



GLAMORGAN BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP



SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE  
CANOLFAN COFNODI FIOAMRYWIAETH DE DWYRAIN CYMRU

## Glamorgan Recorders' Forum Meeting

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009  
Best Western Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend

*The event Chairman, Peter Williams, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the sixth annual Glamorgan Recorders' Forum.*

### Pond Creation and Restoration in South Wales (The Million Ponds Project) Peter Hill (SWWARG)

The Million Ponds Project is being co-ordinated by the Pond Conservation Trust  
[www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/](http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/)

#### Aims:

- To more than double the number of existing ponds by creating 600,000 new, high quality ponds over the next 50 years, with an aim to dig the first 5,000 ponds in the next 5 years.
- To create a network of thousands of new ponds in Britain that will be great for biodiversity.
- To improve the quality of existing ponds for amphibians.

The project is looking for locations/landowners who are keen to build new ponds especially where they can connect existing colonies of species such as great crested newt, toad, grass snake.

*Q. Is the size of the ponds important (e.g. are small garden ponds important for conservation)?*

We encourage a variety of pond sizes. A larger number of ponds of various sizes are more important than one big pond. In terms of connectivity particularly in the urban environment, house gardens are brilliant. Edge area (i.e. pond shape) is also very important.

Contact: David Orchard (Ponds Project Officer) [david.orchard@herpconstrust.org.uk](mailto:david.orchard@herpconstrust.org.uk)

Links: HCT ([www.herpconstrust.org.uk](http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk))

Froglife ([www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org))

### The South and West Wales Amphibian and Reptile Group (SWWARG) Peter Hill (SWWARG)

The group formed in 2008, and has recently merged with the Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan Amphibian & Reptile Group (which was mainly Stephen Lowe!). SWWARG are keen to cover other areas that are not already covered by an ARG in the South Wales area. The new website address is [www.swwarg.co.uk](http://www.swwarg.co.uk).

Species we find in this area include grass snake, adder, slowworm, common lizard, common toad, common frog and three species of newt.

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*Why conserve these species?* The herpetiles are often a misunderstood, ignored group. Increased habitat fragmentation is a big problem for these species, and habitat destruction is also frequent. Recently, an important grass snake basking site was lost through habitat destruction.

*Why create an ARG?*

- ARG-UK ([www.arg-uk.org.uk](http://www.arg-uk.org.uk)) wanted a group in the area. There are currently 6 members and 15 others wanting to join.
- To study population and behaviour.
- To study record distribution.
- Habitat preservation, restoration and creation.

*An example of habitat creation:*

Margam Park (Neath Port Talbot) used to keep wild boar. The boars have now been moved and the site left is ideal for pond creation (6 ponds in total). The rubble from the pens has been used to create hibernacula, and the corrugated tin roof used as refugia.

Hibernacula are often located on rubbish and rough ground so it is definitely a brownfield/urban issue. Females stay in hibernacula 10 days longer than males so it is very important to wait before any disturbance occurs.

## Urban Ecology Dr Charles Hipkin (Swansea University)

The urban environment contains patches of ponds, parks, trees, gardens and is often highly fragmented. The term 'brownfield' is difficult to define.

There are important factors determining species distribution within urban environments such as climate, substrate, architecture, disturbance, neophyte (*recently introduced*) aliens, recombinants (*non-native and native species together*), and ruderal species (*invasive, opportunistic species*).

**Patches (can be recognized on a cartographical scale).**

- Size (important for determining the numbers of species that can be carried by a patch)
- Age/history
- Habitat Diversity
- Configuration & connectivity (very important)
- Source-Sink Relationship (equilibrium theory)

**Edge effects**

The shape of a patch is very important, for example, forest core specialists will not colonise a site that is too narrow as there is little or no 'core'.

**Distance**

The further away from the source, the less species you get colonising the new patch (*Equilibrium Theory of Island Biogeography*).

**Parkland** often contains many recombinant species (often many more exotics than natives), but are often diverse habitats. Plant ecology is often looked at but the animal ecology has been hardly explored. There is a huge potential for habitat creation. Will species move from park to park? What are the barriers? In Hamburg, studies show well connected patches have more species of carabid beetles. Closer to the urban centre there are more asymmetrical beetles (due to more stress). Common trees host more species (e.g. oaks), whereas rarer, exotic

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species support fewer species. There is now an increased occurrence of lichens and epiphytic liverworts in parks (as less pollution in cities today).

**Gardens** often have interesting bryophyte and invertebrate assemblages, but have not been well studied. How do hoverflies move around/between gardens? How are they distributed? What garden types do they like?

**Urban Streets & Walls** usually contain species that can withstand trampling. Window pots are also important. Buddleia is good for lots of species (especially butterflies), but needs to be controlled. It is now on every street in Neath!

Brownfield sites often try to go back to what the area once was, e.g. Baglan Bay was originally sand dune and is now trying to go back to the original state.

*Q. On a former industrial site, is it better to actively manage the site for biodiversity or leave it to regenerate?*  
Brownfield sites are all different and it depends on what you want to achieve through management; the history of the site is also crucial. The best option is to do a bit of both to encourage diversity of habitats. Cities are becoming increasingly homogenised with the same species that are well connected. We should encourage diversity.

Urban communities are becoming increasingly recognized and studied. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) now includes urban species (see British Plant Communities, Volume 5).

## The Marine Life under Mumbles Pier (Swansea) Judith Oakley

The pier is of Victorian construction (1898), and is located 3 miles from Swansea. There are now extensive plans for redevelopment with a new £39 million scheme to extend the pier and build a 150 bed hotel, spa, conference and exhibition centre, amusement arcade and restaurants. The metal supports were last rebuilt in the 1950s. Before this work goes ahead, Judith was very keen to survey beneath the pier and surrounding shore.

### *Main findings:*

- Every rock is covered in bright orange growths of the sponge (*Hymeniacidon perleve*). There are extensive common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) beds below the pier, on the legs and on the discarded fishing nets hanging down. Starfish (*Asterias rubens*) are the largest and fattest ever seen on any shore with many measuring 39cm across! Large groups of common whelks (*Buccinum undatum*) also patrol the mussel beds.
- Sewage pipes are covered in encrusting sponges, hydroids and ascidians. Hanging underneath are many growths of the sift coral deadman's fingers (*Alcyonium digitatum*) and the non-native leathery sea-squirt (*Styela clava*). Rosy featherstars (*Antedon bifidae*) also hang down under the pipe. In shallow pools below the pipe are abundant common prawns with occasional long-spined sea scorpions (*Taurulus bubalis*) and corkwing wrasse (*Crenilabrus melops*). One female dragonet (*Callionymus lyra*) and a pair of snake pipefish were also spotted. A greater pipefish (*Syngnathus acutus*) was the highlight as Judith had never seen this on the shore before.
- Crustaceans under stones included squat lobsters (*Galathea squamifera*), long-clawed porcelain crabs (*Pisidia longicornis*), broad clawed porcelain crabs (*Porcellana platycheles*), with the occasional Risso's crab (*Xantho pilipes*), a western species. Three large grey sea slugs (*Aeolidia papillosa*) and a coil of their eggs were found near one of the pier legs on a piece of old tree wedged against it. Scattered along the pipe were over a dozen tiny white sea slugs (*Onchidoris planata*) with egg masses and one lonely sea lemon (*Archidoris pseudoargus*). Spotted cowries (*Trivia monacha*) were also found. Girders were covered in plumose anemones (*Metridium senile*), with very large volcano barnacles (*Balanus perforatus*), and massive sponge growths.

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- The non-native slipper limpet (*Crepidula fornicata*) is abundant on the shore forming long chains and stacks on the mud and sand, and growing on shells, rocks and pieces of glass and pottery. Large native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) adorn the rocks and sewage pipes. They are still collected as a delicacy by a few locals and once formed extensive beds in Swansea Bay, hence the local area of Mumbles called Oystermouth. Soft crabs are also highly sought after by local fisherman most of whom fail to replace any of the rocks they overturn (crushing many unwanted crab species and leaving other species to die exposed to the elements and predators).
- Large dahlia anemones (*Urticina felina*) are found occasionally burrowed into the sand and covered in pieces of stone and shell or hanging off the pipe. Two snakelock anemones (*Anemonia viridis*) were spotted on the shore side by side, one with a crab claw sticking out of its mouth. One small variegated scallop (*Chlamys variegata*) was growing on the top of the sewage pipe. Notable sponges included the white, spiky *Dysidea fragilis* and the waxy smooth *Pseudosuberites sulphureus*.

A public meeting regarding the Mumbles Pier Redevelopment was attended in April 2008. The developers assured Judith that not only would Environmental Impact Assessments and seabed surveys be undertaken but that the lower piles of the pier would remain in situ and the pier is to be rebuilt from these upwards. Only the parts above these (i.e. steel latticework and timber joints) are to be replaced as they are 'beyond maintenance' and the pier is a Grade II listed structure. It is anticipated that assessments are to be carried out at least over the next 12 months and the whole redevelopment will take place over the next 5-7 years.

## Conservation of Butterflies and Moths in the Urban Landscape Russel Hobson (Butterfly Conservation Wales)

### *Why is the urban environment so important?*

It is the place where most people meet wildlife. It is therefore a good opportunity to engage people. Some current projects include: Mynydd Mawr marsh fritillary metapopulation project and Carmarthenshire urban project.

Wrexham Industrial Estate (brownfield site) has been developed piecemeal over time but is a great crested newt site. There are efforts to put some supplementary planning guidance and a management plan together to safeguard species and habitats which include grizzled & dingy skipper, tall neutral grassland, lapwing, great crested newt. The site is much richer than the surrounding farmland, but trying to ensure species are catered for on an industrial estate through mitigation is difficult.

Awareness raising is a key element for changing perceptions:

- Moths Count Project (England/ Scotland) ([www.mothscount.org/site/](http://www.mothscount.org/site/))
- Garden Moth Count (mainly in West Midlands but also interest in Wales now)
- 'Butterflies on your Doorstep'. This project will hopefully be tied in with education and aimed at school children. A very-interactive website will be developed.

We must seize the opportunities. In landfill, some species are known to lay eggs on other materials (not on plants) as they have warmer micro-climates. The decline of wallbrown and grayling butterflies is less dramatic than other butterfly species as brownfield sites are often ideal because of their sparse grassland and poor substrate. Indeed, surrounding agricultural land is often comparatively poor.

People look inwards to city centre, not out to the rural environment, and there can be a very 'urban mindset'. Urban and brownfield sites are dynamic sites where we can lose species and habitats but there are lots of opportunities to create habitats and encourage different species too.

*Q. Should we concentrate on defending the really important habitats?*

In Carmarthenshire, the aim is to restore the Marsh Fritillary metapopulation. The local landowners often have an urban mindset, and their nice grassland is their future pension! £100 per hectare of management money cannot compete with £20,000 of development money!

*Q. Should recorders go to more 'poor' environments?*

Negative records and low counts are just as important as other records. All data is important for working out the ecology of a site.

*Q. Building on brownfield sites – is this the wrong policy? Should we be preserving brownfield sites in their own right?*

- They can be covered in the South Wales Wildlife Sites system.
- Unfortunately there is often a perception is that green is good and brown is bad.
- There should be a comparison of diversity on a site by site basis.

Links: [www.butterfly-conservation.org/](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/)  
[www.butterfly-conservation.org/downloads/50/bc\\_wales.html](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/downloads/50/bc_wales.html)

## Section 42 Species

### Laura Palmer (Cardiff County Council)

When the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000) was passed, and the list of Section 74 (S74) species created; training and identification sheets were produced (by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership and the National Museum Wales) to help ecologists identify the S74 species. At the time, the training and species identification sheets were aimed at consultants rather than recorders.

Now that the NERC Act (2006) has been introduced and the Section 42 list produced (replacing the former S74 list), WBP and the National Museum Wales are very keen to repeat the process but this time recorders will be much more involved. However, there are now over 500 species! We therefore need to prioritise those species for which identification sheets should be produced immediately.

Recorders were requested to:

- prioritise species from the S42 list that should have identification sheets written for them. Species such as herring gull and hedgehog can probably wait! Recorders were asked to rate them by using the following colours: green (yes, immediately), yellow (yes, maybe), and red (probably not).
- give feedback about their training needs as hopefully there will be scope to arrange some training in the field (rather than only in a classroom situation). The training will also have a wider scope than previously, e.g. a course on liverworts will cover the common species as well as the rarer (S42) species.

The final identification sheet kits will be available via a website or on CD, and a few hard copies of the kits will be produced for Local Record Centres and Local Authorities.

Contact: Laura Palmer ([LPalmer@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:LPalmer@cardiff.gov.uk)) 02920 873268

## East Aberthaw Industrial Estates Rob & Linda Nottage

The survey area includes the Aberthaw limestone quarry which is still active, the Aberthaw Powerstation and the Aberthaw Cement Works.

- The fly-ash settling lagoons are home to many wintering wildfowl including teal (100), wigeon, mallard, pochard. Monitoring for wetland birds (WeBS) has taken place here for the last 14 yrs, and breeding species include little grebe (regularly in double figures), swans, Canada geese, mallards and coots. Other species include reed and sedge warblers, kingfisher, cormorant, heron, shelduck, peregrine, little ringed plover (attempted breeding), snipe (often at least in double figures), tufted ducks (numbers dropped), gadwall, little egret (occasional), Slovenian grebe (breeding plumage), and wrynecks (fly over).
- Disturbed arable weeds including bristle ox-tongue, yellow-wort, and teasels which attract goldfinches. There are also rabbits and jackdaws. The flora is excellent and includes hybrid marsh spotted orchid. Ivy growing on the ruins is an important food plant for red admiral, tortoise shells and commas.
- At the smaller, older quarry, north of Aberthaw village, there are many non-native species. However, they provide berries and nesting opportunities for birds (eg. thrushes, yellowhammer and lesser whitethroat).
- Grassland flora includes cowslip, pyramidal orchids, quaking grass, ox-eye daisy, bee orchids (small numbers). There is a very shallow soil which dries out quickly. The area is very good for butterflies including dingy skipper, and wall butterfly, and also thick-legged flower beetle. An old railway track links the quarry to the village which consists mainly of ash. Butterflies including speckled wood have been spotted here.
- The saltmarsh is the site of the original river mouth which is now a brackish lagoon with islands (which are great refugia for breeding birds). The saltmarsh habitat and shingle ridge is a dynamic area and is continuously changing. Unfortunately, the new river mouth is canalised but still supports birds such as mallard; and fish such as wide-lipped mullet. Seaward side of the wall there is a large colony of autumn lady's-tresses, kidney vetch and blue fleabane, and there is a fringe of sea- heath which is native to Eastern Britain.
- Peregrines have been spotted on the towers of the power station. Field grasshoppers, bloody-nose beetles, snow bunting (only 1!), stonechats (regular and breeding), and wheatears (migrants) have also been spotted nearby. Non- native species include red valerian which is a good nectar source for humming bird hawkmoths, Silver Y and graylings. As the fly-ash has become more established with vegetation, there are fewer graylings as there is less bare ground. A 6-belted clearwing was found in recent years.
- There is no access to the ash tip but it is very flowery and attracts rabbits, buzzards, Harris's Hawk (escapee). Yellow bartsia, Southern marsh orchid (dropping in numbers), and marsh helleborine can all be seen here. Brown argus, clouded yellows (on migration route), plus 30 day-flying moths, abundant slow-worms, adders (less common now) and grass snakes can all be found.
- Scrub is constantly encroaching the site, but there are attempts to keep it off the grasslands by using work parties.

### Summary:

- It is a very rich environment.
- Site is mostly accessible, and there is an opportunity to see much diversity.
- There have been big changes over the years.
- Site has re-vegetated considerably and there is much more scrub now.
- It was an industrial site but now the power station owners are keen to actively manage the site.

## Mammals in Urban Environments

### Richard Dodd

We commonly meet mammals as garden pests such as moles, foxes, rats, rabbits; or as house pests such as bats, wood mouse, house mouse, rats. These species can cause damage and problems for people, and the cost of control is huge. It is quite likely that pest control companies will have lots of mammal data that conservationists can access. Road casualty (often fox, polecat, badger, hedgehog and grey squirrel) records are useful in that they show the species are present in an area and they may be the only mammals most people encounter in an urban environment.

The South Wales Mammals Atlas Project (2009-2013) will span 3 large cities, and will include efforts to increase awareness of mammals. Unfortunately PTES funding failed as it was deemed to be too small an area (despite encompassing 3 major cities).

Current urban mammal surveys include:

- Bats & Roadside Mammals Survey – The Bat Conservation Trust ([www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats\\_and\\_roadside\\_mammals\\_survey.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats_and_roadside_mammals_survey.html))
- Garden Birdwatch – RSPB ([www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/results/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/results/)) (now also includes incidental mammal records)
- Mammals in your Garden – Mammal Society/Wildlife Trusts
- Living with Mammals – PTES/ Mammal Trust UK ([www.ptes.org/index.php?cat=63](http://www.ptes.org/index.php?cat=63))

Records from adhoc surveys are also important. In Cardiff Bay, a low sounding call on the bat detector turned out to be Nathusius' pipistrelle. This species is possibly under recorded, and there is little known about it. Also, good numbers of soprano and common pipistrelle and noctule bats have been noted.

There are some issues for mammals in the urban environment, for example, lighting. Daubenton's bat is a light shy bat but pipistrelles and noctules tolerate the high light levels. There are currently around 20+ noctules in Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve!

At Ebbw Vale Steelworks (Blaenau Gwent) there are lots of bats. There are now plans to create summer and winter hibernacula. An environmental education centre is also being created.

'Urban Bio-planning' is a new buzzword which describes incorporating biodiversity issues within an urban setting.

*Q. Pest control companies?*

Pest control companies and officers in LAs may have more records for private households and businesses.

*Q. Was there any Cardiff Bay baseline data?*

Unfortunately, there is very little baseline data for the Bay. A roost for 150 pipistrelles was destroyed where Roald Dahl Plas is now located. There are large numbers of midges in Cardiff Bay now, which maybe boosting the local bat populations.

## Uncommon Beetles in Glamorgan

### Steve Bolchover (VC41 Beetle Recorder)

There are 4000 beetle species in Britain (compared to 10,000 in France!), and 2,500 beetle species in Glamorgan.

- Many species are accidentally imported with timber, food, cars, e.g. Longhorn beetle on Gower

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- *Panagaeus crux-major* (critically endangered) recorded at Whitford about a century ago. The only recent records are now are in NE England.

### **Coastal habitats**

- *Nebria complanata* (strandline beetle): Big, common but concentrated around Bristol Channel. There is therefore a responsibility to ensure it survives around here.
- *Cicindela maritima*: Concentrated around Bristol Channel. Larvae site in holes awaiting prey. Vulnerable due to disturbance of sand.
- *Dicronychus equisetoides*: Vulnerable (red data book species). Concentrated in South Wales and Cornwall. Feeds on Marram Grass (*Ammophila* sp.). The larvae are long and thread-like. Vulnerable to disturbance by motorbikes.
- *Aepus marinus*: Quite rare.
- *Mecinus collaris*: A weevil that feeds on sea-plantain (*Plantago maritima*).

### **Wetland habitats**

- *Odacantha melanura*: There was a population explosion in May 1997 in Pant-y-Sais fen. The larvae feed on reeds and bulrushes.
- *Silis ruficollis*: The numbers are increasing.
- *Paederus fuscipes*: Found at Oxwich.
- *Pterostichus anthracinus*: Found at Oxwich.
- *Aromia moschata* (musk beetle): Found at Crymlyn Bog.
- *Haliphus mucronatus*: Found at Aberdulais and Pant-y-Sais.
- *Hydaticus transversalis*: Historical records but unclear if its still there.

### **Woodland habitats**

- *Colydium elongatum*: An ancient woodland indicator species, associated with rotten wood.
- *Tillus elongatus*: A local species.
- *Ophonus ardosiacus*: In Victorian county history then not seen for a long time. Last year it was found in Barry Dock.
- *Meloe* sp. (blister or oil beetles): The 1<sup>st</sup> instar larvae uses solitary bees nests, where they parasitize the larvae. Success of *Meloe* depends on the success of solitary bees which are often affected by habitat loss.
- *Typhaeus typhoeus* (Minotaur beetle): A dung beetle which is the largest in UK (12-20mm), with 3 enormous horns.

Q. *Is tidying beaches a problem?* Strandlines are very important to beetles, and so it is very important not to be too tidy. Awards such as Blueflag (Keep Wales Tidy) could encourage conservation of the strandline habitat. Keeping litter (particularly timber) on strandlines could be written into the award guidelines.

Q. *Are beetles very under-recorded or are they really only recorded at specific sites e.g. Oxwich, Gower?*  
Beetles are very under-recorded. There are probably lots of other diverse areas where they could be found. Distribution maps (e.g. NBN) often show where the experts go on holiday! There are a great deal more rare species probably to be found if recorders investigated sites not already known to be honey pot sites.

Link: [www.coleopterist.org.uk/](http://www.coleopterist.org.uk/)



## SEWBRc Update Adam Rowe (SEWBRc Manager)

### News:

- It has now been agreed that Geri Thomas will represent the Glamorgan Recorders Forum at SEWBRc AGM. He has also been elected as a SEWBRc Director. There are opportunities for other Directors if anybody is keen to join.
- Cardiff and Torfaen now have service agreements with SEWBRc, Environment Agency will be receiving species alert layers, and Forestry Commission has extended their service to include searches on their estate.
- WTSWW are unlikely to be supporting SEWBRc in the near future as there are some financial difficulties. They would like to support us in other ways such as data sharing, and at the Recorder Forums.
- Staff Update: Four full time permanent staff (Adam Rowe – Manager, David Slade – Senior IT & Biological Records Officer, Rebecca Davies – Senior Data & Enquiries Officer, Lindsay Bamforth – Data & Enquiries Officer); and two full time temporary staff (Elaine Wright – Biodiversity Information Assistant (CCW), Alice Britt - Biodiversity Information Assistant); plus increasing numbers of volunteers!
- ALERC (Association of Local Environmental Record Centres) is now established ([www.alerc.org.uk](http://www.alerc.org.uk)).
- Four Bioblitz Days are planned for 2009 (2 in Glamorgan, 2 in Gwent). See website for details [www.sewbrec.org.uk](http://www.sewbrec.org.uk)
- SEWBRc website. The events pages are available for all to advertise their recording events and training days so please let us know if you would like anything advertised.
- Recorders Contact Details. Recorders were asked to complete the form provided to ensure that we have the correct information and permission to pass details on (where appropriate).

## Wales Environmental Information Steering Group (WEIS) & Data Flow Discussion Adam Rowe (SEWBRc Manager) & David Slade (Senior IT & Records Officer)

### WEIF & WEISG

- Wales Environmental Information Forum (WEIF) was a brand new gathering in March 2008 in the National Library in Aberystwyth. The aim is to have everyone who has a stake in environmental data in Wales to be represented. There were 40 participants and the main issues were: dataflow, consultant data, NBN.
- A steering group was established called the Wales Environmental Information Steering Group (WEIS). LRCs will be particularly involved in data flow, quality-checking, skills of training and technology. One of the actions coming out of the WEIS meeting was to discuss data flow at the next Recorders Forums, and map all the data flows for all organisations, groups, individuals etc. We have produced a questionnaire which will help us map dataflow, please complete one if you haven't already done so. It is available from our website ([www.sewbrec.org.uk/biological-recording-folder/biological-recording.page](http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/biological-recording-folder/biological-recording.page)), or contact us if you prefer a paper copy.

### Data Flow Discussion

*Q. The problem is that there are too many recording schemes and new ones being set up.*

Individuals should be able to get records in at various points in the system. It should be noted that not one answer will suit everyone. Some recorders like to submit directly to the National Scheme. National schemes often work better at UK level and LRCs don't want to interfere with their good work. Others like to submit to the VC Recorders, others directly to the LRC. As long as the various entry points are all linked, there should be no problem. Data should be able to flow between everyone involved.

*Q. What about duplication? Can you tell when there are duplicates?*

Duplicated records we have to manually filter out, but it's better to get the record twice than not at all. It takes a little while to see the duplicates. They are usually noticed when the records start coming out in reports. There may be

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some duplication with marine data as there are other organisations dealing with it. Judith Oakley supplies data to MERLIN who then put it on to the NBN. Some marine data has also been passed to SEWBRcC.

*Q. Verification of data?* SEWBRcC has started the process of getting County Recorders involved in the process, for example Julian Woodman has started looking at vascular plants. We are keen to get others involved. CCW & WEIF are very keen to get this process underway. Please contact SEWBRcC if you would be willing to help verify records.

**ACTION: Devote more time to data flow at the 2010 Recorders' Forum Meeting**

## Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP)

### Sean McHugh (WBP)

Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) brings together key players from the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote and monitor biodiversity action in Wales. It provides a leadership role and an expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales. WBP consists of a steering group (SG) and a wider partnership, supported administratively by a team drawn from the Countryside Council of Wales, Welsh Assembly Government and the Wildlife Trust Wales.

The SG meets three times a year. They feed issues up to WAG and information back down to LBAP partnerships. The SG papers can be commented on ([www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/sg\\_meetings-130.aspx](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/sg_meetings-130.aspx)). At the meetings, actions for all are listed, and WBP would welcome input from Recorders.

- WBP annual conference takes place on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- WBP Wales Biodiversity Week takes place from 6-14<sup>th</sup> June 2009 ([www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wbw-121.aspx](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wbw-121.aspx)).
- In 2010, the UK Indicators Group will present to the international community the UK's progress towards the 2010 targets ([www.countdown2010.net/](http://www.countdown2010.net/)).
- 2009 is the last year of the BBC Breathing places ([www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/)).
- WBP have produced an 'LBAP Coordinator Induction Pack' which explains the structure of biodiversity action in Wales, and has lots of useful information and links on how the Welsh system works. The Wales Biodiversity Framework is also available on the website (For these documents see [www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wales\\_biodiversity\\_partnership\\_documents-134.aspx](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/wales_biodiversity_partnership_documents-134.aspx)).
- Environmental Strategy for Wales, Outcome 21: 'Sites of international, Welsh and local importance are in favourable condition to support the species and habitats for which they have been identified.' Environmental Strategy for Wales, Action 32: 'We will bring designated sites into favourable condition through a suite of measures aimed at delivering more sympathetic management.' These actions are being lead by WAG and CCW along with partners. Download the Wales Environmental Strategy online (<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/envstratforwales/?lang=en>).
- The Invasive and non-native species strategy for Great Britain can be seen online: [www.nonnativespecies.org/documents/Invasive\\_NNS\\_Framework\\_Strategy\\_GB\\_E.pdf](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/documents/Invasive_NNS_Framework_Strategy_GB_E.pdf)
- WBP have aided NERC duty implementation by visiting Local Authorities and speaking to key officers.

Biodiversity funding mechanism is currently funding:

- the production of butterfly and farmland bird leaflets, meadows & lichens leaflets.
- a collaborative project with Welsh LRCs for mobilizing bird records (Spring 2009), and wildlife recording training days (April to October 2009). See SEWBRcC website for details of training days (when finalised) ([www.sewbrec.org.uk/](http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/)).

Glamorgan Recorders' Forum Meeting (Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009)

- a partnership project for mobilizing lichen records with the NBN, BRC, CCW and British Lichen Society.
- the supply of key identification guides for BSBI County Recorders.

Contact: Sean McHugh (WBP Communications Officer) [s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org](mailto:s.mchugh@welshwildlife.org)

Website: [www.biodiversitywales.org.uk](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk)

*The Chairman closed the event by thanking the SEWBRc team for organising the Forum. He congratulated the speakers on interesting and stimulating presentations, and finished by giving thanks to the attendees for coming.*

**NOTE:** Since this meeting, Peter Williams has indicated that he will be standing down as the event Chairman. We would like to thank Peter for all his support over the last three years, and wish him all the best for his retirement.

We therefore invite nominations, or volunteers for the position of Chair for the Glamorgan Recorders' Forum.

**Contact:** SEWBRc, 13 St Andrews Crescent, Cardiff, CF10 3DB.

Tel: 029 2064 1110 Fax: 029 2038 7354

Web: [www.sewbrec.org.uk](http://www.sewbrec.org.uk)

Email: [info@sewbrec.org.uk](mailto:info@sewbrec.org.uk)