>S. ysbryda</i> and Testacellidae in urban areas. v) To encourage public awareness and understanding of the existence of these species.
	Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Ongoing	EA	R & D into biological control
	Himalyan Knotweed <i>Persicaria wallichii/ Polygonum polystachyum</i>	Ongoing	Swansea Council	County wide survey underway to identify the further spread of this plant.
	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> Natural control research for Japanese Knotweed – UK project.	Phase 2 complete now moving into Phase 3.	CABI Bioscience, WAG DE&T, Defra, EA, Railtrack,	Research programme into natural control for Japanese Knotweed on a UK wide basis. Phase 2 research complete. Negotiations now underway re. licencing for release for 2 species identified as potential control agents.

			SWRDA, Torfaen CBC, Cornwall CC,	
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	MARINE ALIENS II <i>Controlling Marine Invasive Species by Targeting Vectors of Dispersal</i>	20k from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation over 3 years	Bangor Uni SOS, CCW, SAMS, Plymouth Uni, Natural History Museum, Queens Belfast, FRS Aberdeen.	Quantification of non-native species associated with hull fouling of commercial and recreational vessels; Classification of ports/marinas in terms of hull fouling potential, based on basin configuration and environmental variables; Development of a monitoring system for the early detection of invasive marine species on vessel hulls, in ports/marinas suitable for deployment by local non-specialist staff or volunteers;
	Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> Water Vole National Key Sites Project (GR4-044)	£5,000 in 08/09 and in 09/10	People's Trust for Endangered Species, CCW	Digestive tracts of mink from areas of water vole abundance have been collected to examine the functional response of mink in relation to the abundance of water voles and alternative prey.
	Rapid Risk Assessments 650 aquatic and terrestrial plant species assessed	2008-9	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn	Simplified Pheulong methodology used to identify priorities for full assessment. 450 aquatic species in UK trade and 200 most rapidly spreading terrestrial species have been assessed.
	<i>Sargassum muticum</i> PhD: Distribution and dispersal of this invasive marine alga, within Wales: a multidisciplinary approach to a management problem	£1,500 for 4 years started in 2007.	CCW, Glamorgan Uni.	The brown alga, <i>Sargassum muticum</i> , native to the northwest Pacific, was first recorded in Wales in 1998 and has since established several invasive populations along the Welsh coast. To date the source(s) of its introduction into Wales, and potential vectors of spread remain unknown. Furthermore no formal investigations have been undertaken to assess the current extent of the alga's distribution and its potential impacts on native biodiversity. This project aims to investigate the invasion dynamics of <i>S. muticum</i> , using a combination of molecular tools and field surveys, in order to provide baseline information required for the implementation of future management strategies
	Shore Thing-Non native species project	2009 - 10	CCW, J Oakley, Swansea Council	Surveys/education and monitoring with public, schools etc for Wireweed (<i>Sargassum muticum</i>), Wakame/Japanese Kelp (<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>), Green Seafingers (<i>Codium fragile</i>), Harpoon Weed (<i>Asparagopsis armata</i>), Oyster Thief (<i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>), Slipper Limpet (<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>), Leathery Sea Squirt (<i>Styela clava</i>), Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>), Darwin's Barnacle (<i>Elminius modestus</i>)

	Sites in Peril Database	2008-9	Plantlife / Esmee Fairburn	Database of sites with invasive plant species that fall within Important Plant Areas or occur in sites with native vascular plant species that are threatened in GB or Wales. Will be used to help prioritise sites for action and determine levels of threats to Important Plant Areas.
	Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> PhD: Predicting the consequences of the introduction of the slipper limpet to North Wales	Still to be agreed but CCW has put forward funding for 4 years starting in 2008 with £16,754	CCW, Bangor Uni SOS, Mussel industry.	The research would include a Literature review, Mesocosm experiments Developing contingency plans and eradication methods Developing methods for detecting non-natives in mussel beds Developing site security measures for Menai Strait and Conwy Bay Special Area of Conservation against invasive non-natives.
	Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> A preliminary study into the reproduction and internal micro-growth bands of the non-native Prosobranch Gastropod in the Menai Strait (North Wales)	2007	CCW, SOS	Study undertaken by a SOS Welsh language summer student at CCW after the introduction of the slipper limpet to the Menai Strait.
	Swansea Pond Project	09/10 (10/11, 11/12)	Swansea Council / CCW	Update of 1994 survey (urban/urban fringe only) to identify non natives. If funding allows this will extend to Gower and Mawr in further years.
AWARENESS				
	Advice on management and control of aquatic / riparian species	Ongoing	EA	BASIS qualified staff give advice and herbicide licences on invasive species – to the public, local authorities, CCW, partners and internally.
	Crassula paper at Amphibian & Reptile Groups conference	2008	NEWWildlife	Presentation of results of experimental control of <i>Crassula</i> at Johnstown by EAW, NEWW and Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd.
	Enforcement Poster	2008 - 09	CCW	CCW are doing an enforcement poster as a Partnership Against Wildlife Crime initiative for use at events.

	Ghost slug <i>Selenochlamys ysbryda</i>	NA	National Museum Wales	'Have you seen the ghost slug?' poster being distributed asking the public to look out for both the ghost slug and shelled slugs.
	International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2009 Theme-Invasive Alien Species	22/5/09	CBD / Swansea Council	Event(s) to be arranged in Swansea to raise awareness
	Marine Poster Poster to raise awareness amongst boat owners of some of the top non-natives they should look out for on their boats/around marinas.	2008/09	CCW, Green Blue and others?	Poster not finished yet.
	North Wales and Dee INNS forum	First meeting October 2008	Various	To discuss a coordinated strategic approach to management
	"Plant Invaders" Display at Royal Welsh Show	Plantlife / CCW (annual)	Plantlife	Display of the most invasive aquatic species (living material of New Zealand Pygmyweed, Floating Water Pennywort, Canadian Pondweed, Parrots Feather, Water Fern, Himalayan Baslsam), plus distribution of leaflets (Pond Alert, <i>Alternative Pond Plants</i>) and face-to-face advice.
	Pond Alert! Campaign and leaflet series	Plantlife Scotland	Plantlife	A series of six leaflets covering invasive pond plants, alternative native species and pond creation. Produced by Plantlife Scotland but applicable in Wales and available from: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-scotland-publications.html#pondalert
	Royal Welsh Show	2008	EA/Wye and Usk Foundation	Project launch of alien species eradication programme with presentations on INNS
	Shore Thing (as above)			
	Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i>	N/a 2007	CCW, SOS, SFC.	Following the introduction of the slipper limpet to the Menai Strait in 2006 CCW and the SFC were keen to try

	Wanted Poster asking people to look for them in the Menai Strait			and engage the public in helping to eradicate this species from the SAC. A poster was developed in house in CCW and distributed to various locations/shops around the Menai Strait. Several sightings were reported and followed up, although to date no live specimens have been found outside the mussel lay area.
	Slipper Limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> Talking to Seasearch to possibly repeat some of the transects of the Haven done in the 70s.	2009?	Seasearch, CCW.	Not started yet, discussions only so far.
	Species Challenge Fund Articles, press releases and courses	2007 - 10	NEWWildlife	To raise awareness of threats from INNS on biodiversity and priority species, targeting key groups such as garden centres, fishing clubs and outdoor sports. Display at Llangollen flower show.
	Wales Biodiversity Week	2008	EA	Stand at event in Treborth Botanic Gardens
	Recording		EA	Recording of aquatic invasive species in Northern Area – copied to Cofnod
TRAINING				
	Advanced Amphibian course	Annual	NEWWildlife	Bio security risk assessments are now part of this course delivered by NEWW on behalf of NW Wales Amphibian and Reptile Network. It is contributed to by Flintshire CC, CCW, Cheshire Ecological Services and NWP.
	Invasive Plants – their History, Identification and Control	14-17 October 2008	Plas Tan y Bwlch Environmental Studies Centre, CCW	Course for managers, ecologists, planners, biodiversity officers etc. charged with developing invasive plant control strategies and measures. Endorsed and financially supported by CCW. Presentation by EA.
	Invasive Species Training	2008 / 2009	CCW / DE&T	Developing pilot training programme for LAs and contractors
	Invasive Species Training Species Challenge Fund	2007 - 2010	NEWWildlife (North East Wales Wildlife)/EA	Training sessions run in NE Wales on ID, ecology and management of invasive aquatic plants (one aimed at countryside staff, one aimed at fisheries and horticulture sectors) now being rolled out to Amphibian and Reptile groups nationally.

	Invasive Species Training	2008	EA, Cyngor Gwynedd, SNP, Plantlife	Two training courses delivered in the N.W. Wales, one indoors, 1 in the field. Plantlife involved with one.
	Invasive Species Training	Various	EA	In-house training to Operations Delivery (Flood Risk Management, Fisheries and other staff).
	Invasive Species Training	Annual	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)	Annual course run by SH.
	Lesser Silver Water Beetle Training	May 2008	NEWWildlife	Carried out under Species Challenge Fund.
	Mussel Fishermen Developing a risk assessment methodology for the potential for mussel transfer to act as a vector for the spread of non-native species into north wales	12k in part August 2008	CCW, Mussel fishermen	Pest id cards (invasive marine non-native species id cards for use on boats by mussel fishermen to train in spotting a range of species).
	Shore Thing (as above)			

Last updated January 2009

Draft INNS Action Plan 2009

Date	Project	Partners	Notes/actions
ONGOING	Top Mouthed Gudgeon	EA	EA have eradication squad. Am in contact. 1 of the 2 sites in Wales is priority.
Spring	Ban on sale Of certain non-native species	DEFRA	DEFRA hope to publish the outcome of their consultation the Ban on Sale of certain non-native species in Spring 2009.
ONGOING	Japanese Knotweed Fallopia japonica	CCW, WAG, DE&T, EA	Control at selected sites as part of Flood Risk Management programme across North Wales area. Ongoing across numerous sites across Wales as part of regeneration and development.
MAY	African Clawed Toad	EA	Site meeting imminent. Will attempt to carry out eradication to coincide with international Biodiversity Day
ONGOING	Seasquirt Didemnum vexillum	CCW	Survey of extent of infestation being carried out.
ONGOING	Mink	CCW, EA, BASC, TG, G&C conservancy, W Riparian mammal group	Various trapping and control measures to do with game and water vole coservation.
ONGOING	Mitten Crabs	EA	Recording of spread.
ONGOING	New Zealand Pygnyweed	EA, CCW	Various control projects. Awaiting details of eradication projects for this year.
ONGOING	Floating Pennywort	EA, CCW, IDB	Control on Gwent levels.
ONGOING	Giant Hogweed	EA, Keep Wales Tidy	Control on Usk, Wye and Twyi.
ONGOING	Grey Squirrel	Anglesey Red Squirrel Project /Menter Môn	The main projects are grey squirrel control on Anglesey and occasionally at Clocaenog (FCW)
ONGOING	Primrose-willow	EA	About to start eradicating from all sites in UK including Penllergaer in Wales.

ONGOING	Rhododendron	SNPA, CCW, FC, Swansea CC, NT	Many projects (see audit for details)
ONGOING	Rose of Sharon (Hypericum calycnum)	CCW	Control on Stackpole NNR
ONGOING	Ruddy Duck	CCW, EA	Eradication programme.
ONGOING	Signal Crayfish	CCW, EA, Wye &UskFoundation	Trapping, monitoring of spread and of poss. Introductions.
ONGOING	Slipper Limpet	CCW, Seafish, NE, EHS, SFCs	Monitoring of spread and screening methodology
2008-13	Water Primrose	EA, Swansea Council	Suspected by SH, confirmed by Dr Newman, treated by EA.
ONGOING	Wild Goat	CCW, NT, SNP, Gwynedd council	Culling to control numbers.
ONGOING	Zebra Mussels	EA	Recording the spread
2007-2010	Species Challenge Fund	NEWWildlife	Awareness raising of threats from INNS to biodiversity, targeting key groupd

Title: Update on Organisations Use of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)

Produced by: Juliet Hynes - WBP Support Team

Background/Progress

Good progress has been made with helping organisation to start using BARS. Both South and West Wales Wildlife Trust and Gwent Wildlife Trust have been set up with company BAPs on BARs which allows them to enter all of their biodiversity actions onto their own action plans. These can then be linked to the LBAPs so that LBAP coordinators can see what activity is being carried out in their area's. Links will also allow the target goals (achievement) to be totalled against the Wales dissaggregeted targets. A meeting is being arranged to discuss they way forward with the other Welsh Wildlife Trusts as individuals and as a combined Wildlife Trusts Wales.

The Environment Agency Wales is also taking this approach (company BAP) we are currently adapting their reporting "form E" so that it is compatible with BARs in order to enable their "super user" to transfer information from the form straight onto BARS.

In 2008, CCW established an internal Task and Finish Group, whose remit is 'to identify how CCW uses BARS and to drive forward the population of BARS with CCW information, determining priorities and timescales and identifying resource needs.' This group has met three times and identified desirable actions under 9 headings: SSSI/N2K; Marine SAC; Grants; Research/ surveys; Casework; Consultations; Promotion/ publicity work; Access work and Species protection. A draft BARS Population Action Plan has been drawn up and identified the first 4 fields for priority action.

Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) commissioned a consultant to review the actions assigned to the FCW on BARS. Progress reports were filled out for around 300 actions, FCW has requested that a few actions be removed and there are 147 action remaining of which about half are probably incorrectly assigned to FCW. They also reported on 5 native woodland types during the national reporting round. A meeting is being arranged to discuss the future use of BARS by FCW to see whether a company BAP is more appropriate.

Both the National Trust Wales and RSPB have arranged a meeting with Juliet Hynes to discuss how they might be able to use BARS.

Plan/Proposals

Continue to approach organisations with advice and training to help them get their biodiversity action onto BARS

Action Requested

- Ask all WBP members to contact Juliet Hynes email: j.hynes@welshwildlife.org if they want to talk about BARS or arrange any BARS training

Title: Wildlife Crime Update

Produced by: Sgt Ian Guildford, South Wales Police/Countryside Council for Wales

Background/Progress

An update of Wildlife Crime **Incidents** since August 2008 are included at Annex A, the format of this has changed since the last presentation. The incidents have now been split into a Wales and UK listing, the incidents for Wales have been expanded to include all incidents in Wales that have been reported and recorded by the National Wildlife Crime Unit. This provides a longer list but will provide an overview of the type and scale of incidents that are reported. (In the attached report the updated figures at this stage do not include those for North Wales).

Other matters:

Gwent police have appointed a new PWCO coordinator who is looking at reviewing the organisation of PWCO's within the Gwent Police.

Talks are on going in relation to a Wildlife and Environmental Crime Conference which will be hosted and run by the Gwent Police together with CCW in November 2009 in the Gwent area.

A Welsh CPS/PWCO seminar is being held in Llandrindod Wells on 23rd February 2009.

Plan/Proposals

Continuation of the submission of this updated report to include all reported Wildlife Crime Incidents in Wales together with notable cases from the rest of the UK. It is requested that this report is not placed on the WBP web pages due to possible sensitivity issues.

Action Requested

- Form a task and finish team to carry out next step NO
- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES
- Ask all WBP members to comment on the format of the report YES

Title: Progress with Wales Wetlands Ecosystem Group.

Produced by: Dr Peter Jones, CCW Peatland Ecologist and Chair of Group, on behalf of Wales Wetlands Ecosystem Group.

Background/Progress

The Group met on Jan 13 in Newtown. The new structure for BAP delivery in Wales was welcomed. A few key gaps in group membership were identified and will be addressed. We agreed the group will replace the earlier Wales Wetland Forum. Most of the meeting was concerned with identifying a series of key actions, many of which we can start working on immediately – see Table 2 of the Annex. Some of these involve wider issues of resourcing or co-ordination which need to be considered by WBP. Policy actions are a prominent component of Table 2 and in the short term the Group feels able to progress many of these.

Plan/Proposals

The Annex presents actions agreed at the meeting; Table 2 identifies our initial suite of key actions. These include a proposal for a major project to address wetland habitat dereliction and provide practical support for the delivery of conservation and restoration actions: there is scope for taking this project forward in partnership with the Grasslands & Heathlands Ecosystem Group. Actions to influence both policy development and the detailed implementation of several key policy mechanisms are included and reflect both the dependence of wetlands on wider land (and in particular catchment) management, and their prominence in several current major areas of policy implementation, notably the Water Framework Directive and Axis II development. The Group is keen to contribute to the proposed regional workshops, not least to get a better steer on how our Group can aid local delivery. The Group will meet again on 1 April.

Lack of resourcing for the group was identified as a significant issue!

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above (& in Annex)
- Ask all WBP members to consider issues referred to partnership in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex (highlighted in blue) and advise on way forward.

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Annex I

Draft actions points from first meeting of Wetlands Ecosystem Group.

Wales Wetlands Ecosystem Group – draft notes of first meeting, 13 January 2009

Present: Peter Jones (Chair, CCW), Kathryn Birch (CCW), Stephen Bladwell (RSPB Cymru), Julie Bowes (WAG, Dept of Rural Affairs), Chris Dyson (CCW), Bryan Jones (Environment Agency), Rob Jones-Parry (Wildlife Trusts), Chris Uttley (CCW, Member of WBP Policy Group), Kate Williamson (SNPA / LBAPs) & Helen Buckingham (National Trust, Chair of Grasslands & Heathlands Ecosystem Group)

Apologies: Justin Hanson (Anglesey & Lleyn Fens LIFE project manager)

Table 1. Actions points from meeting of 13 Jan 2009. Priority actions have been pulled out to form Table 2.

Blue highlight: issues for referral to WBP

Green highlight: issues for referral to Policy Group.

<i>Action / discussion point</i>	<i>Rationale</i>	<i>Immediate action</i>	<i>Progress by 2nd meeting (1 April 2009).</i>
Group membership / relationship to other groups			
Review gaps in membership of WWEG.	Include LBAP representation from S. Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust may wish to join. Group felt that WBP facilitator would also be helpful to answer generic queries on the spot.	Invite Bethan Cox from Pembs LBAP and seek view of WWT on whether they wish to join: PSJ Invite WBP facilitator: RJ	
Objectives / targets review			
National (UK) objectives and targets for habitat plans regarded as broadly suitable, despite reservation of some members about issue of over-prescription. Generic emphasis of target 1 on 'no loss' regarded as critical		No loss action – but uncultivated land regs have size thresholds. Take up with Policy Group.	
Hectare targets for LBAPs already issued and regarded as generally helpful, but LBAPs could use more specific guidance on which areas are key for which habitats.		Seek steer from LBAPs at regional workshops. Best approach may be to contribute directly to development of projects in LBAP areas – e.g, Derelict Sites project of Table 2.	

Complete mapping of species to habitats and action categories	Vital to guide detailed formulation of actions.	Task & finish group working on this. SB to keep group informed. Design and targeting of derelict sites project would reflect species actions.	
Extend remit of group to include lowland blanket bog	Lowland blanket bog is technically covered by the blanket bog HAP and thus the Upland Ecosystems Group. However, lowland blanket bog in lowland enclosed contexts faces much the same issues as other lowland wetland habitats and should be addressed along with these.	Raise with chair of upland group (Barbara Jones): PSJ	Proposal agreed with Barbara. Wetlands Group will cover lowland blanket bog.
Targets for reducing consumptive use of peat in national lowland raised bog plan	Target should be reflected in local action.	Develop means of encouraging LBAPs to include actions for reducing consumptive use of peat in their areas.	
Funding			
Propose that group is given influence on criteria/priorities for biodiversity grant scheme, or even a fixed allocation	Group needs resourcing to deliver its remit.	Raise with WBP: PSJ	
Lack of funding for project development a key impediment	Even modest funding would help in developing bids	Raise with WBP: KW	
Information exchange / communication			
WBP to consider development of a wetland ecosystems section on WBP website	Much useful information could be posted. Could also be a forum for information exchange and posting Q/A. Makes sense to utilise an existing familiar and well structured website.	Raise with WBP: PSJ	
Circulate key outputs of earlier Wales Wetland Forum to members	Includes (i) review of how future agri-E delivery might be structured to benefit both wetland biodiversity and wider environmental outcomes, notably flood risk management and diffuse pollution, and (ii) WWT 'projects & funding' work.	CU to provide web-links or electronic copies.	
Develop a vision for Welsh wetlands?	Vision would identify a set of common priorities and high level objectives for wetlands for communication to	Group agreed it wanted to focus on action rather than the production of a vision. No further action on a specific product,	

	stakeholders.	though website should include set of visionary statements/principles.	
Event for Wales Biodiversity week	Raise profile of wetlands	Seek opportunity to link formation of group and communication of its remit to relevant events rather than plan a specific event. All	
Offer presentation to next WBP meeting	Inform WBP of group aims and areas where it needs action/guidance from partnership	Offer presentation: PSJ	
Links to LBAPs			
Ensure group is represented at proposed regional workshops in 09	Seek steer from LBAPs and other regional partners on services which group to provide	*Offer attendance at regional workshops to WBP secretariat: PSJ	
Review coverage of wetland habitats/species in Welsh LBAPs	Ensure priority areas for wetlands are covered.	KW & PSJ to review	
Invasive species	IS only a local issue in the main – notably <i>Rhododendron</i> and <i>Crassula</i> .	Maintain watching brief – members to report issues to group as they arise.	
Date of Next Meeting: 1 April 2009			

Table 2. Priority actions identified at the first meeting of the Wales Wetlands Ecosystem Group.

Blue highlight: issues for referral to WBP

Green highlight: issues for referral to Policy Group.

Action	Rationale	Immediate action where identified
Develop a pilot 'Derelict Sites' project for restoring wetland sites in unfavourable condition because of management neglect (usually due to agricultural abandonment), cultural enrichment (diffuse pollution) and drainage. Management neglect a key issue for many BAP wetland species.	These factors are the most common cause of unfavourable condition across the wetland series. Section 15 mechanism is under-funded and in any case often can't address lack of local capacity for appropriate management – critically lack of appropriate stock, husbandry and equipment. Project would cover mixture of statutory and non-statutory sites. Three counties of Dyfed a possible focus due to number of sites and high coincidence of habitats. Links to connectivity and EGS.	Develop and consult on project proposal – take forward in partnership with Grasslands & Heathlands Ecosystem Group and PONT. *Will require external funding – capacity issue in ability to prepare bid needs to be raised with WBP.
Complete site notification programme (SSSI) in Wales.	Many priority wetland sites which meet the minimum standards for notification remain without statutory protection, making it very much harder to focus the full	*Needs to be considered by WBG within context of WES as this action is likely to apply to many ecosystems. Capacity issue for CCW.

	scale of required restoration measures.	Continue peatland survey programme: CCW
Improve coverage of lowland wetlands in wildlife sites (sites of local importance) series across Wales.	Many key non-stat wetland sites are not currently registered. Site series needs to be reviewed against WBG guidelines, and gaps filled. This will help ensure that priority sites are not omitted from the WES Outcome 21 objective	*Collate lists of sites of local importance – ideally as a GIS layer. Could WBP facilitate this? Group to review series, propose additions /deletions.
Develop objectives and prescriptions for wetlands for the Axis II agri-E review.	Axis II has significant potential for wetland habitats and species, but only if the right objectives and prescriptions are in place.	Offer services of Group in drafting objectives and prescriptions – imminent action in next 3-4 months. CU, PSJ & RJ to identify process for feeding in, JB to take offer of help to next Axis II meeting. Main subject categories (with group leads identified) are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core wetland management (PSJ) 2. Diffuse pollution (CU) 3. Water level management/hydrology (BJ) 4. Habitat Creation (RJ) 5. Dereliction (management neglect) (PJ)
Improve payment schedules for wetlands in future agri-E provision in Wales.	Current agri-E provision perceived as not sufficiently remunerative for wetlands – particularly re-wetting options.	Influence development of future payment schedules. Policy Group to advise on best approach.
Improve ability of agri-environment project officers to recognise and utilise opportunities for wetland enhancement. Raise awareness of wetland habitats and key areas for them in Wales.	Wetland pose specific and often specialised issues and opportunities – training is required to maximise utility of agri-E provision.	Training function. Ask Policy Group to advise on how to progress this.
Ensure wetlands receive appropriate coverage in WFD River Basin Management Plans.	Plans considered unlikely to include sufficient action for wetlands.	Pete Jones, Chris Uttley and Rob Parry to develop method for review and group involvement.
Drainage-mediated groundwater impacts should be addressed by Water Framework Directive and abstraction licensing.	Drainage mediated impacts on groundwater are not presently addressed by the UK's interpretation of WFD. Such impacts are more relevant than abstraction in Wales. Some 320 SSSI in Wales are estimated to have some degree of groundwater dependency.	Influence impact assessment methodology and ensure drainage mediated impacts can be covered under Programmes of Measures. Include surface drainage of groundwater in abstraction licensing system.
Develop a policy covering maintenance of agricultural drainage by EA.	Policy exists for England, but not Wales. Policy needed to ensure appropriate focussing of drainage activity and maximise opportunities for wetland restoration.	Refer to Policy Group
Catchment Sensitive Farming projects to include priority wetland areas.	Limited number of catchments likely to be targeted in 2010 – representation of wetlands within these uncertain.	Influence selection of CSF areas. Research needed to identify critical wetland catchments.

	Modelling of diffuse pollution effects largely limited to freshwater sites to-date.	Scope representation of wetlands in catchments to be covered from 2010. Need to influence remit of CSF officers. Collaborate with Upland Ecosystems Group on this action.
Create a library of key wetland projects which would make critical contribution to BAP/WES targets. This would not be restricted to large-scale projects	CCW programme a good starting point – also Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust project for earlier Wetland Forum. Group felt that a list of projects would be useful to slot into other funding programmes.	Produce first draft for circulation to group (PSJ)
Develop an implementation programme for wetlands.	Provide a structure for group activity, identify what needs to be done to deliver remit, identify critical resource gaps	EA (BJ) to work up in further detail. Needs a project officer!

Recommendations for actions to be considered by Policy Group

Table 2 lists many actions which relate to policy measures. The wetlands group includes a member of the policy group and in many cases we feel able to contribute directly to the policy actions identified above, with the caveat that we will report progress and obstacles to the policy group. Items for referral to the policy group at this stage are highlighted in green.

Peter Jones
CCW Bangor
19 Jan 2009

Title: Next steps for Red Squirrel Conservation in Wales

Produced by: Dr Liz Halliwell, CCW on behalf of Wales Squirrel Forum

Background/Progress

The Wales Squirrel Forum (WSF - the body responsible for the implementation of the red squirrel BAP in Wales) and the Wales Squirrel Partnership (WSP - a wider group involving those with an interest in red squirrel conservation and grey squirrel management in Wales) have been working to develop proposals for the conservation of red squirrels in Wales. WSF would like to raise awareness of this work with WBP and receive endorsement from WBP on the approach being taken. (See <http://www.snh.org.uk/ukredsquirrelgroup/walesForum.asp> for further information on the WSF and WSP.)

There are three main populations of red squirrels in Wales (Anglesey, Clocaenog and mid-Wales) and a fourth smaller population (Cynwyd). There are also other sites where there is some evidence of red squirrels being present, but where more information on the status of those populations is required. Each of the three main sites has an associated red squirrel conservation project/local red squirrel group:

- The Anglesey Red Squirrel Project was established in 1998, has an active 'Friends' group and has been successful at raising project funds used to control grey squirrels on the island and enable the growth and re-establishment of red squirrel populations on the island (see <http://www.redsquirrels.info/>).
- The mid-Wales project, established in recent years, has been identifying key areas for red squirrels within the Tywi area and is working to ensure the needs of the red squirrel are taken into account by forest owners (FCW and private) in the area (see <http://www.wwbic.org.uk/redsquirrelproject>).
- Clocaenog Forest is owned by Forestry Commission Wales who have undertaken a number of initiatives to safeguard red squirrels in the forest including grey squirrel control and most recently a review of the management of key areas within the forest for red squirrels.

Red squirrel conservation in Wales presents a number of issues, for example:

- exclusion of grey squirrels from forests to prevent decline of red squirrel populations from food competition and disease (using grey squirrel control and management of buffer zones);
- forest management to provide maximum suitability for red squirrels and reduce suitability for grey squirrels (except Anglesey) to ensure long term survival of red squirrel populations;

- securing resources and funding to support activities such as grey squirrel control, education and awareness raising amongst land managers and the public.

Plan/Proposals

With red squirrels limited to a handful of sites in Wales it is imperative that effective action is taken to safeguard these populations. The WSF has therefore been working on a suite of projects to provide a framework for the future conservation of red squirrels in Wales:

- Preparation of a Conservation Plan for red squirrels in Wales to replace the 1999 Wales Red Squirrel Strategy.
The conservation plan is in the final stages of drafting. As currently drafted, the primary objective of the Plan is to “maintain breeding populations of red squirrels at all Focal Sites within Wales” and, “if resources permit, to maintain the current distribution of red squirrels within Wales”. The Plan sets out a series of conservation actions necessary to achieve these objectives.
- Identification of focal sites for red squirrel conservation using an evidence-based approach.
Each of the sites with records of red squirrels in the last 10 years is being assessed using criteria developed from guidance published by the UK Red Squirrel Group. From these assessments Focal Sites for red squirrel conservation will be selected. See Annex for a copy of Focal Sites assessment proforma.
- Development of proposals for a Wales red squirrel project.
Opportunities for external funding of red squirrel projects are limited and the WSP/WSF have agreed to explore the options for a collaborative approach to funding bids for red squirrels in Wales. A brain-storming workshop has been held and a draft project plan produced. The draft plan explains the rationale for collaboration, describes the component projects in detail, the areas of possible practical collaboration between the component projects, and the structure of the proposed bid. It is important that each of the component projects is able to retain its identity and ways of achieving this are being discussed. Submission of any Wales red squirrel project funding bids is still subject to final agreement by all potential partners and component project groups.

In addition, FCW are preparing a grey squirrel policy for Wales.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above

Focal Sites Assessment for red squirrels in Wales

<FOREST NAME>

1. Background information

1.1. **Site description:**

Include brief information on location, woodland size, woodland type, ownership, management and other relevant details.

1.2. **Site map:**

Insert map to identify site location and extent site. Site should include woodland considered to represent an appropriate and/or discrete woodland unit for red squirrel conservation. This will be the area used for the site assessment below. The map should identify areas where red squirrels are known to be present and, if appropriate, areas yet to be surveyed.

2. Red squirrel population

Assess and describe the extent and size of the red squirrel population at the present time or using the most recent data. Document type of information available eg survey (trapping/hair tube) or sightings records (incl reliability) and include reference to all systematic surveys including those with no positive records. Provide information on prevalence of SQPV. See notes section 1.

Red squirrel presence:	Present and widespread/occasional records /absent/unknown
Red squirrel population:	favourable/ unfavourable, inadequate/ unfavourable, bad/ unknown
Quality of data:	< 5 years old/5-10 years old/>10years old Comprehensive survey/incomplete survey/anecdotal evidence

[Insert text here]

3. Magnitude of threat

Assess and describe the history and current status of grey squirrels in both the site itself and the area within 10km of the site. Document type of information available eg survey (trapping/hair tube) or sightings records (incl reliability) and any control work that has been undertaken. Provide information on prevalence of SQPV.

Grey squirrel presence:	present and widespread/occasional records /absent/unknown
Quality of available data:	< 5 years old/5-10 years old/>10years old Comprehensive survey/incomplete survey/anecdotal evidence

[Insert text here]

4. Extent and suitability of habitat

Assess and describe woodland size and composition. Include all woodland considered to represent an appropriate and/or discrete woodland unit for red squirrel conservation. See notes section 2 and 3.

Woodland type and size	
Coniferous woodlands: 2000 + ha	Excellent
Or woodland on an island	
Coniferous woodlands: >200-2000 ha	Very Good

Mixed woodlands: containing 2000+ ha contiguous conifer	Good
Mixed woodlands: containing 200-2000 ha contiguous conifer block	OK
All other woodlands	Poor
Suitability of habitat	
No mature large-seeded broadleaved trees Or woodland on an island	Excellent
<5% mature large-seeded broadleaved trees	Very Good
>5% mature large-seeded broadleaved trees	Poor

[Insert text here]

5. Site defendability

Assess and describe the issues that will influence the defendability of the site (see notes section 4 for guidance on assessing landscape defendability).

Landscape defendability	
Expected to be a highly effective barrier	Excellent
Expected to be a reasonably effective barrier	Good
Expected to only be a slight barrier	OK
Expected not to act as an effective barrier	Poor
% of broadleaves in 5km buffer zones that are large-seeded	
<5% large seeded broadleaves in buffer zone	Excellent
5-20% large seeded broadleaves in buffer zone	Good
21-50% large seeded broadleaves in buffer zone	Poor
>50% large seeded broadleaves in buffer zone	Very poor
Island	Not applicable
Landowner's support for red squirrel conservation	
Majority proactively supportive	Excellent
Majority supportive	Good
Majority indifferent	OK
Majority not supportive	Poor
Landowner support not known	Unknown
Involvement of local community	
Active 'friends' group or similar	Excellent
Occasional community activities	Good
Community supportive but no active involvement	OK
Little community involvement	Poor
Community support not known	Unknown

[Insert text here]

6. Site management

Describe the issues that will influence the future management of the site (see notes section 5)

Management potential of site	
Highly suited	Excellent
Good potential, a few compromises	Good
Some scope, conflicts with other conservation objectives may arise, but not as a major consideration	OK
Unsuitable and/or many conflicts with red squirrel conservation	Poor
Management potential of buffer	
Highly suited	Excellent
Good potential, a few compromises	Good
Some scope, conflicts with other conservation objectives may arise, but not as a major consideration	OK
Unsuitable and/or many conflicts with red squirrel conservation	Poor

[Insert text here]

7. Summary

Site name	
Red squirrel presence*	
Red squirrel population*	
Magnitude of grey squirrel threat*	
Woodland type and size	
Suitability of habitat	
Landscape defendability	
% large seeded BLs in buffer zone	
Landowner support	
Involvement of local community	
Management potential of site	
Management potential of buffer	
<i>*Squirrel data quality</i>	

Excellent
Very good
Good
OK
Poor
Very poor
Unknown

8. References

[Insert list of relevant reports or references]

NOTES (Adapted from Reynolds and Bentley paper)

1. Red squirrel population

Due to the difficulty and degree of effort required to obtain data on red squirrel populations, two indices to assess the red squirrel population have been used.

The 'Red squirrel presence' index makes a broad assessment of the presence of red squirrels based on available records of red squirrels in the area. Red squirrel presence is categorised as either present and widespread; occasional records; absent or unknown.

If trapping or other information which gives an indication of population trends is available, an additional population assessment can be made. The categories for 'Red squirrel population' are defined as follows:

Favourable – the population of red squirrels is considered to be at or above the minimum necessary to ensure long-term viability, and reproduction, mortality and age structure is not deviating from normal (if data is available). Where data on the minimum viable population is not available, best expert judgement can be used.

Unfavourable, inadequate – the population of red squirrels in neither Favourable nor Unfavourable - bad.

Unfavourable, bad – population is more than 25% below that needed for minimum viable population, or reproduction, mortality and age structure strongly deviating from normal (if data available), OR there has been a large decline in the population and the population is below the minimum viable population.

To give an indication of the reliability of the red squirrel population assessments the quality of the data is also scored.

2. Woodland type and size

An assessment of the amount of available habitat based on the following categories:

- Coniferous woodlands: 2000 + ha or a woodland on an island - Excellent
- Coniferous woodlands: >200-2000 ha - Very Good
- Mixed woodlands: containing 2000+ ha contiguous conifer - Good
- Mixed woodlands: containing 200-2000 ha contiguous conifer block - OK
- All other woodlands - Poor

On mainland Wales: Conifer woodland provides the best opportunities for red squirrel conservation. Deciduous woodland supports much higher densities of grey squirrels than reds, and the presence of large seeded broadleaves encourages the incursion of grey squirrels. Since resources are best targeted in areas where grey incursion is most readily prevented, conifer woodland is preferred for red squirrel conservation areas.

When considering the conifer woodland it is important that a variety of species are present (e.g. pines, spruces, firs, larches), as a species mixture ensures that there is always food available for the reds throughout the year.

On islands: Opportunities remain for selection of non-conifer woodlands particularly on islands and in isolated broadleaved woodlands where controlling grey incursion is a realistic possibility. All woodland types found on islands are therefore potentially quite good for red squirrel conservation so long as the trees bear food taken by squirrels.

Mixed woodland = woodland with >20% broadleaf in a conifer wood or >20% conifer in a broadleaf wood.

3. Suitability of the habitat

On mainland Wales: As mentioned above, conifer woodlands are particularly important. However, if the woodland contains > 5% productive large-seeded broadleaves (particularly oak, hazel, beech and sycamore) grey squirrels may be able to rapidly colonise. Small-seed producing broadleaved trees such as birch, alder, willows and rowan are not important food sources for grey squirrels and do not need to be considered.

On islands: All food bearing trees will be good for red squirrels. The mainland focus on conifer trees and avoidance of large seeded broadleaved trees can be overlooked in this instance and a mix is acceptable.

4. Landscape defendability.

The nature of the surrounding landscape is the next most important factor in determining how well a site can be defended from grey squirrels. A working best estimate of the potential grey squirrel routes into the reserve should be established, using local knowledge and by consulting O/S maps. Although we cannot exactly quantify the likely level of incursion we can predict the ways in which the majority of grey squirrels move within the landscape. The following questions will help you to assess the potential for defendability from grey incursion, 'safe areas':

1. Are there linear or broadleaf woodlands around the reserve that increase connections with the surrounding landscape, particularly along river corridors? This will permit easy incursion for greys. The more woodland cover within the buffer zone the greater potential for grey squirrels to move into the reserve site. You must also consider the type of the woodland, whether it is largely conifer, broadleaved or mixed. Again, large seeded broadleaves constitute the greatest risk for permitting greys to establish in large numbers, although a small number of large seeded trees may act as a focus for control. If another potential reserve site falls within the buffer of your site this needs to be noted because there is then greater potential of favourable management for reds.
2. Does the site have open ground/fen/moorland/mountains/cliffs on any sides? Restricts grey incursion.
3. Is the site bounded by a large river or the sea on any sides? Restricts grey incursion, except where there are road/rail bridges crossing these, as squirrels may use them.
4. Are there very major roads on any sides of the site? May possibly slow grey incursion.
5. Are there any other topographic or landscape features that may to act as barriers to grey squirrel incursion?

5. Management potential of the forest and buffer.

The Forest.

Forests tend to have 5-10 year management plans to determine their timber production. The Forestry Commission or the landowner will tell you if there is such a plan. Rate your sites after considering these five questions.

1. What is the species composition of the woodland? How is it intended to change? The greater the range of food producing tree species in the forest the better. A monoculture may leave squirrels short of food. Only consider cone-bearing trees (e.g. pines, spruces) and fruiting shrubs/plants (e.g. brambles, roses) in your deliberations. The presence of old large-seeded broadleaved trees (oak, beech, hazel) should be marked as negative.
2. How suitable is the current age structure of the wood and how is it intended to change? Squirrels will benefit if the woodland is constantly bearing seed and fruit. A good mixture of different aged trees throughout the wood is ideal. Emphasis should be placed on trying to keep a fairly high percentage of the wood between 30-60+ years old. These are the trees that will be providing a lot of seed for the squirrels on an ongoing basis.
3. What is the felling regime within the woodland and how is it intended to change? A regime where substantial clear-fell is planned will obviously deprive squirrels of food, shelter and habitat connectivity. Again, a mixture of retention and new planting should

3rd DRAFT

be sought and felling in smaller blocks is preferable. We have to remember that forest management is multi- objective, not just to save red squirrels. A balance should be possible.

4. Are there any conflicts with other conservation or development projects? Woodlands can be good for many species of wildlife. Ensure that you find out what other plans for conservation there might be for the wood. A woodland that is good for a variety of wildlife is best, but we need to remember that large seeded broadleaves should be avoided in red squirrel conservation areas. Site selection should therefore occur on a regional basis so that conservation efforts can be targeted to a variety of different sites and conflicts can be minimised.
5. Is the future ownership and management of the wood secure? Find out if the wood is owned, a long-term lease or if the ownership is likely to change in the near future. Rapidly changing forestry circumstances can be responsible for ownership changes, which, in turn, may affect the chances of continued management for reds. Even if the woodland habitat appears highly suited to reds, it is strongly advised that this element is fully considered. A future owner may not have the same objectives as the current owner, so constant awareness of potential ownership changes and dialogue will be required.

The Buffer. Management of the buffer zone (3km around the site) is also of paramount importance to the forest reserve. Again, opportunities and constraints in favour and against of the reserve need to be assessed.

1. Are there any new 'large-seeded' native woodland planting initiatives in the buffer?
The presence of, or future creation of, new native woodlands in the buffer zone would potentially be detrimental to the reserve if it included species such as oak and hazel.
2. Are there plans to maintain/increase open ground land use such as bogs, heathland, arable farming, dune systems, reservoirs? May restrict grey incursion.
3. Is there any major new residential building planned in the buffer? May increase grey squirrel incursion.
4. Are there any landfill sites/quarries/MOD activity in or planned for the buffer?
Attention will need to be paid to any plans to influence the future land use.
5. (On islands only). Are there plans for any bridges into the site? May increase grey incursion.

Title: WBP Planning

Background/Progress

International Day for Biodiversity (IBD) 2009

IBD takes place on May 22nd 2009; the theme is “Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species”. The theme chosen by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) reflects the reality that invasive alien species have invaded and affected native biota in almost every ecosystem type on Earth with a concomitant huge financial & ecosystem cost.

Action Requested

1. To agree to send IBD event details to WBP secretariat for publicity purposes in Wales who will then share with the CBD secretariat to highlight Wales’ contribution.
2. To circulate the event date & theme to your contacts

Wales Biodiversity Week 2009

WBP coordinates an annual week of wildlife events in June, providing merchandising to LBAPs, publicity and an interactive web events calendar. This year, Wales Biodiversity Week will take place between the 6th & 14th June.

Action Requested

3. To agree to circulate WBW date (6th - 14th June) to your contacts
4. To agree to host events and/or coordinate with LBAPs in hosting events
5. To agree to send event details to LBAPs/WBP secretariat for publicity purposes

WBP Conference 2009

This year’s WBP conference will take place on the 16th and 17th September at the University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd. In terms of the conference theme, ideas include: i) Wildlife recording/volunteering – capacity, coordination, and cooperation in Wales; ii) Biodiversity & land management - wildlife gardening, allotments, planting of future veteran trees, farming & business land use etc – influencing and empowering sectors to take action for biodiversity. Both themes could include elements of awareness raising, selling the word ‘biodiversity’ and/or adapting the language to suit. The two themes are not mutually exclusive and other ideas are welcome.

Action Requested

6. To agree this year’s conference theme
7. To circulate the WBP conference date & location (16th & 17th Sept) to your contacts
8. To suggest/volunteer as a speaker/workshop facilitator

UK BAP Conference 2009

The date has not been fixed as yet; likely to be late Sept or early Oct. Suggested location is the English Midlands. The theme will built broadly around economics and the valuation of biodiversity.

Action Requested

9. To note at this stage. Conference date, location details will be circulated when available.

Title: Guidance for habitats and species listed for Section 42 and the planning system

Produced by: *Wales Biodiversity Policy Group*

Background/Progress

The Wales Biodiversity Policy Group is one of 11 new groups set up in Wales to support the delivery of biodiversity action post devolution of the BAP process.

A sub-group of the new Wales Biodiversity Policy Group met in December 2008 to look at how we can advise decision-makers to properly and consistently consider habitats and species, listed for Section 42 of the NERC Act (2006), within the development control and planning system. The group agreed a sentence for inclusion within TAN 5 and this sentence made reference to further supporting guidance. A draft framework for the guidance was then taken to the inaugural meeting of the full Wales Biodiversity Policy Group on January 7th 2009. At that meeting we learnt that that the WAG Planning Division had agreed the proposed sentence for TAN 5 and the principle of producing further guidance. However just before Christmas the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Housing - Jane Davidson AM - announced a review of the Planning System in Wales to make it more effective and efficient. This review may have implications for the progression of the revised TAN 5. In order not to lose momentum of the work done so far, the Policy Group decided to complete the guidance and ask for WBP approval to publish this guidance on the WBP website along with the NERC Act Biodiversity Checklists, either as stand-alone guidance or in association with the revised TAN 5 at some point in the future.

Plan/Proposals

That guidance to assist development control and planning officials to consider Section 42 priorities is agreed and published on the WBP website.

Action Requested

- For the WBP to approve the guidance YES/NO

DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR ASSESSING PLANNING PROPOSALS THAT HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR SECTION 42 HABITATS AND SPECIES

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) imparts a 'biodiversity duty' on all public authorities in Wales – 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.' The Act continues to state that *'Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.'*

In addition, the National Assembly for Wales must *'publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in the Assembly's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.'* The Assembly must also *'take such steps as appear to the Assembly to be reasonably practicable to further the conservation of the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published..., or promote the taking by others of such steps.'*

This guidance aims to contribute towards consistency in assessing proposals which affect habitats and species listed for Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006 (herein referred to as 'Section 42 habitats and species').

Vision for Wales' biodiversity

As an important element of our commitment to the United Nations (UN) convention on biological diversity there is an undertaking in Wales to achieve targets for the conservation of Section 42 habitats and species.

Section 42 habitats and species are identified as being of 'principal importance to the purpose of conserving biodiversity' in Wales, and represent those habitats and species in most need of conservation action. Development control plays a pivotal role in preventing loss, enabling recovery and enhancing these habitats and species. Consented development can result in impacts to Section 42 habitats and species and consequently reduce Wales' ability to achieve its biodiversity targets. Decisions to consent developments that undermine the achievement of biodiversity targets are unsustainable in the long term.

Implementing the 'biodiversity duty'

In having regard to the conservation of biodiversity, and its enhancement and recovery, an essential first step is to seek appropriate expert advice. Expert advice can be sought from:

- the Countryside Council for Wales, particularly for proposals which relate to the marine environment
- the Local Planning Authority Ecologist
- conservation organisations such as the RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts, Plantlife etc
- Local Record Centre
- the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

- reputable experts not affiliated to any organisation

Examples of advice include:

- the quality of any already collated environmental information or assessment e.g. an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- the distribution and abundance of any Section 42 habitat or species which may be affected by the proposal.
- whether targets for any Section 42 habitat or species would be undermined
- avoidance, minimisation and compensation alternatives

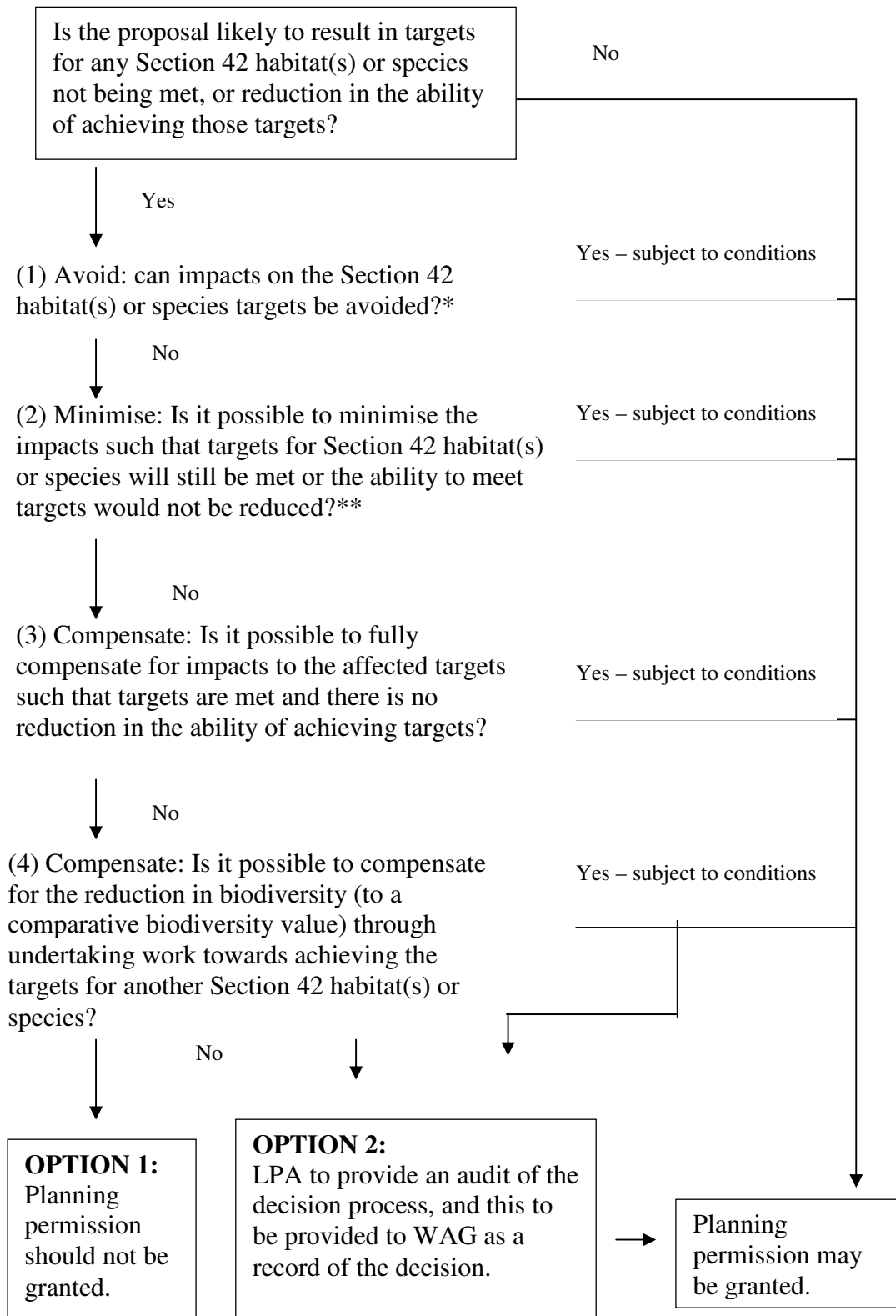
A mechanism for considering proposals which have implications for the achievement of targets for Section 42 habitats is presented in Annex 1. It is essential that all opportunities, to ensure the achievement of targets for priority habitats and species, are fully considered. Adopting such a mechanism contributes towards 'having regard' to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

There is a preference for enabling development to proceed through application of avoidance and mitigation that result in no reduction or an overall increase in Wales' ability to meet biodiversity targets. Authorities may wish to provide evidence of successful case studies to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership, as a record of the good practice. Where such measures are insufficient to avoid undermining the achievements of biodiversity targets, there should be a presumption against the development proceeding. However, where it is considered that the benefits of proceeding out-weight the negative consequences for biodiversity, consent may be given providing suitable compensatory measures are provided. In such circumstances, the local planning authority should document the rationale for the decision to proceed as part of their normal processes.

Note: this guidance will be periodically updated and expanded upon.

February 5th 2009

Annex 1 Consideration of development proposals affecting Section 42 habitats and species.



* For example, through redesign of project, location of project, or timing of project.
 ** For example, through redesign of project, timing of project or practices of project.
 *** For example, through habitat recreation or relocation of species.