

LIFE Natura 2000 Inception Events: Annexes to Report

Annex A: Agenda

- 10:30 Arrival, registration and coffee/tea
- 11:00 Chairman's welcome and introduction to the day
- *Garwnant*: David Worrall West Regional Director, Countryside Council for Wales
 - *Bangor*: David Parker Director Evidence & Advice, Countryside Council for Wales
- 11:15 Presentations
- **The Wider Picture**
John Watkins, Head of Nature, Landscape & Outdoor Recreation, Welsh Government
 - **Introduction to Natura 2000 in Wales and the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme**
Kathryn Hewitt, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme Manager
 - **How the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme approach can help deliver conservation benefits at a local level**
Garwnant: Richard Jones, South Region Monmouth East Valleys Team Leader, Countryside Council for Wales
Bangor: Mike Willis, North Region Sites Programme Manager, Sites Team, Countryside Council for Wales
- 12:10 Question and Answer session
- 12:30 Lunch
- Attendees were asked to make contributions to questions on posters, and complete the feedback questionnaire.*
- 13:30 Afternoon workshops
- Question 1: Priorities for Natura 2000 in Wales (30 mins)*
- Question 2: Funding Natura 2000 in Wales (30 mins)*
- 14:30 Feedback from workshops
- 14:45 Round up and finish
- 15:00 Depart

Annex B: Attendance List

Bangor

Name	Organisation
Adam Cole King	Countryside Council for Wales
Alison Palmer Hargrave	Gwynedd County Council
Amy Green	Flintshire County Council
Amy Vanstone	RSPB
Anne Brenchley	Welsh Ornithological Society
Arwel Jones	Partneriaeth Tirlun Llyn
Barbara Owsianka	Conwy County Borough Council
Bethan Gritten	Partneriaeth Tirlun Llyn
Chris Wynne	North Wales Wildlife Trust
Christine Edwards	Countryside Council for Wales
Colette Price	Countryside Council for Wales
Dafydd Jarrett	National Farmers Union
David Cowley	Anglesey County Council
David Parker	Countryside Council for Wales
Dylan Lloyd	Countryside Council for Wales
Euros Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Graeme Cotterill	Wildlife Trusts Wales
Hazel Drewett	Countryside Council for Wales
Heidi Williams	UAC/FUW Anglesey
Iolo Lloyd	Forestry Commission
Jan Sherry	Countryside Council for Wales
John Griffith	Bardsey Island Trust
John Ratcliffe	Countryside Council for Wales
John Watkins	Welsh Government
Kevin Jones	Welsh Government
Kylie Jones Mattock	Woodland Trust
Lucy Wilson	ADAS UK Ltd
Maggie Hatton-Ellis	Countryside Council for Wales
Malcolm New	Countryside Council for Wales
Mary Roddick	Countryside Council for Wales
Mike Willis	Countryside Council for Wales
Nina Jones	Dŵr Cymru
Nick Young	Forestry Commission
Paul Brazier	Countryside Council for Wales
Paul Henderson	Dŵr Cymru
Rev Hywel Davies	Living Wales programme
Rhian Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Rhys Jones	Gwynedd County Council
Rhys Owen	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Simon Hugheston-Roberts	RSPB
Stephen Roberts	Anglesey County Council
Terry Allen	Marine Environmental Data and Information Network
Trevor Dines	Plantlife Cymru
Total Attended: 43	


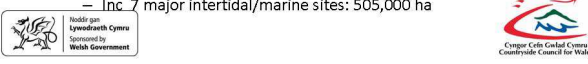
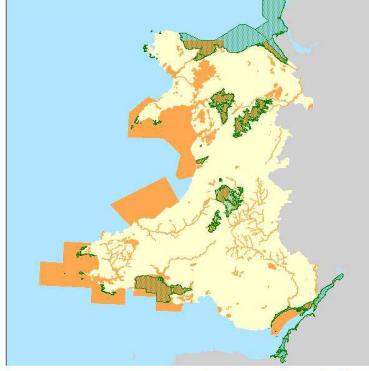




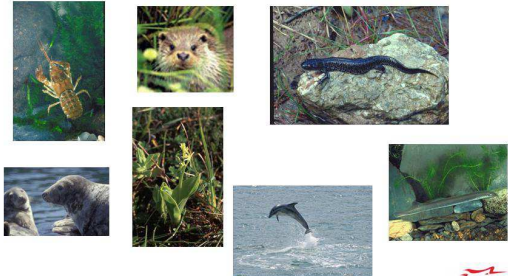

Garwnant

Name	Organisation
Adam Rowe	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
Alan Kearsley Evans	National Trust
Alison Jones	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Andrew Gurney	Farmers Union Wales
Andrew Nixon	Wye Valley AONB
Anne Coker	British Dragonfly Society
Beverley Lewis	Brecknock Wildlife Trust
Brian Walkey	South East Wales Rivers Trust
Catie Guhmann Roberts	Wildlife Trusts Wales
Catrin Davies	National Assembly for Wales
Chris Tucker	Forestry Commission
Clive Hurford	Countryside Council for Wales
David Jenkins	Coed Cymru
David Mitchell	Countryside Council for Wales
David Worrall	Countryside Council for Wales
Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith OBE	Wye and Usk Foundation
Dusitaporn Thomas	Dŵr Cymru
Erica Dixon	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Gail Davies	Dŵr Cymru
Gillian Hampson	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Helen Leach	Environment Agency
Ian Lindsey	Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Iestyn Thomas	Wales YFC Centre
James Tinney	Forestry Commission
Janet Imlach	Powys and BBNP Biodiversity Information Service
Jennifer Pilkington	Gwyl Taf/South East Wales Rivers Trust
Joe Daggett	National Trust
John Eddington	Welsh Yachting Association
Jon Hole	Caerphilly County Borough Council
John Watkins	Welsh Government
Julian Atkins	Brecon Beacons
Kerry Rogers	Countryside Council for Wales
Mark Allen	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Mike Jenkins	Environment Agency
Natalie Buttriss	The Vincent Wildlife Trust
Neville Rookes	Welsh Local Government Association
Nick Birula	Environment Agency
Nigel Ajax Lewis	Wildlife Trust for South & West Wales
Richard Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Richard Poole	Dŵr Cymru
Roger Cook	Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers
Sarah Mellor	National Trust
Stephen Coker	British Dragonfly Society
Steve Lucas	Bat Conservation Trust

Total Attended: 44

Annex C: Presentations

Presentation by Kathryn Hewitt

<h3>LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales</h3> <p>Developing a strategic programme for the management and restoration of Natura 2000 habitats, species and sites</p> <p>Countryside Council for Wales Programme Manager Kathryn Hewitt k.hewitt@ccw.gov.uk</p> <p>Supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community</p> 	<h3>What is Natura 2000?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of protected areas across Europe, designated to conserve the best examples of rare and vulnerable species and natural habitats. • Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Birds Dir 2009 (1979) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 39 bird features (Annex I & migratory birds) – 20 sites: 213,000 ha – Inc 6 major intertidal/marine sites: 133,000 ha • Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): Habitats Dir 1992 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 54 habitats features (Annex I) – 28 species features (Annex II) – 92 sites: 626,000 ha – Inc 7 major intertidal/marine sites: 505,000 ha 
 <p>Natura 2000 sites in Wales</p> <p>Orange: SAC Green: SPA</p> <p>Total area of N2K in Wales: c. 700,000 ha</p> <p>8.5% of land area 35% of territorial waters</p> <p>© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Countryside Council for Wales, 100018813 2012</p> 	<h3>Natura 2000 sites in Wales</h3> <h4>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</h4> <p>Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains: 27,000ha, 6 habitats Montgomery Canal: 56 ha, 1 species Pembrokeshire Marine: 137,000 ha, 8 habitats & 7 species Cors Fochyno: 651 ha, 3 habitats</p> <h4>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</h4> <p>Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt: 19,900 ha, 3 bird species Dee Estuary: 7,900 ha, 16 bird species Aberdaron Coast & Bardsey Island: 505 ha, 2 bird species</p> 
<h3>SACs & SPAs</h3>  	<h3>Species features</h3>  

Habitat features



Bird features



Importance of Natura 2000

- Part of a European network & cornerstone of efforts in UK and Europe to halt loss of biodiversity
- High level of protection for threatened species and habitats
- Economic importance – farming, fishing, forestry
- Enjoyment & recreation – tourism industry
- Life support services – carbon storage, water purification, sea defences



Who owns/manages Natura 2000 sites?

- SACs
- Marine sites (75% by area)
- Terrestrial
 - 33% owned or managed by conservation sector and public bodies
 - National Trust 12%, RSPB 7%, CCW 5%, LA 3%, MOD 2%, FCW 2%
 - 67% privately owned
- 26% common land



Our legal aims & obligations

- Habitats Directive
- Article 2: Aim for species and habitats to be maintained or restored to favourable conservation status.
- Article 6: Establish necessary conservation measures corresponding to ecological requirements.
- Article 8: Provide estimates to EC relating to co-financing to enable conservation measures.






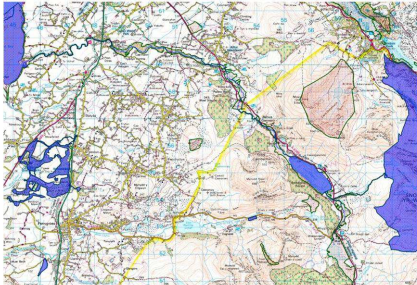



Why is the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme needed now?

- UK legal obligations
- Environment Strategy for Wales target to have 95% of international sites in favourable condition by 2010
- Status for features monitored on sites c. 40% favourable or unfavourable improving and 60% unfavourable
- European Commission is promoting Natura 2000 Programmes and the Prioritised Action Frameworks



<h3 style="text-align: center;">What is the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project run by (coordinating beneficiary) Countryside Council for Wales, soon to be Natural Resources Wales • 1 Sept 2012 – 31 Dec 2014 • £1 million budget – 50% LIFE, 50% CCW • 7 dedicated members of staff & £230k worth of contractors • High level of involvement from stakeholders 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Purpose of the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To produce a strategic programme for the management and restoration of Natura 2000: 2014-20 +. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying all required actions and establishing priorities. • Significantly improve status of Natura habitats and species, and meet our legal obligations. • Engage stakeholders to contribute and gain approval and support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment to deliver actions. • Facilitate greater access to existing and new sources of grant aid. 
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Outputs</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of evidence from existing sources and carry out assessment of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues and risks to features - Current management mechanisms - New management mechanisms • Fill evidence gaps • Funding study - existing & new sources • Action Plans for sites – actions to be delivered over 2014-20 with priorities, timing, costings & funding options 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Outputs continued</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plans for themes – e.g. fishing sector, water-based recreation, woodlands • Development of database, to store, analyse and access data • Programme for Wales – strategic, agreed, prioritised • Workshops, seminars and other events – over 20 • Communication activities - website and newsletters 
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Benefits</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have agreed, strategic approach for Wales. • Know our national major issues and priorities for action, and how much they will cost, so we can <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply for funding more effectively. - Inform and influence decision-makers and grant-givers, of requirements • Lead to effective, planned delivery of action on sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small scale routine practical work - Changes to policy or regulations - Major landscape-scale conservation projects. 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Benefits continued</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate new and innovative ways of managing sites. • Help organisations work together. • Aid planning of work and budgets up to 2020. • Highlight associated benefits to human wellbeing e.g. carbon storage, cleaner water, natural flood defences, green jobs, local enterprise. 
<h3 style="text-align: center;">What is LIFE?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFE+ is the European Union's environmental funding programme • LIFE + Nature & Biodiversity- supports Natura 2000 & aims of Directives • Also LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance • And LIFE + Information & Communication • Applications are accepted each year, but challenging. • New 'regulation': Environment and Climate Action - LIFE (3.2 bill Euros over 2014-20), is looking for large-scale integrated projects consistent with PAF. 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">How to get involved?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend workshops (or encourage colleagues to attend) • Stay on the mailing list to receive newsletters and other updates • Circulate information within your organisation • Respond to any consultations • Invite the team to forums, networks or meetings you are involved with • Contribute relevant reports, strategies or data or other information • Contact the team. Let us know your views..... 

Presentation by Mike Willis

<p style="text-align: center;">LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales – Inception Event</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Delivering conservation benefits at a local level – a view from CCW's Regional perspective.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael Willis, Regional Sites Programme Manager</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">   </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">N2K in North Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N2K sites represent the key wildlife sites in a European context • North Wales has a significant proportion of the total Welsh N2K sites • CCW and its predecessors have worked with landowners and managers to ensure these sites are managed appropriately. • In recent years, encouraged by the WG Environmental Strategy CCW has developed an Actions database which is logging the issues which are still adversely impacting on these sites and suggesting possible solutions • This is work in progress • What is needed is a properly costed plan for each site and realistic consideration of resources/funds to undertake this work • Partnership is critical component of this work. • This is work undertaken for the Welsh Community as a whole – healthy ecosystems are important for: water quality, flood control, carbon capture, food production, tourism, quality of life....humans are a part of the wider ecosystem..... <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">AFON GWYRFAI A LLYN CWELLYN SAC</p> 	<p>SAC features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and /or of the <i>Isoteo-Nanojuncetea</i> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> • Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> • European otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Llyn Cwellyn</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Afon Gwyrfaï</p> 
<p>Feature: Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and /or of the <i>Isoteo-Nanojuncetea</i></p> 	<p>Feature: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i></p> 

Feature: *Luronium natans* (floating water plantain)

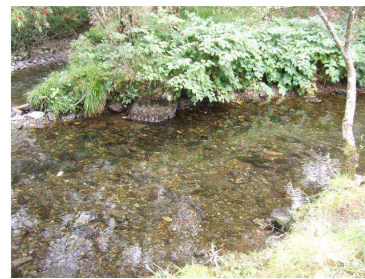


SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT

- **Control of invasive non-native species**
- **Freshwater fisheries management** – habitat degradation in upper reaches with loss of spawning ground and slate transport into river
- **Siltation** – risk from ditching works, forestry operations
- **Channel modification** -channel restoration, old meanders
- **Weirs & in-channel structures** - barriers to fish migration – Cwellyn dam
- **Infrastructure** - limitations to allowing natural processes e.g. woody debris and gravel shoals to accumulate because of flooding issues where bridges, roads and housing present.
- **Physical moderation to channel** – reinstatement of old channels where possible
- **Grazing levels** – overall not thought to be very high in most of upper catchment.
- **Possible soil acidification** from conifer plantations – consideration in future forestry planning, use of modelling
- **Water pollution** – point source and diffuse. Possible issues in lower catchment and Llanfagan STW
- **Water abstraction** – future issue?

INVASIVE SPECIES

Japanese knotweed



Burnt modified blanket bog near Llyn y Gader



Water abstraction



Siltation issues



Weirs and in-channel structures



Infrastructure



Channel modification (including side drains)




Channel modification -channel restoration, old meanders





Not the end, the beginning

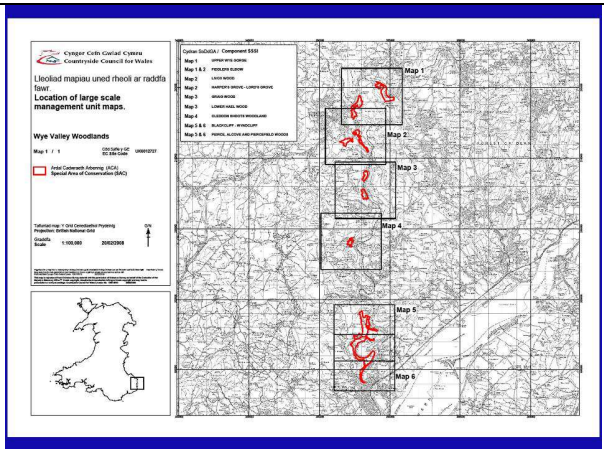


Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation




 Cymor Celfi Cefndal Cymru
 Countryside Council for Wales



 Uywodreth Cynullid Cymru
 Welsh Assembly Government



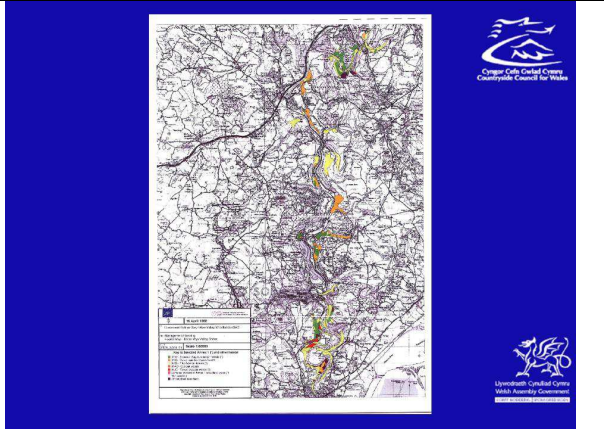
Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

1. *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (425 Ha)
2. *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests (176 Ha)
3. *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles (19 Ha)



 Cymor Celfi Cefndal Cymru
 Countryside Council for Wales



 Uywodreth Cynullid Cymru
 Welsh Assembly Government




Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:






 Cymor Celfi Cefndal Cymru
 Countryside Council for Wales



 Uywodreth Cynullid Cymru
 Welsh Assembly Government

Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation

- Other Species of conservation importance:




 Cymor Celfi Cefndal Cymru
 Countryside Council for Wales


 Uywodreth Cynullid Cymru
 Welsh Assembly Government

Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Vision

- All nine SSSIs continue to be covered by at least 90% semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- Woodland communities vary across the nine SSSIs, depending on soil conditions, thus producing a mosaic of vegetation rich in wildlife. Those particularly dominating are locally native species such as beech, ash, lime, yew and oak.
- All canopy species should be present within the field layer as seedlings and within the shrub layer as saplings. The ground layer will contain plant species typical of semi-natural broadleaf woodland such as bluebell, yellow archangel and primrose.
- In the long term the canopy will include trees of all ages and particular attention will be given to maintaining old veteran trees. Dead wood, standing and fallen, will be retained to provide habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species.



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Management Issues & Threats 1: Decline in active management

- Even age structure
- Little or no canopy gaps resulting in;
- Lack of regeneration
- Suppressed ground flora



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Management Issues & Threats 1: Non Native species

- Under-planting with conifers
- Broadleaved plantations of unknown provenance
- Cherry Laurel
- Himalayan balsam



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Management Issues & Threats 1: Grazing

- Fallow, Roe and Muntjac
- Population unknown but estimated to be 1500-3000 animals
- Impact on natural regeneration
- Ground flora



www.naturfoto.cz © Jan Bezdal



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Ravine WoodLIFE Project 2003 to 2007

- Life Nature Funded Partnership _Wye Valley and Peak District
- Partnership co-ordinated by WWF_UK with support from CCW, NE, FC (Wales & England), Wye Valley AONB, WT
- Long-term ecological viability of 2 Ravine woodland areas
- Develop solutions to address environmental, social and economic threats
- Raise awareness
- Share experience (website: www.ravinewoodLIFE.org.uk)



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Ravine WoodLIFE Project – Wales

- Ciren £110k LIFE plus match funding from partners
- LIFE approx 60% of total costs
- Management action (Conifer removal, beech plantation thinning and re-introduction of coppicing)
- Species surveys E.g. dormice
- Collation of GIS data
- Better co-ordinated management including deer management



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Ravine WoodLIFE – Problems

- Cost of management action
- Coppicing £5k to £6k per hectare. More if extracting timber
- Cherry laurel clearance £7k per hectare
- Lack of timber markets to offset cost of works
- Best price £30 per tonne at roadside
- Unsustainable deer herd



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



Ravine WoodLIFE – Benefits

- Facilitated co-ordinated management
- Funding kicked started works – would not have happened at the same level without LIFE
- Economic – local contractor jobs
- Bring SAC into favourable condition



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



The Future

- Continued need for management
- Control of non-natives
- Coppicing – To maximise benefits requires long-term rotation
- Sustainable deer management – favourable condition will not be achieved



Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation



The Future

- AfterLIFE – Between 2008 and present have been working with FC and some private woodland owners
- Funding ad hoc on a year by year basis
- Managed to find sufficient funds (£12k - £15K)
- This has allowed some coppicing and non-native species control



Coppicing Before & After



Beech Thinning Before and After



Rare Plants



ANNEX D: Direct Transcription of Attendees Responses

Poster responses: Themed Action Plans

Garwnant

- Species connectivity between N2K sites.
- Commons, high coverage on designated sites. Big barrier to favourable status.
- Uplands & agriculture. The future of these are tied together, need to link up.
- The starting point should be looking at common issues / key pressures. Which should lead to options for solutions which can be themed. Also, can look at the benefits of proposed solutions.
- Inclusion of actions that result in long term delivery beyond the 2020 deadline.
- Information and data – no re-inventing of wheels – engage with existing networks!
- Benefits of N2K sites to communities. Economic benefits of good quality sites.
- Farming community – largest landowner group and no/very little representation here today (8th Feb). They will be essential to any form of successful delivery.
- Action plan for appropriate grazing of unfavourable land.
- Management of common land – more effective funding and management structure to allow grazing.
- Burning – marginal land – integration to modern agricultural systems.
- Increasing use of, and promotion of use of the countryside for recreation and the conflicts this causes – potential increased risks.
- Action plans to combat illegal grassland fires.
- Illegal off-roading.
- Common land/Common Seas.
- Third party activities/damage.
- Action plans for uplands biodiversity/water capture.
- Connecting woodland theme - Link to WG objective of doubling native woodland cover and ecosystem services via woodland creation.

Bangor

- Inability/lack of desire on WG's part to deal with difficult problems.
- We must be wary of reinventing the wheel! E.g. RSPB "Futurescopes", CCW Actions database etc (I could go on!), Have all been here before – learn from and creating new multi-agency reports/forms/websites/databases – keep it simple.
- Diffuse pollution.
- Birds – seabirds, raptors, upland, chough.
- Concern that there won't be enough coordination between different themes.
- Agriculture – ensure rules are followed.
- Work with owner/occupiers on management.
- Common Land – has unique problems.

Poster responses: Strategic Questions

“What information about Natura 2000 management do you need in your role to make strategic or operational key decisions?”

Garwnant

- How much management is being done **outside** of an SAC/SPA boundary to help achieve favourable condition status?
- What are we doing to understand and progress “unclassified” unfavourable sites? Delivering FCS depends on this.
- Access to management that is succeeding elsewhere.
- How can we really maximise the benefits from those sites?
- Who will deliver the action plans?
- Consider farmers/landowners to complete practical work on sites?
- How will they get support – money or resources?
- Do you know who the 67% private landowners are?
- Funding for management of adjacent land, especially large projects which future proof SACs, e.g. coastal squeeze.
- Easy mechanism for sharing existing work.
- Easily accessible technical information/reporting etc (NE have a great publications website).

- What proportion are being actively managed at any given time?
- It's not just the sites but also the surrounding/supporting habitats and species that are relevant.
- Need to make information on manager requirements available as widely as possible to ensure maximum buy in and engagement.

Bangor

- How to ensure that angling has no adverse effect on site integrity.
- Results of CCW's Review of Consents.
- N-deposition.
- Relationship between habitat (condition) and species with reference to management requirements.
- Publication of appropriate assessments undertaken by EA/CCW/NRW.
- Species condition data – favourable / unfavourable / unclassified.
- Environmental standards e.g. nutrient standards for transitional and coastal waters.
- Guidance on Article 6(2).
- Harmonisation of habitats standards with WFD.

Workshop 1: Prioritizing for Natura 2000

“With limited financial and other resources, it is essential that we prioritise when managing and restoring Natura 2000 sites and features, so that effort is concentrated where the need is greatest.”

Question 1: ***What are the advantages and disadvantages of prioritising?***

Advantages

- Cost effective and best use of resources
- Structure and focus (for funding) – Clarity for targeting resources
- Manage a site properly as can focus funds / resources
- Good from a management point of view
- Deploy resources where they will make a difference
- Efficiency savings on priority projects
- Forecasts what we need in the future
- Ensures we have delivery of FCS in SACs by 2015
- Can we deliver a proportion of the target to meet EU expectations
- Plan timing of action
- Eases communication to government
- All features and sites achieve FCS
- Forming partnerships provides support

Summary of advantages

Garwnant

- Manage site properly by focusing resources
- Clarity/justification for action/spending
- Easier to manage complex challenges
- Way of managing risk
- Way to focus on easy win/show action to EC

Bangor

- Effective use of time/resources
- Focus on the worst to show maximum change & generate best publicity
- Focus resource and communication
- Can prioritise for effective implementation
- Attracting funding (showroom)
- Pressure of prioritising?
- Development of new partnerships
- Focuses effort
- Lifeline for a site/feature that is under threat

Disadvantages

- Relegate activities

- Further deterioration
- Drop off the radar
- Focusing resources on progress and not the outcome
- Prioritise on political vs environmental need
- Can restrict funding opportunities
- Wrongly applied criteria
- Person with the loudest voice gets prioritised first
- Miss out large landscape issues
- Nature conversation bad at prioritising
- By defining you concentrate too much on one thing. Not looking at the whole picture / site (focus can become too narrow)
- Managing the **risk**
- What are the criteria to prioritise?
- May lose some species and habitats – will not be recoverable by the time we focus on them.
- Focus on easy hits so major difficulties are ignored
- All sites are equally important (SACs & SPAs)
- Personal bias – who makes final choice
- Conflict between stakeholders / objectives
- Need to meet FCS for ALL N2K sites
- Current status of some features unknown
- Sideline other non-European features
- Too strict – may miss opportunities
- Prioritisation may be challenged legally
- Language priority / urgency
- Different opinions
- Who decides?
- Lower priorities won't get done
- Risk spending too much time on priorities
- Risk oversimplifying and missing e.g. smaller projects
- Possible de-notify due to repairs – gone beyond help – do you walk away?
- Conflict in conservation
- Who decides? Whose voice counts??

Summary of disadvantages

Garwnant

- Miss large landscape issues
- Deterioration of features / actions of lower priorities
- Need to get criteria for priorities right
- Risk of failure to deliver easy win

Bangor

- Too fine a level prioritisation – loss of projects of key sites / features
- Currently opportunistic – risk of loss of opportunistic action through prioritisation
- May be a challenge legally – all priorities
- Language – meaning in Europe – may need to consider urgency (brings in time)
- Focus on easy hits – miss more difficult problems that seem more of a challenge
- Different opinions, lower priorities will not be done
- Spend too much time prioritising and not doing
- External variables i.e. climate change

1. How should we go about prioritising?

- External drivers e.g. Water framework
- Internal drivers e.g. Partners ecological, economic and community (multiple benefits), public perception, immediacy of action
- Identify sites in favourable condition and spread out projects
- Value for money – what is “value”
- Ecosystem approach- environmental/social/economic (matches Sustainability Bill)
- Keep practicalities of action – not gold plating
- Identify what is already in place and being done

- Statutory deadlines
- Short term wins as part of long term strategies
- Actions need context and focus
- Choose popular features/public appeal
- Public spending – charismatic
- Criticality
- Choose easy targets – build momentum and provide evidence - Easy wins – Progress to Welsh Government
- Stakeholder engagement
- Levels of priority – progressive – allow different priorities at different areas
- Rarity within the wider network (natural ranges of species)
- Locations and landscape scale benefits
- Good framework before targeting work
- Biological/Natura 2000 priorities
- Timescales/legal compliance/risk
- Unfavourable/deteriorated sites
 - Impacts outside of SACs i.e. rivers
 - Prioritise with different people. Look what other people are doing. Team up – willing partners
- Funding issues throughout Wales
- Issues, process (bad/good), communication
- Priorities/Sites – features – risks!! (CCW data) Poor criteria
- Applicable to SSSI, NNR
- Urgency – lots of projects left out
- Need to set criteria against which to prioritise against
- Need to define which species we can deliver FCS for realistically in the timescales set, i.e. set one species over another
- Set delivery at habitat/catchments level – ensure we can showcase some sites
- Set up some quick wins – identify what’s already being done and support / push to deliver
- Ensure efficient regulation using existing powers
- Make sure mechanisms are in place for delivery
- Private ownership of SACs –
 - i. Stimulate access to small grants
 - ii. Better education / advice to help them help themselves, not necessarily funding driven
 - iii. Support from WG
- Define “prioritising”
- International context
- Overlap with “other” priorities – section 42
- Target “Worse” sites
- “Plant proofing”
- Worst conservation status?
- Ecosystem services opportunities?
- Ability to deliver multiple objectives? (not just narrow N2K focus)
- Develop “buffers”/landscape context (not restricted to strict site boundary-catchment-based approach)
- Key Issues/threats common across network – agri-fisheries-social etc
- Economically – “Bang for your buck”
- Issues – not just features
- Ownership
- Geographically
 - i. Rivers 1st – surrounding land
 - ii. Upper wetlands – lower lying areas
- Use habitats directive – priority habitats
- May be more practical to prioritise sites as opposed to features
- Could group sites together
- Sites in catchment areas
- Most vulnerable i.e. climate vulnerability index (ADAS UK)
- Added benefits e.g. water quality/birds
- Value benefits and prioritise on cost effectiveness
- Importance of resource balanced against cost and likelihood of success
- Is it a “must” e.g. law, health and safety

- Need to understand the resource
- Take into account secondary factors and ecosystems services
- Some species attract funding over and above LIFE funding – target these and guarantee funding
- Prioritise actions as well as species
- Need to flagship our success – case studies to secure future support
- Address “worst” situation for maximum conservation and publicity gains
- Prioritise those in worst condition
- Prioritise those declining
- Prioritise those we don’t know enough about
- Quick wins – could prevent deterioration

SUMMARY- *How should we go about prioritising?*

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- Flagships for demonstration for each type area – some easy wins
- Features vs. Sites – Sites
- What is deliverable?
- Come up against decisions/de-notification
- Choose popular features – publicity
- Timescales – non-negotiable commitments (e.g. WFD) need longer timeframes for important actions.
- Immediacy of action
- Delivery of multiple benefits – several features or ecosystem services
- Balance environment – economy -social – to keep momentum/self sustain

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- Using a sound business case
- Priority habitats or not?! Do we look at species not on S.42 lists?
- By sites as opposed to features
- By issues as opposed to features
- Geographically e.g. uplands/marine
- Habitat and condition – target worst sites first
- Not to be constrained by sites e.g. catchment approach
- Other/wider benefits captured by action
- Value of culture/heritage prioritisation
- Monetise benefit and prioritise the cost – cost/benefit (risk analysis)
- Risk assessment for the site/features (climate proof)
- Likelihood of success and the cost / resources required
- International/national/global – worst sites first
- ‘Plant proofing’ starting from the bottom and working upwards
- Take into account S42 species not on Annex 1 list

2. *How can we resolve any disagreement about priorities?*

- Depends on the scale!
- External drivers – directives
- Achievability
- Transparency in decision making
- Scoring/rating system
- Weighting
- Wide variety of benefits to those of high priority
- Legal time scales/funding/fines
- Maps with filters
- Communication
- Education
- Find common goals
- Committees
- Revisit at a later date
- Compromise
- Don’t prioritise – use urgency

- Communication (part sites) – Engage willing partners
- Clear set of measuring criteria
 - Needs to be practically implemented
 - Scientifically reviewed
- Integration of delivery mechanisms and partners
- All partners must be signed up and agree to deliver the actions first
- Widen out delivery beyond ecosystems, integration across all sectors
- Robust prioritisation method
- Good stakeholder buy-in
- Proportionality
- Compromise
- Everyone gets a piece of the action
- Prioritise areas where few other resources available
- Encourage partnership
- “Showcase” sites plus “routine” support
- Transparent decision-making “Scoring” system?
 - Strategic approach helps resolve conflict
 - Wider environment and national priorities
- Involve stakeholders
- Facilitators
- Common sense
- Use best practice
- Benign dictatorship?

Workshop 2: Funding of Natura 2000

“In order to restore Natura 2000 species and habitats into favourable condition significantly more funds will be required than are currently available.”

1. Does the group agree that the problem is lack of money or are there any other factors at play?

- Do we have confidence in the value of a site?
- Do we know how much it will cost?
- Do we have confidence in data?
- Land owner constraints
- Incentivisation – Market proofing
- Money is a key factor but also bureaucracy
- Political Dimension
 - i. External (cap reform)
 - ii. Internal (Economic climate)
 - iii. Societal choices/values
- Sustainability?
- Change in landowners
- Best being the enemy of the good
- Is the mechanism to apply for funds straight forward?
- Are resources/mechanisms available to issue funds?
- Form of funding – short term funding not sustainable for long term project
- Cooperation – private owners/commons
- Engagement with other sectors/incentives
- Economic incentives
- Negotiating – need unbiased “middle men”
- Site officers
- Integration
- Influencing markets
- Advocacy
- Institutional barriers
 - Agricultural support
 - Conservation CAP / RDP
- Lack of evidence – what is required – outputs/outcomes
- EU grants process too technical

- Ensure regulation/policies are even across species
 - New legislation to resolve confusion over existing policies
- Easy to enforce delivery onto public sector, but 67% SAC is in private ownership
- Need to understand what proportion of SACs fit into what sector/category and how that influences funding.
- Impact on intensive farming to SAC condition
 - Need to make links between benefit of SAC to farming, for example high premium food products e.g. salt marshes.
- Climate change, impact to achieving targets
- Lack of enforcement – lead by example, policies / mechanisms in place but not being used.
- Need to enforce proper agricultural practices, have to instill responsibility: carrot & stick
- Capacity to spend the money
- Financial procedures e.g. applications, auditing, match-funding
- Continuity or lack-of
- Conflict of interests e.g. forestry and agriculture
- Lack of relationships with land owners/managers (hearts and minds)
- External site factors
- Waste of funds through policy conflict (funds to repair damage enabled by other funds)
- Missed funding opportunities – why are funding applications failing? Lack of matched funding?
- Land tenure issue
 - Private land ownership
 - Commons improvement could be viewed as double funding
- Professional fund raisers to 100k at EU funding cf. RSPB
- Benefits of N2K ecosystems for flood alleviation/mitigation
- Regulation/lack thereof
- Need to define Favourable Conservation Status for all habitats and species
- There are some evidence gaps
- Reluctance to address difficult issues e.g. should we allow fishing of species not in FCS
- Lack of understanding of importance/relevance of nature sites to wider public – BIG CHALLENGE
- Effective sanctions?
- Perceived challenges
- Cultural change may be more important than funds
- Stop paying for benefits – no money for old rope
- Outcome led measures
- Foster greater sense of responsibility with landowners
- Full economic analysis needed
- Application and related processes e.g. rules too complex and eat into existing limited resources
- Lack of staff and funding continuity
- UK treaty commitment not enough to give guaranteed long term core funding
- Coordination and leadership could be better, to enable better use of resources

SUMMARY – Does the group agree that the problem is lack of money or are there any other factors at play?

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- Education of decision makers on importance of N2K
- Right people to talk to funding providers – spokesperson/intermediary
- Incentivisation – make sure it works
- Market proofing to ensure delivery
- Mechanisms to apply for funding – needs to be more straight forward – accessibility
- Lack of regulation – more stringent regulation needed e.g. fish passes and overgrazing

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- YES!
- Land Tenure
- Bureaucracy – getting to funds
- Joined up thinking/strategic planning

- Constraints of working within Natura sites – addressing issues before they become a series problem to the site
- Match funding
- Define FCS in a way that can be understood
- Lack of public understanding
- Willingness to undertake enforcement
- Cultural change
- What levers can you use (other than paying for services/action) to deliver benefits
- Leadership and co-ordination – optimising efficiency of funding
- Efficiency to deliver, and ensure other funding does not prevent delivery
- Capacity to deliver may not be there including knowledge, expertise, match funding requirement
- Reluctance to address difficult issues
- Effective solutions? Where is the willingness to use them
- Do we stop for the benefit i.e. if we stop paying will/are we willing to have higher food prices?
- Do we have the regulation needed?
- Difficult obtaining funds for common land

2. *What can we do to secure higher levels of funding for Natura 2000?*

- Can spend time on the money chasing process
- HLF
- Incentivise – percentage through tax breaks
- Economic drivers through the private sector e.g. S.106
- Better planning decisions
- Make funding applications more flexible and simpler so more available
- Agricultural and fisheries and environment together in Welsh Government
- Funding for projects to also give economic and social benefits, and benefits to other environment sites e.g. downstream (ecosystem)
- Influencing other departments/policy
- Integrating with other businesses/funders
- Input into policy
- Marketing conservation/ecosystem services
- How much do we spend to maximise the project
- Make connections with other opportunities – funding/in kind potential
- Education for decision makers
- Ecosystem services valuation
- Understanding the opportunity cost of not managing N2K sites, evidence the cost of ongoing maintenance
- Social research on public attitudes/awareness
- Develop partnerships/community models
- Robust exit strategies for sites
- Clarity over funding source, is this the programmes objective or it the programme expecting stakeholders to do it?
- Can this project be a facilitator to gain funding? Integration of similar projects to secure funding.
- Secure LIFE funding at Wales level – 7 SAC rivers, bats etc.
- Much more business focused – what funding can be generated, what can be a by-product of what we are doing
- Project should deliver a list of products which can be delivered and integrate them across projects.
- Ecosystem services payment
- Funding mechanisms don't meet species requirements – e.g. 3 years of funding but 10 years needed for species.
- Allowing Glastir to be used for match-funding
- Eco-systems approach
- Private e.g. creating carbon sinks
- Funding e.g. funding from insurance firms – carbon offsets
- Community – educational involvement – funding

- Need joined up thinking – CAP and environment objectives
- Avoid duplication
- Piggy back onto Living Landscapes etc? – incorporate actions
- Stakeholders can provide information on costs to an extent
- Align to other agendas e.g. ecosystem services and their associated funding pots – water quality – innovate e.g. carbon trading for peat bog – business sources
- Volunteer involvement – staff engagement required to manage them
- Strategic integration – impact wider than N2K
- Preventative policies e.g. invasive and tree disease
- Plan better and in partnership
- Demonstrating progress
- Case studies
- Integrated plans
- Expertise in application needed
- Awareness and resource planning for an application
- Need better certainty on match funding
- Having core needs funded first (for stability)
- Learn from mistakes/successes
- Networking

SUMMARY – *What can we do to secure higher levels of funding for Natura 2000?*

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- Incentivising through the tax breaks e.g. no council tax for bats in house
- Bring in business/marketing consultants to build our “product” to “tap” new markets.
- Social research on public attitudes
- Understanding cost of not managing N2K
- Integration
- Identify delivery agents
- Look more seriously at other funding pots
- Give an economic and social benefits from projects
- Put department for agriculture, fisheries and environment back together – are Senedd talking?!

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- Learn from successes/failures of other projects
- Use Glastir as match funding
- Tap into business sector
- Co-ordinated, central body to facilitate funding/partnerships between smaller organisations and bigger agencies with expertise in applications.



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