

Ceredigion Local Nature Partnership Steering Group Meeting



Minutes

Date:	20/01/2026
Location:	Online-Teams

Present

Eryl Evans (Chair)	EE	County Councilor Llanybi , Ceredigion County Council
Jake Rayson	JR	Biodiversity Assistant, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Gillian Clark (Minutes)	GC	Coordinator, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Fiona Moran	FM	Biodiversity Assistant, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Chris Harris	CH	Biodiversity Assistant, Ceredigion Nature Partnership
Sarah Smyth (minutes)	SS	Interim Senior Ecologist, Ceredigion County Council
Alison Heal	AH	Former Senior Ecologist, Ceredigion County Council
Alun Williams	AW	County Councilor Aberystwyth, Ceredigion County Council
Jo Swannell	JS	Free lance Artist working on projects
Dafydd Lloyd	DL	National Forest Liaison Officer Mid Wales
Sean McHugh	SH	Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Carys May	CM	WWBIC
Paul Taylor	PT	County Recorder, Butterfly Conservation
Rebecca Wright	BW	Natural Resources Wales
Rachel Auckland	RA	Former LNP Co Ordinator
Chris Worker	CW	Retired WG Biodiversity Officer
Carol Feilding	CF	NRW- Team lead environmental
David Llewelynn	DLI	RSPB
Mel Walters	MW	Co Ordinator Carers and Community Development-early Intervention Ceredigion County Council

2	Introductions from attendees
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3	Notes of last meeting and matters arising
3.1	No matters arising from the previous meeting

4	Apologies
	Three apologies, Clare Hannigton, Tasha Riley, Tim Strang

5	Coordinators Update
5.1	<p>GC- Alison Heal left in October as Senior Ecologist, and Rachel Auckland sadly retired in November as the LNP Co Ordinator, they are both deeply missed.</p> <p>The LNP Co Ordinator post needed to be filled to meet the criteria of the grant funding, in order to meet the grant criteria, it was agreed to expediate filling the post by ending out an expression of interest to the wider ecology team. An interview was held in December and Gill was appointed the post until March 2027. After discussions with WCVA there is the opportunity to fund a part time service support officer to assist Gill. Discussions around this are on going as to the way forward.</p> <p>Gill was notified that WCVA approved the LPfN Application Friday 16th January.</p> <p>Chris, Jake and Fiona were allocated extra days within the funding to assist with additional works and to assist with the service support officer role</p> <p>The NRAP is being progressed, additional assistance may be required externally from a consultant to sort the formatting for the headers and footers to ensure they align in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>The LNP received numerous applications for projects from a funding pot of 100K. All the projects are expected to meet all the criteria and little or no underspend is expected. Progressing works for Nature prescriptions to support health and wellbeing to make meaningful connections with nature.</p> <p>LPfN project 2025-2027 “Nature on every doorstep” is running until March 2027. One of the main features of the project are the Wildlife towers. Plans have been purchased from the Barn Owl Trust for the tower design, the towers support multiple species including horseshoe bats, house sparrows, etc. Easy to tweak the design to include specific features including swift boxes. The proposal is to include pollinator beds planted nearby and potentially a pond if land is suitable. Cost of tower is from around £33k, can be less if use recycled materials.</p> <p>LPfN project also includes includes swift towers</p> <p>LPfN urban ponds project, Gill meeting with Cllr Elaine Evans who has an interest in urban ponds, to discuss where to locate the ponds and what is suitable for each location.</p> <p>Gill working on the update of Ceredigion County Council conservation team webpages, working in conjunction with Jake who is progressing the LNP website with partner pages.</p>

	<p>Your Wild Patch uptake has been slow; more events are happening in the next few weeks. Currently working on a mascot for the partnership.</p> <p>EE What is the character based on?</p> <p>GC May be something based on a Red Kite</p> <p>EE Want it to be noted thank you to RA and AH for all their work and the time they put into the LNP and associated projects.</p> <p>JS- Interested in how art can be used to communicate the vital issues of conservation. Specialist in mural art but also do smaller pictures. Have undertaken survey work in Costa Rica and other countries. Currently drawing a new red listed species, a day for January.</p> <p>JR- Looking to include a wide range of different people who are engaged in conservation to add to the website, they are each able to have a partner profile on the website</p> <p>JS- Done some illustration work for LNATRA for their green roof course. Different ways of drawing people into conservation, through art.</p> <p>JR- Book “Beautiful data” ways of engaging. Currently working with a Geography student doing loads of mapping work using quantitative data to map different relationships.</p> <p>JR-There are a number of set circular walks from the PROW team will pop the links into the chat.</p> <p>AH-Are we still Looking for illustrations for signage for the nature reserves</p> <p>GC- All of the pictures have been sorted for the signs, and the National Library have given the original tithe map. The signs are almost complete.</p>
Actions	N/A

6	Member Updates and Discussion
	<p>CH- Coed y Bont- first National Forest for Wales, won several awards. Been busy putting up bird boxes, picnic benches and purchasing an extendable saw. First aid courses have undertaken by the volunteers. Currently sorting paths and bridges made out of sleepers. Two of the ponds are being raked to remove weed to improve them for frogs spawning. The application for the management agreement has put in with NRW. Management plan has been updated.</p> <p>CH-Red Squirrel work and pine Martin work on hold after being off ill for a couple of months in November and December.</p> <p>PT-Thank you to the biodiversity team for the funding for the brown hairstreak egg surveys. Currently checking around Cardigan and Pembrokeshire, numbers are significantly up. Wednesday 11th February, planting buckthorn plants on Pendinas, with ACV, to attract brimstone, thank you to Chris. Set up a new butterfly page on Facebook, Would like to meet the new Tree officer when he starts.</p> <p>EE Are there any Cllrs who would like to assist with the work on Pendinas</p> <p>CM- Your wild patch- weekly sessions in the county, 44 attendees so far, low in terms of event. Some events have been focussed on active groups rather than open sessions. There is a session in Furnace tomorrow. Contacting community councils to share the posters. If anyone is interested or know of any group’s please share the details with carys@westwalesbiodiversity.org.uk</p> <p>EE shared the information for the event tomorrow</p> <p>DL-Two main updates: Funding- hopefully future rounds of the landscape scheme grant will be released after the election. Think now for any ideas in readiness for the release of funding. Looking likely to launch the first section of the National forest trail in the south</p>

central this is currently in final stages of development. There will be sections within each county. If anyone has any local knowledge please share, great woodland walks etc. Email DL.

FM-Wales Nature Week 4th to 12th July. Promoted events throughout the year. Link up with social media. <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en/events/wales-nature-week/>
Refresh of the National NRAP scheduled at the 4th march, happy to help out with the document and release and then do a light touch afterwards.

AW-PNP volunteer workday tomorrow to clear gorse, funded by Aberystwyth town council. Trunk Road agency are replacing missing trees in North Road Parade.

AH-taking part in WWBIC record a species a day in January. Started to restore a 2 acres woodland, looking into fungi.

RA- Limited in activity due to disability but reading newsletters, and looking at online research etc. Unison have declared 2026 as a year of green activity

RW-brief update in the chat from Carol Fielding

FM- Project with Jane Roche- Catch of the day- project to look at sustainable fishing and the environment. First event in the February half term. stalls available, contact Fiona Catch of the Day- see attached letter

FM- If self employed there is funding available if anyone would like to do an activity get in touch.

CM-Apologies for the delay in joining. Holding more forest sessions in Taliesin.

GC- Had asked for the County Bird recorder to join us in April, not confident with public speaking, going to approach to see if they can put together a presentation.

EE- Will the RSPB Big Count be affected by the wet weather that we've been having lately.

CF-Sustainable farming scheme- NRW's role to assist in preparing a designated site management scheme for the farm where part of the holding is on a SSSI. New SSSI designation near Tregaron. Continue to deal with local incidences, slurry leaks and damage to SSSI's. Lots of practical management on SSSIs funded by WG Nature Networks scheme.

EE- What is the role of NRW in managing a SSSI- Comin Silian as an example-

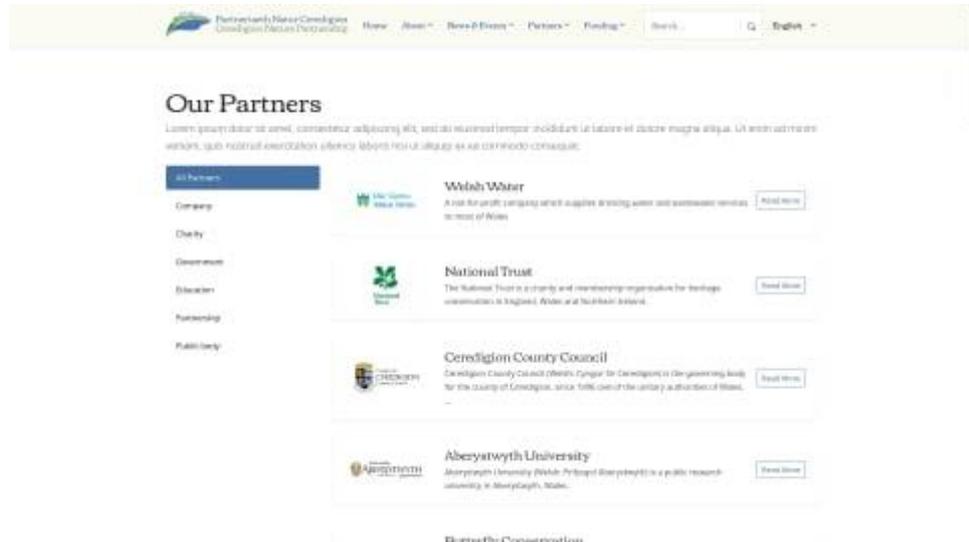
CF-Where the SSSI is on common land there are issues with undertaking works as multiple stakeholders. Rivers for life team sorting INNS on the riparian boundary at Comin Silian, need to get everyone who has an interest in the site together to discuss the management plan and how that can be taken forward.

ACTIONS

N/A

- Social media flyers - for visual impact
- Posters - for ad hoc partnering events
- Newsletter - lead story & more images! Tie in to Partnership style with flyers, posters & website, incorporating Stori Wylt graphics

5. Partners website



- Profile



- [Your Wild Patch](#) - on each partner page

- [Partner map](#) - (using [OpenStreetMap](#) & [uMap](#)) - outline & basic details for each partner site (eventually!)

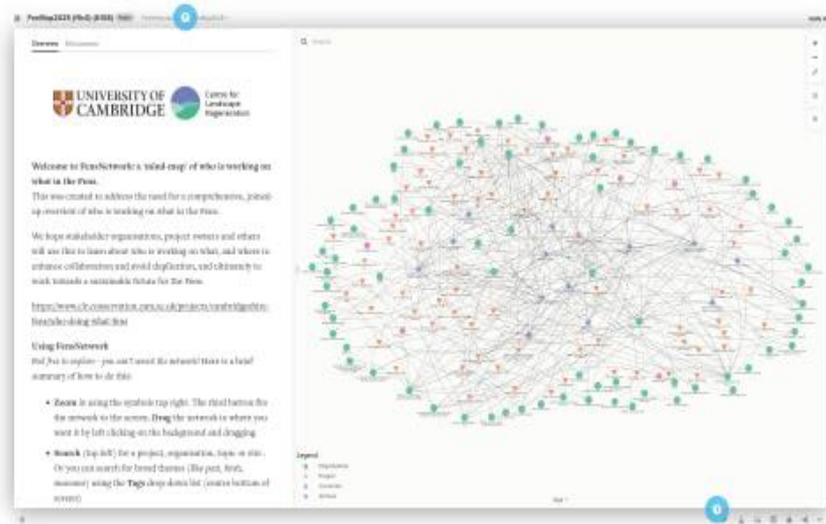


- *QRFPP* - QR code on Fixed Point Photography posts, visitor engagement, up-to-date site image & potentially useful ecological info



- *Projects* also listed on Partner profile page, so can see who is doing what and where eg
 - [Butterfly Conservation]() [Wild Spaces](#)
 - RSPB [Big Garden Birdwatch...](#)
- *Relationships* - potential to map relationships, so can see who is connected to who, and which project, and where. Is this information useful? How can it be mapped? eg [Fenland partnership](#)

Sam



Small grant scheme projects

- Swift Tower
- Learning Nature Garden
- Accessible biodiversity and nature connection area
- Vertical Garden
- Wildlife Forest Garden
- Community Nature Garden
- Trees, shrubs, bird boxes, bug hotels and seating for residents
- 2 camera traps, a field tablet and a GPS unit
- Wildlife Learning Path
- Orchard and replacement trees
- Church Hall Garden
- Bird boxes and misc. workshop items

CH-9-10 reserves and wildlife sites.

Pendinas LNR and Tanybwllch beach- working with different agencies, including the fire brigade. Fire brigade have been putting in fire breaks before Christmas meeting again early February to discuss. Cutting vegetation on site October work undertaken, further works planned for early spring to include cutting the vegetation at zig zags in early Feb to enable planting of buckthorn with Paul Taylor. Tanybwllch gate and entrance to the donkey fields, works to be undertaken on the gates.

PNP- working with PNP support group and ACV to do some gorse clearance. Want to thank PNP support group for all of their hard work. Hopefully have arranged to get the robomower on the main paths in PNP to clear beginning of March. Some buddleia clearance works have been undertaken near quarry.

Llwyn yr Eros nature reserve, working with Fiona with to use National forest funding, for the repair of play equipment. Installing gates and posts and hoping to putting them on the opposite side. Looking to clean the stream between Llwyn Yr eros to prevent flooding. Have had a discussion with Victoria at Penparcau hwb to discuss how to disseminate information re fly tipping to try and control the amount of garden waste being dumped at Llwyn yr Eros site.

Coed y Cwm- working with national; forest funding, to make good storm damage from Storm Darragh. INNS removal works have been scheduled for early spring.

Geufron- in Aberystwyth- brush cutting works arranged.

Parc y Llyn- INNS an issue, working with Gill to try and get some more funding, a lot of work planned and undertaken previously with ACV to do Himalayan Balsam removal and hammock repair.

Cenarth-Beech trees removed to make the area safe.

Llanina- lots of work carried out last year, fitted Otter holts and bird boxes. Damage to height restrictor bar needs to be repaired. Agreement finishes end of March decision as to whether to continue need to be made.

Cefn Garsi- works needed at site to include- recording of slow worms and vegetation cutting.

Maes y Pwll- New Quay- works done to restore the site, vegetation cutting required this year.

Chris is the Environmental and Green officer for Unison, will be working with the union to see what can be done this year.

AW-Pendinas and TanyBwlch LNR – aware of the sink holes on site. The whole spit is being eroded.

SS Highways dealing with this issue

FM-Working with the projects on the small grants scheme to ensure they complete in time. Working with the National Forst grant scheme. Working with secondary school children to look at making something from wood sourced from woodlands. The funding is until March 2027.

GC-Next quarterly meeting in April -Planning a trip round Bird Rock in New Quay in April, work is still to be completed as the contractor has been off ill. The trip will require pre-booking.

CW- won't be here for the rest of the meeting, has to leave.

LPfN Funding.

Capital	Flexi Capital	TOTAL CAP	LPfN Rev	Bio Rev	TOTAL ALLOCATION £	
154,749.96	33,160.71	187,910.67	66,000.00	48,000.00	301,910.67	25-26
154,749.96	33,160.71	187,910.67	66,000.00	48,000.00	301,910.67	26-27
309,499.92	66,321.42	375,821.34	132,000.00	96,000.00		

Actions

N/A

8	Chris Romanina Conference Report Q & A
	<p>CM- What are the initiatives discussed at the conference that you considered to be groundbreaking?</p> <p>CH- Foraging within the forest to gather resources including Honey and berries by local residents, these were then made into jams and honey by local businesses and sold to various organisations and distributed in food hubs. Making products from woodlands]</p> <p>CM- looking at different ways in how you can engage people in looking at habitats in different ways. Using food stuff produced from woodland to engage people.</p> <p>CH- common to see people foraging in the eastern European forests to sell on the roadside.</p> <p>AH- National Forst schemes only focussed on wood, I raised the issue that forests could be used for food. Worried that any excessive foraging could be an issue</p> <p>DL- Mainly NRW forests focussed on which are commercial woodlands. There are some great productive sites Cardigan Forest garden and other food production sites. Would like every type of woodland there is to be part of the national forest. Orchard areas if part of a wider woodland context can be included. Lots of different sites that are commercial sites. Where wind turbines going in, ensuring that the land purchase to offset will involve more native planting. Main crops Sitka spruce being affected by phytophthora ramorum.</p> <p>RA-European rangers' network, lovely to hear of the number of different nations and the work being undertaken, how is it managed in terms of languages, were there any communication barriers. Within the list of attendees was Australia, which is not in Europe.</p> <p>CH- Australia I part of the Thin green line body of organisations that supports rangers that work in wildlife roles. Chairperson of the association is Australian, so they attended the meeting</p> <p>Most people who attended the conference spoke English, main conference in Romanian and English. Number of delegates either understood one or the other languages,</p> <p>RA- Were there any cultural barriers, working in a bi-lingual context, some of the culture doesn't cross over as its embedded in the language. Understanding of the language enables an understanding of the culture, are concepts transferable. Important to preserve the specific cultural knowledge which is embedded in the language.</p> <p>CH No obvious issues with barriers to networking, east European closely tied to the Celtic culture.</p> <p>FM- Foraging and fruit, there is a project where a landowner would like to plant fruit trees in his hedgerow. Also the Llasi y Goedwig project looking at community woodland to fund their projects eg birch syrup.</p> <p>CH- Goods from the woods project.</p> <p>AH- Horeb food centre may have an interest in joining up with that type of project</p> <p>DL-Balkans route, noted that over the past 4-5 years, villages transformed from sheep farming to tourism. How can you manage the rapid transitions for communities. How we understand transitions will help with regards to the national Forest project. When the project expands the land into more leisure-based areas. Are there any implications for long term as transition to tourism focussed from land based industries.</p>

	<p>CH- Lots of transitions moving into green tourism from traditional farming. Looking at reintroducing wild species into areas which can cause issues. Importance for green tourism.</p> <p>JR- ties in with a lot of work incorporating local communities and the production of food. Making an economic link with the environment and how it ties in with the community</p> <p>CM- Textile cultures, I have a couple of contacts in Ceredigion that use traditional textiles dyeing technique and other sustainable techniques.</p>
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David Llwywelyn RSPB	
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GC Working with Age Concern creating a booklet which will be shared going out to hospitals

DLI Cardiff, Wrexham, Newport, Cardiff develop a little booklet provide a nature prescription booklet to encourage people to go out to nature to benefit health and wellbeing

[RSPB Nature Prescriptions](#)

Miles Richardsons work at Uni of Derby [Finding Nature | Nature Connectedness Research Blog by Prof. Miles Richardson](#)



Activities for each month set out in the booklet. Includes QR codes for more information on nature. Information on how to help nature. Information on places to visit and how to get there. Also includes local wellbeing support information. Activity sheets can be downloaded from the booklet.

Offer to work with us in Ceredigion, could do a south and north booklet, work with the RSPB.

Q&A:

EE- being out in nature brings benefits.

JR- Doing a lot of work on the website, be an ideal place to promote the booklet.

DLI- Try to encourage people to have a physical booklet, but also will work to make it a virtual booklet as well, happy to work with CCC for a co design workshop.

CH-Nature reserves should be included in the booklet.

DLI- Work with Ceredigion staff to select the locations and imagery for the sites to be included.

RA-Connections with health and wellbeing partnerships, worked with elderly and disabled people in care homes. Hoping to connect in with carers and housebound people. Printed product would be familiar and recognisable for older or disabled people. Costs of printing will that be something that will be able to be assisted with funded. Carers very busy, so difficult to get the support for residents

DLI- In terms of printing a sufficient budget could pay for up to about 1000 booklets and for meetings.

Easy read version developed and similarly an indoor version being developed. Make sure work with carers and people in care homes. Also working to support people with dementia, leave in line on padlet so people who can't be at meetings they can contribute. The approach is a partnership approach, and everyone contributes equally.

GC-Budgeted for an additional print run, basic poster can be printed to show that the booklet is available.

DLI- Produce film as well. Quite difficult to get into the health sector, work as part of a team, co production project that links sectors, barriers between sectors need to be broken down. In Newport working with community connectors to work with different sectors.

DLI- Next stage, meet on teams to plan to take this project forward

GC-If Mel is happy to start with the community locations. Is there a timeline that we can work to

DLI- Arrange a meeting to arrange a timeline that works for everyone.

Dates for future meetings

21st April New Quay

21st July TBC

1st October TBC

19th Jan 27 TBC