



Gwnaed yn bosibl gan

**Cronfa
Treftadaeth**

Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

Natur am Byth!

Adfer rhywogaethau dan
fygythiad yng Nghymru
Saving Wales'
threatened species

**Programme
Briefing
Delivery Phase**

a gefnogir gan / supported by



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cynllun Cymunedau y Dreth Gwarediadau Tirlenwi

**WcVA
CGGC**



Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme



**Esmée
Fairbairn**
FOUNDATION



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

the Natur am Byth partnership



Summary

The impetus to act

Natur am Byth is Wales' flagship species recovery programme uniting nine environmental NGOs with NRW in the largest ever partnership of its kind in Wales. Both the people and nature of Wales are facing unprecedented crises; giving a unique opportunity to aid recovery with innovative, transformative solutions.

With a little over half of plants and animals remaining and 17% of species in Wales threatened with extinction, Wales is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. In recognition of this severe biodiversity loss the Senedd declared a 'nature emergency' in Wales in 2021.

At the same time the people of Wales are themselves living in **unprecedented times** following the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis. Businesses, communities, and individuals are under incredible stress touching every part of Welsh society, but unequally.

With the ground-breaking legislative drivers of the Well Being of Future Generations Act and Environment Act (Wales) we have an opportunity in Wales to harness the powerful benefit of nature connectedness to people's lives. Natur am Byth will unite targeted interventions for species facing the greatest threat of extinction with focused support for people who can benefit most from engaging with natural heritage.

The partnership

Natur am Byth is a legally constituted collaboration co-ordinated by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in partnership with Amphibian & Reptile Conservation; Bat Conservation Trust; Buglife; Bumblebee Conservation Trust; Butterfly Conservation; Plantlife; Marine Conservation Society; RSPB Cymru; and Vincent Wildlife Trust.

Taking the first steps towards recovery

We have set out an ambitious but vital **20-year vision** to guide our work as a partnership. Learning from the success of Back from the Brink in England, our partnership in Wales is an exciting step on a journey to mobilise public support, intervene for species on the edge of survival, test solutions and strengthen the Welsh environment sector.

We are clearer than ever that we must join forces to act now and that Natur Am Byth is the catalyst we need to kick-start species recovery. We designed our four programme stands to ensure that people of Wales – and the colleagues, volunteers, and future supporters of our partnership organisations – are central to our mission.

Starting in summer 2023 the 4-year delivery phase of Natur am Byth will be the next step towards our vision of a Wales where people and wildlife flourish together in recovering habitats.

We will:

- Empower communities across Welsh society to record, care for and improve their neighborhoods and green/blue spaces – targeting deprived communities and those hyperlocal to heritage at risk
- Unite all walks of life to feel belonging and benefit from nature; targeting low well-being and diverse lesser-seen audiences to creatively tell the stories of our most precious wildlife
- Halt the extinction of 42 species in Wales and reverse the decline of a further 25 species, restoring the natural heritage these depend on
- Unite businesses, landowners, and communities to embed sustainable management of habitats
- Bolster local economy through sustainable farming, leisure, marine fisheries, and greater employability
- Improve environment and land management sector resilience to make a bigger difference for species as part of healthy ecosystems

Our heritage will be better recorded, understood and rare species celebrated as part of resilient ecosystems.

A people-centred solution

We know our natural environment is under significant pressures and threats, not least the climate emergency. The actions of individuals, businesses and entire sectors can have a negative effect on nature. It is therefore **business critical** that strong and targeted **people engagement** is intrinsic to any solution that works to reverse this decline for some of our most endangered species. Furthermore, Wales' world leading legal framework provides an **ideal platform** from which we can contribute towards a **fundamental shift** in the relationship that residents, businesses, landowners, and Government have with nature and the essential role it plays in our future well-being.

For the first time in Wales, Natur Am Byth brings together a partnership of nine leading conservation organisations with Natural Resources Wales to create a joined-up solution which will act for both species and people.

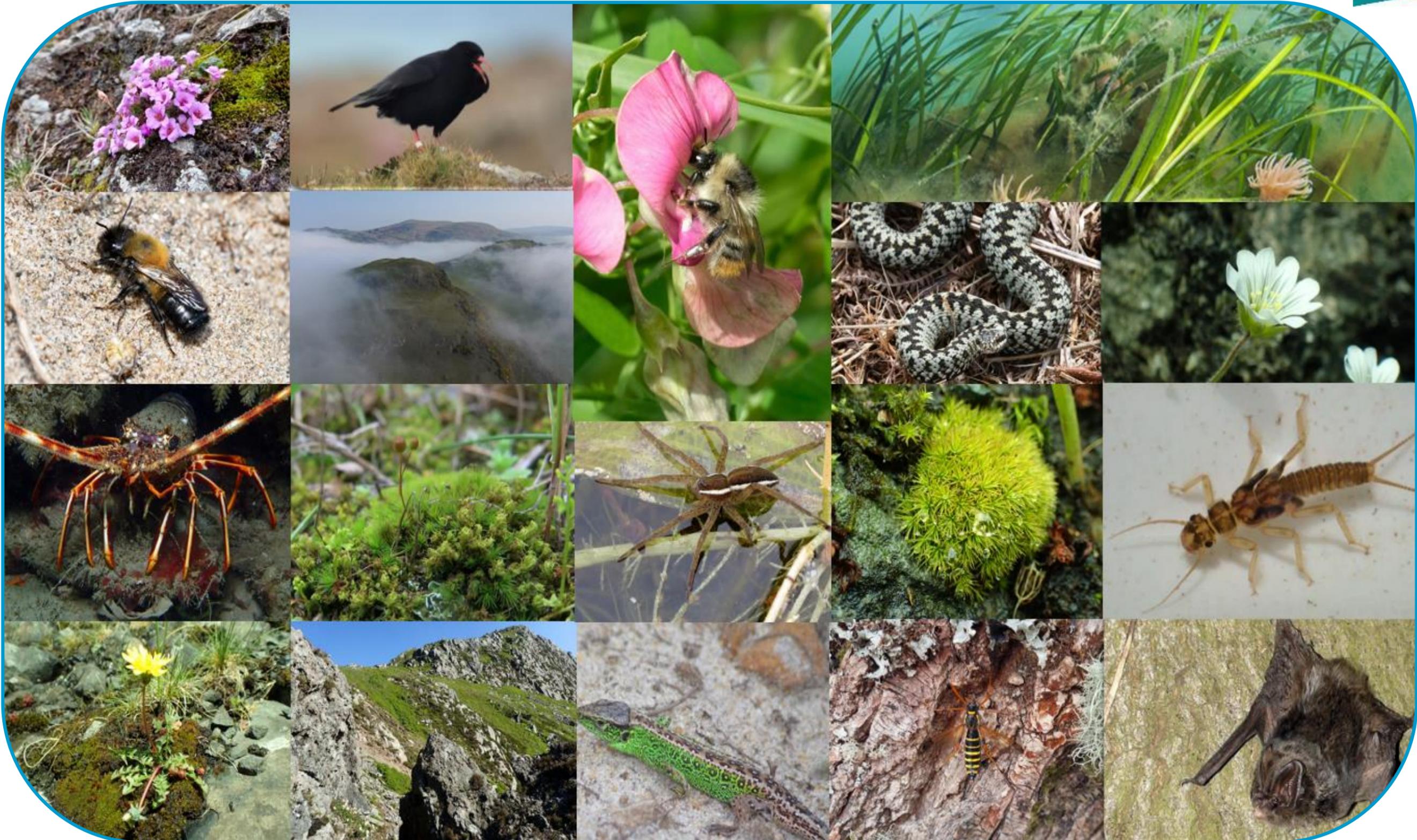
Our most endangered species have the incredible potential to inspire our nation, foster pride within communities about the special plants, fungi, lichens, and animals on their doorstep and bring them together as guardians for the natural heritage around them.

We want to channel the uniqueness of **Welsh history, arts, language, and culture** to create an inclusive offer for people of all walks of life, ages, backgrounds, and experience across our diverse country.

This dynamic approach will especially target: -

- Those **living closest** to our most vulnerable species especially those **most severely affected by COVID-19**. A place-based approach will help us to realise the potential for these 'hyperlocal' communities to help be species guardians and drive grass-roots action in their communities
- Those with **most efficacy to affect these species**, for example, landowners, community groups, policy makers and businesses, whilst bringing inspiration to people across Wales.

We know that by working together the power of our partnership will drive **resilience across the Welsh environment sector**, save species from extinction in Wales and support healthier communities that are committed to protect and cherish their natural heritage. If we don't act now, who will?



Natur am Byth target species and associated habitats. Images credits to Plantlife, NRW, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Robbie Blackhall-Miles, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Marine Conservation Society, RSPB, Bumblebee Conservation Trust (Sinead Lynch).

Programme Architecture

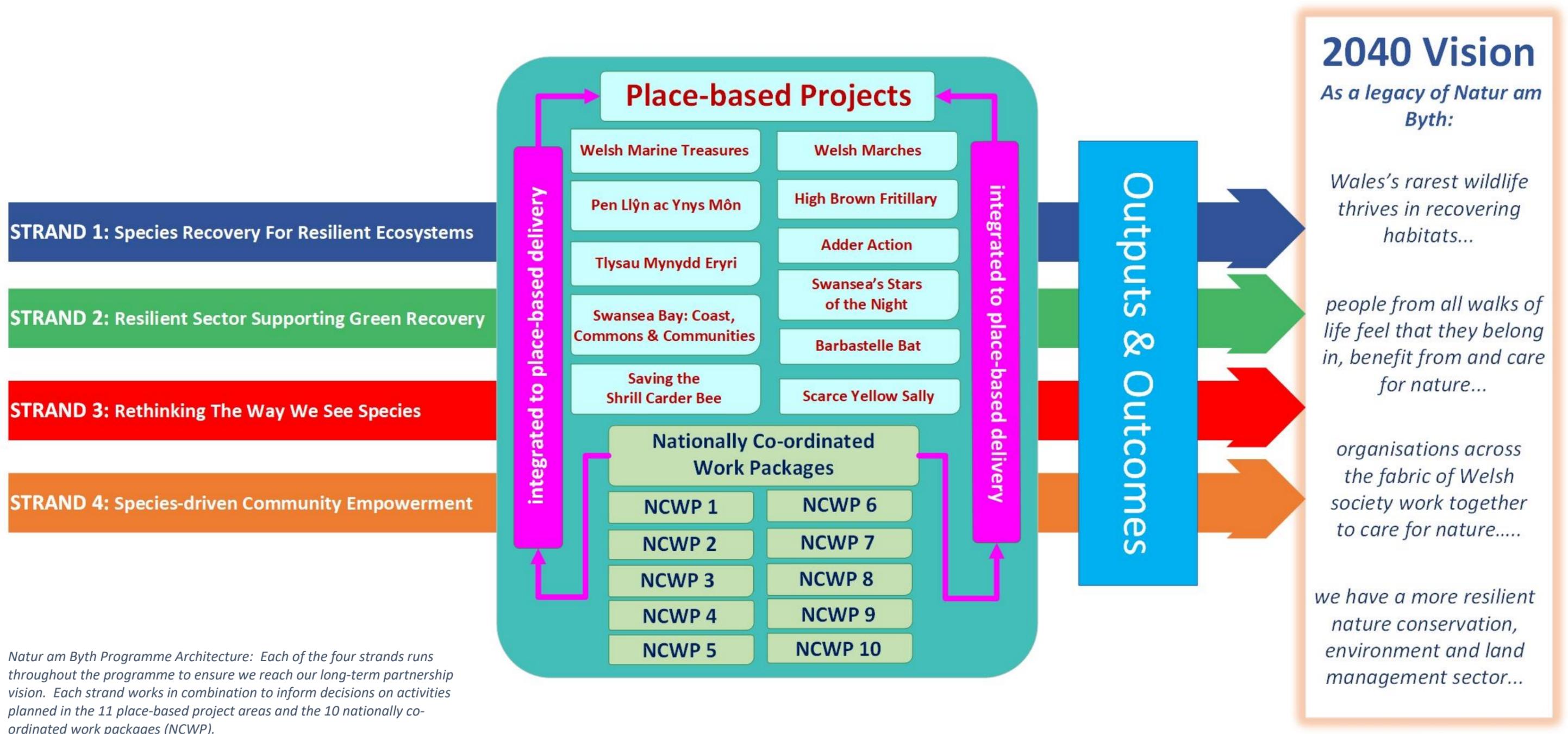
The Natur am Byth programme is divided into four strands that flow through national and place-based engagement activities. There are 11 place-based projects where most of the delivery takes place, and 10 Nationally Co-ordinated Work Packages (NCWP) that are centrally managed by the programme team performing nationally and locally, with some project devolved elements.

Strands are as follows:

- Strand 1: Species Recovery for Resilient Eco-systems**
- Strand 2: Resilient Sector Supporting Green Recovery**
- Strand 3: Re-thinking the Way We See Species**
- Strand 4: Species-driven Community Empowerment**

The entire programme is underpinned by the **Governance and Programme Management**, **Impact Measurement Framework** and the **Fundraising Strategy**.

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|---------|--|
| NCWP 1 | Governance & Programme Management |
| NCWP 2 | Species Recovery Reporting for Wales |
| NCWP 3 | Arts Engagement Programme |
| NCWP 4 | Impact Measurement & Legacy Planning |
| NCWP 5 | Community Support Scheme |
| NCWP 6 | Communications & Advocacy Strategy |
| NCWP 7 | Conferences, Exhibitions & Learning Events |
| NCWP 8 | Training and Placements Scheme |
| NCWP 9 | Conservation Grazing Implementation |
| NCWP 10 | Fundraising |



Natur am Byth Programme Architecture: Each of the four strands runs throughout the programme to ensure we reach our long-term partnership vision. Each strand works in combination to inform decisions on activities planned in the 11 place-based project areas and the 10 nationally co-ordinated work packages (NCWP).

Place-based project delivery

Over 75% of programme activity will be delivered at the place-level. This means that most of the budget on community engagement and all of our capital works take place within the 11 project boundaries. This activity plan is fundamentally tied with our accompanying project plans. Each sets out the planned activities under the custodian of the lead partner and explains our development phase consultation findings, target audiences, target species, outputs, measurable benefits, outcomes, and impact measures.

The partnership programme board took an early decision in the stage 1 application development phase to concentrate effort around place-based delivery, as informed by the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Environment Act (Wales). Nationally co-ordinated work packages such as communications and our Arts Engagement Programme will build on celebrating place-based delivery whilst also reaching national (and international) audiences.

Creating each project plan

To inform the stage one application we undertook **cluster analysis** of threatened species combined with place-based opportunity mapping and **local consultation** to identify project areas where integrated action can offer multi-taxa benefits for species and the communities that live close to them.

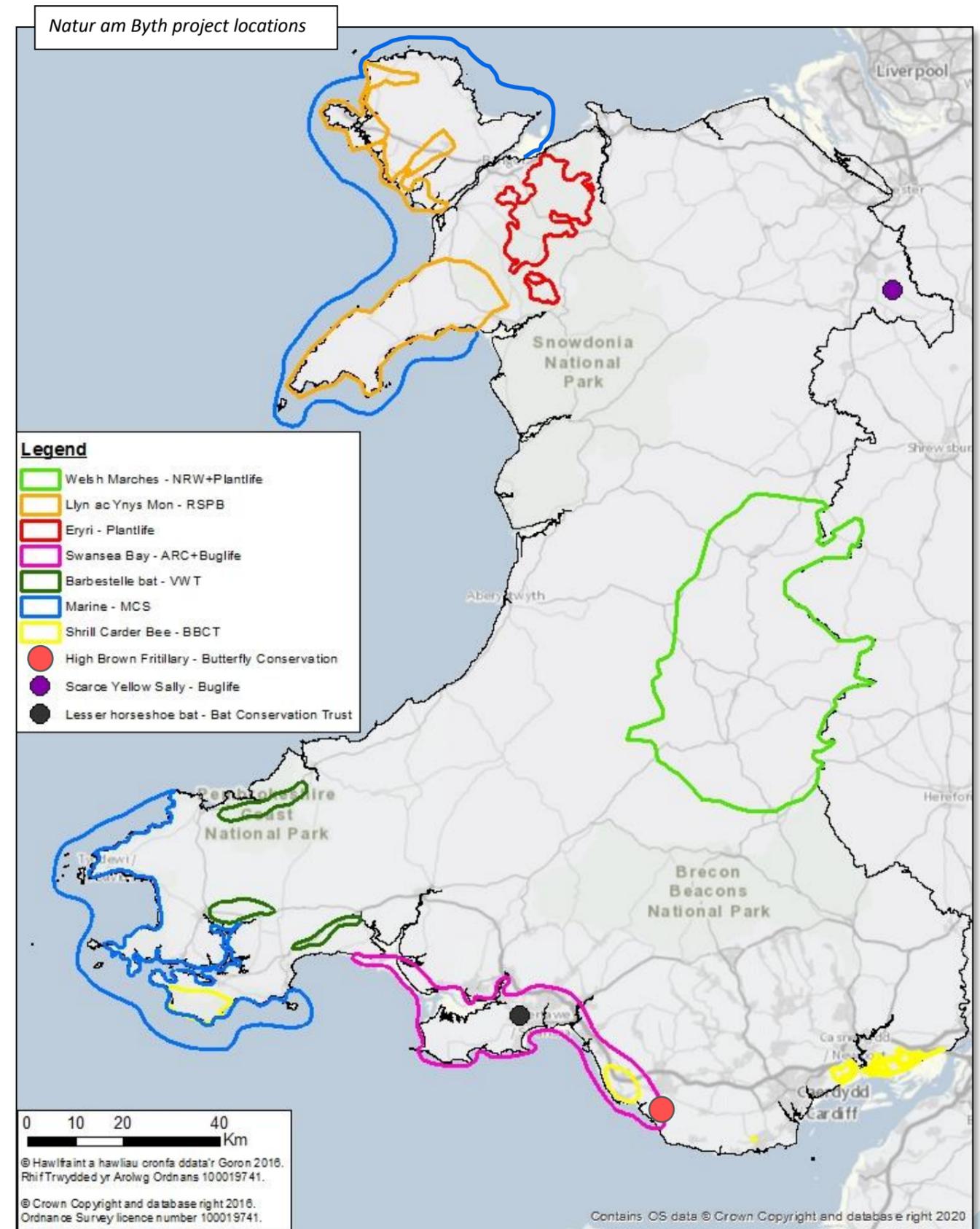
Species targeted by the project are important for a range of reasons:

- They are recognised as Wales' most threatened on the Environment (Wales) Act section 7 list of species of principal importance.
- They hold intrinsic and cultural value as Wales' native wildlife and are fundamental to the complexity and health of their respective ecosystems, underpinning valuable goods and services for society (such as pollination services in crop production).
- Wales has a special responsibility for many of them, due to their limited global distribution and/or the important populations the nation supports, highlighting Wales' contribution to global biodiversity.
- The land and seascapes benefiting from the direct conservation actions planned are of aesthetic value to people who reside in and visit them and provide opportunities to improve well-being and social cohesion through participation in outdoor activities and volunteering. Ultimately, their productivity contributes to a better economy and healthier population.

In the development phase we undertook further public consultation and ecological surveys resulting in 67 vulnerable and threatened species identified as targets for Natur am Byth, of which 42 are at risk of extinction in Wales unless action is taken now.

The component projects are spread across a wide geographic area incorporating a **diverse range of communities**, habitats, and landscapes – including remote areas where people retain a close connection with their natural heritage. This varies from the coastal dunes and cliff systems of Pembrokeshire, urban edge of Swansea, Cardiff, and Newport; the mountain peaks of Eryri; grassland, fens and lowland heaths of Pen Llŷn and Ynys Môn, to the wooded and rocky outcrops of the border country. Critical to our project is the inclusion of the most biodiverse marine areas in Wales off the coast of Pembrokeshire, Pen Llŷn and Ynys Môn.

Five of these projects are termed 'multi-taxa', meaning that in a specific area we have selected a range of species spanning across taxonomic groups (e.g., plants to invertebrates) based upon a shared challenge or opportunity. The other six projects are termed 'single species projects'. These were selected based upon an urgent need to address the survival of a particularly vulnerable species in Wales. Some of our single species' projects span multiple locations to reflect the distribution of that target species (e.g., shrill carder bee).



Project summaries

Our 11 projects that will target these species are:

- 1. Swansea Bay Coast, Commons & Communities (Buglife & ARC):** in Gower and the urban communities of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot we will work with lesser seen audiences on 13 rare species on their doorstep to enable participation in recovery – both for people and nature.
 - 2. Tlysau Mynydd Eryri (Plantlife):** the birthplace of modern botany, the slopes, and crags of Eryri are a haven for exceptionally rare arctic alpine plants and invertebrates – we will work with volunteers, mountain guides and botanic gardens to revive 11 species on the edge of existence.
 - 3. Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn (RSPB Cymru):** a peninsula and an island supporting a stunning suite of habitats – we'll build on strong existing networks of heritage groups to bring partners together on fine-scale adaptive management for 17 endangered species.
 - 4. Welsh Marine Treasures (MCS):** 60% of people in Wales live or work on the coast, providing Natur am Byth with a superb engagement opportunity to involve communities in the progressive management and behaviour change required to save three threatened marine species – seagrass, pink sea fan and native oyster.
 - 5. Welsh Marches (NRW & Plantlife):** our Welsh borders host some of the rarest lichens and mosses on the edge of Europe. We'll work with farmers, policy makers, planners, and the local community to raise awareness of threats of airborne pollution from agriculture and demonstrate practical ways to improve resilience.
- A further six projects that are 'single species' focused, either targeting critically threatened isolated populations, or trialling novel management approaches to halt decline.
- 6. Saving the Shrill Carder Bee in Wales (Bumblebee Conservation Trust):** with a south Wales stronghold in the UK (Wales has 3 of only 5 remaining populations), we'll target three shrill carder bee population centres in Newport/Cardiff, Bridgend, and Pembrokeshire to train landowners and volunteers to manage and monitor in the long term.
 - 7. Swansea Bay Stars of the Night (Bat Conservation Trust):** Wales holds 61% of the UK Lesser Horseshoe Bat population. We'll use citizen science to understand how the species' follow unlit corridors, so we can address and mitigate the effects of urban light spill in Swansea on this species.
 - 8. Barbastelle Bat Project (Vincent Wildlife Trust):** one of the UK's rarest bats, we'll reconnect isolated populations between north and south Pembrokeshire with habitat corridor mapping, mobilising volunteer recorders and building a network of woodland owners.
 - 9. Scarce Yellow Sally (Buglife):** the river Dee near Wrexham hosts the only known UK population of this startling large yellow stonefly. Innovative surveys, community engagement and synergy with river restoration will save this species from UK extinction.
 - 10. Adder Action (ARC):** the UK's only venomous snake is sharply declining across Europe. We'll train volunteers to collect DNA samples from shed skins, working with Bangor University on a paid training placement to assess genetic fitness and distribution of the species.
 - 11. High Brown Fritillary (Butterfly Conservation):** the UK's most threatened butterfly with a single colony left in Wales. We will open up areas of woodland to increase optimal habitat and upskill community members to monitor and manage habitat for the long term.



Purple Saxifrage. Cwm Idwal © Plantlife

Nationally Coordinated Work Packages

Natur am Byth has ten Nationally Co-ordinated Work Packages (NCWP), which have been designed to perform across our four programme strands on a project, and national scale. Developed with the support of expert partners, this programme wide approach will ensure that we are inspiring and empowering people from all walks of life. A full description of each package is listed in Appendix 6. The following table provides a summary and heat score on the reliance on place-based delivery across the 10 packages.

NCWP 1 – Governance and Programme Management

Programme governance is managed through the Programme Board and Steering Group with the support of the central programme team on operational management. The Steering Group is responsible for delivery of the work programme, in accordance with directions from the Programme Board and NLHF.

The Natur am Byth programme is composed of 5 integrated multi-taxa projects and 6 single species projects, with multiple nationally co-ordinated work packages – it is essential that elements are not delivered in isolation.

Place-based projects are led by a core partner with delegated responsibility for operational delivery and reporting. It is the responsibility of nominated leads from each partner to administer each project, and where appropriate create a project delivery group (PDG) with an appropriate membership to support this process. The responsibilities of the project lead include reporting updates to the central programme management team and steering group.

There are a number of advisory groups and working groups that are responsible for oversight of delivery, providing support to the overarching programme outputs or providing a support network and knowledge exchange for Natur am Byth project staff and permanent staff members. These include the engagement and inclusion advisory group (EIAG) and practitioner’s liaison group (project development officers). Please refer to appendix 1.4 for the governance organogram.



Kenfig nature reserve © Cass Crocker

NCWP 2 – Species Recovery Reporting for Wales

Encompassing key learning from Back from the Brink in England, the Natur am Byth (BftB) programme commissioned Footprint Ecology to work with the partners on designing a species recovery framework to report impact of delivery phase activity on target species. This method is informed by the species recovery steps and is a key component of the programme Impact Measurement Framework (IMF).

Natur am Byth partners are focused on building on the legacy of our sister programme Back from the Brink in delivering a multi-taxa approach to conservation delivery and species recovery monitoring.

To ensure that Natur am Byth will be a valuable platform to trail a new approach to measuring species recovery in Wales, we worked with Welsh Government civil servants and species technical leads from across NRW and the Natur am Byth partners to investigate the applicability of the species recovery assessment approach. The delivery phase will be an important step in monitoring the use of the approach and will form part of our mid-term evaluation with measurable benefits linked to applicability of the method for reporting section 7 species recovery.

NCWP 3 – Arts Engagement Project

The aim of this commission is to deliver against strand two of the Natur am Byth programme – ‘Re-thinking the way we see species’:

We will commission up to ten associate artists to work with communities at a place-based level. A creative lead procured early in the delivery phase will be responsible for curating the programme, working closely with individual project partners and community stakeholders to co-produce inclusive, site-specific project activity. Project activities will explore Natur am Byth’s target species in relation to nature connectivity and well-being.

The Arts Engagement project will develop a holistic narrative around the ambitions of the whole programme through an exhibition supported by digital communications. Outputs and learning will be shared, through a joint conversation with delivery partners Arts Council of Wales and Public Health Wales (PHW) about well-being.

Our outputs include: -

- ✓ A series of up to ten of co-produced, place-based projects to enhance emotional connection to Natur am Byth’s elusive and vulnerable species, whilst also increasing nature connectivity for the improvement of well-being
- ✓ Collation of the outputs from our place-based activities into an exhibition with the potential to tour / be distributed digitally
- ✓ A national conversation exploring the correlation between nature, arts, and well-being. This will be underpinned by Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) evaluation measures
- ✓ Cross-sector learning and dissemination

Spotlight: learning from Back from the Brink

A key conclusion from the project was that rather than recommending particular measures or approaches, it would be useful to develop a framework to help practitioners decide how best to describe species status and outcomes. Footprint Ecology worked with BftB on a review of available species recovery method. Their recommendation on a ‘species recovery assessment’ was implemented under contract with Natur am Byth in our development phase.

The ‘spider graph’ approach to visualising the steps is a more suitable approach than a linear species recovery curve, as it enables progress to be shown on a number of axes.



In delivering against the 'Re-thinking the way we see species' strand, this project will:

- Engage communities with the species that are under threat
- Help individuals rethink the way that they see species
- Connect people to nature to benefit health and well-being
- Promote inclusion, diversity, and the Welsh language
- Showcase the work of Natur am Byth on a national platform
- Create a legacy for the Natur am Byth programme.

NCWP 4 – Impact Measurement and Legacy Plan

The partnership with support from an engagement planner and consultant on monitoring and evaluation have created an impact measurement framework (IMF). This document guides how we will understand what difference the Natur am Byth project has made. Plans for monitoring and evaluation are outlined within this Framework, including evaluation management, governance, systems, and processes. The IMF also summarises legacy plans for the eleven place-based projects and nationally co-ordinated work packages.

It is of vital importance that the Natur am Byth partners, supported by an External Evaluator in the delivery phase, ensure evaluation and monitoring is safe, legal, fair, and valid. See Appendix 4.4 for details of principles for this.

The IMF includes all monitoring and evaluation of the programme across the different staff and contractors, stakeholders, strands, projects, and their associated target species.

Monitoring and evaluating Natur Am Byth will have many benefits. It will:

- ✓ Ensure quality of delivery and programme against its outputs
- ✓ Understand the impacts and beneficiaries of the project
- ✓ Help **meet funder requirements** and provide evidence to funders
- ✓ Determine if the project's aims, objectives, and outcomes are being or have been met
- ✓ Enable us to **understand those currently engaged** and **those new to species conservation** better (being more user-focused) and improve the activities we offer them
- ✓ Identify **strengths** and **weaknesses** (and where resources should be directed in future)
- ✓ As a **professional development** tool and for **action learning**
- ✓ Ensure that **learning is shared and acted upon** within the partner organisations and through future partnership working
- ✓ Define the quality of what is done and can **highlight unexpected outcomes** and seemingly 'intangible' outcomes
- ✓ **Anticipate problems** that can be resolved early on
- ✓ Strengthen accountability and **motivate staff** and users
- ✓ **Demonstrate to funders** the impact of the partnership of species conservation organisations and NRW
- ✓ Help inform the **legacy**
- ✓ Be a tool for **evidence-based advocacy** and **leverage of funding** and support.

NCWP 5 – Community Support Scheme

Low value procurement scheme (£1k - £5k) administered nationally, but with place-based criteria agreed to ensure that target audiences / communities are in receipt of the funding. £75k total budget, including administration costs.

A very important mechanism to deliver support for target communities, e.g., small scale groups who need support for equipment to access nature, or local leaders who need support to encourage more people to access green space. The budget will be administered nationally, with an agreed apportionment per place-based project. Projects leads will design the place-based criteria.

NCWP 6 – Communications and Advocacy Strategy

The Communications Strategy was created by to support plan effective communications during the delivery stage of Natur am Byth. It will ensure that communications are inspirational, far reaching, and inclusive to a range of audiences across Wales so that more people are engaged with nature, understand it, and want to take action to protect it.

The strategy has been informed by Grasshopper's learning exchange with the Natur am Byth project partners, current programme research and documentation, assessment of independent conservation communications and communications recommendations set down by relevant industry bodies. The process has been supported by the Communications Task and Finish Group, comprising communication experts within the project partnership.

It covers both internal and external communications at both strategic and operational levels and sets out a framework which will help ensure that communications best practice is identified, information issued is consistent and that the correct audiences are engaged in the most relevant way to give maximum value. It also sets direction for partnership working across the programme.

The strategy is accompanied by a Framing Guide for onboarding delivery phase Project Officers and is being finessed through a framing workshop with Project Development Officers. As organisations that want to save species from extinction, we have a responsibility to ensure that our narratives reinforce the world we want to see. That is where *framing* comes in.

Every word is a chance for us to make a connection with someone and to help them better understand and care for nature. This guide intends to ensure we are using them to their full potential.

Spotlight: trainee placement "Learning From Legends" project

Welsh nature conservation hosts an array of inspirational naturalists, writers, practitioners, and public figures. Our trainees will be paired with a 'living legend' to undertake an oral history project documenting the changes each personality has seen in their lifetime protecting and promoting Welsh nature.

Trained in oral history and interview methods by the Peoples Collection for Wales at the National Library in Aberystwyth, each trainee will be responsible for recording, editing, and publishing the stories from their living legend. These will be promoted and archived as part of the Peoples Collection for Wales.

NCWP 7 – Conferences, Exhibitions and Learning Events Programme

This package delivers against all four strands but is particularly relevant to **Strand 2 Resilient Sector for a Green Recovery**. There is cross over with several other NCWPs.

There are three principal mechanisms in NCWP 7:

- **Conferences:** there will be an opening launch for the programme, then a final conference in the last 6 months of the delivery phase to ensure that learning is disseminated from the programme.
- **Exhibitions:** linked to the Arts Engagement Programme and events that are planned to celebrate rare species we will hold a series of events in the middle and final phases of the delivery. These will be aimed at the general public, target communities and local communities.
- **Learning Events Series:** this will be a series of in person events focusing mainly on peer-to-peer learning, plus an online learning series focused on diversity and inclusion within the environment sector (see 'spotlight' box). Peer-to-peer learning between landowners who harbour rare wildlife are known to have particular impact on changing attitudes and spreading best practice.

Spotlight: "Diverse by Nature" learning events

Inspired by lock down learning events and the pressing need to drive inclusion in the environment sector the 'Diverse by Nature' online learning series will platform inspiring talks and conversations hosted by diversity pioneers working in the environment sector. Events will include:

- **"The Nature of Neurodiversity"** - a celebration of neurodivergence amongst environmentalists.
- **"Racial diversity in biodiversity"** - pioneers in the environment sector
- **"Queer by Nature"** - LGBTQ+ representation in the natural heritage sector
- **"Beth sydd mewn enw?"** - dathlu hanes natur yr iaith Gymraeg / **"What's in a name?"** - celebrating Welsh language natural history
- **"Colonising nature"** - addressing nature conservation's colonial past

NCWP 8 – Training and Placements Scheme

This package principally delivers against **Strand 2 Resilient Sector supporting Green Recovery**. The people who benefit from the training and placements offered across the programme will include new project staff, existing partnership staff, wider environment sector colleagues, volunteers, students, and the general public.

There are three principal mechanisms in NCWP 8:

- **Training for a resilient sector** – this will be a range of in person and online training events for partnership staff, wider environment sector colleagues, volunteers, trainees, and the general public. For a summary of the full package of training scheduled in delivery phase, including target recipients, please refer to Appendix 4.8.
- **Natur am Byth paid trainee placements** – the programme will host three trainees in 2025. One in Northwest Wales hosted by RSPB Cymru, one in Swansea hosted by Buglife and one in Cardiff hosted by NRW. Each trainee will work across the multiple projects delivering in their geographic area, but their host will be responsible for line management. To ensure accessibility these placements will be at entry level with no previous experience required and offered at the real living wage.

- **Student placements** – at the project specific level there a small number of student placements for both undergraduates and postgrads. There will also be an invitation to students studying in Wales to participate in some of the nationally co-ordinated training events and courses. Please refer to - Appendix 4.8 for a list of all the student placement opportunities throughout the programme.

NCWP 9 – Conservation Grazing Implementation

Nearly 80% of protected areas in Wales are actively farmed. Conservation grazing is a critical tool to deliver favourable management for habitat that harbours many rare and threatened species across the UK. Six of the eleven projects in Natur am Byth rely on grazing to ensure the long-term recovery of target species, but the challenges faced by graziers can be complex, e.g., access to markets, stock disturbance and generational shifts in agricultural practices.

As part of the development phase, PONT Cymru were contracted to carry out a feasibility study, in order to establish whether conservation grazing is a feasible tool to manage a range of project sites within four of the South Wales project areas, plus consider ways to ensure that conservation grazing becomes a sustainable, and long-term, option.

PONT was tasked with producing a number of costed grazing plans to benefit target species and the wider habitat on a number of sites in the Alun Valley (*High Brown Fritillary*), Kenfig (shrill carder bee), the Gower (numerous species on commons) and Pembrokeshire (shrill carder bee). These grazing plans were supported by a programme wide feasibility study that sets out the case for conservation grazing. This includes costed recommendations to support local produce marketing, community engagement, sharing best practice and the delivery of Sustainable Management of Natural resources (SMNR).

The study identified challenges that exist in establishing conservation grazing and sets out case studies of how these challenges have been overcome elsewhere. Whilst developed to inform delivery of the Natur am Byth Programme, the findings of the study are a valuable resource that can be used to support conservation grazing efforts across Wales.

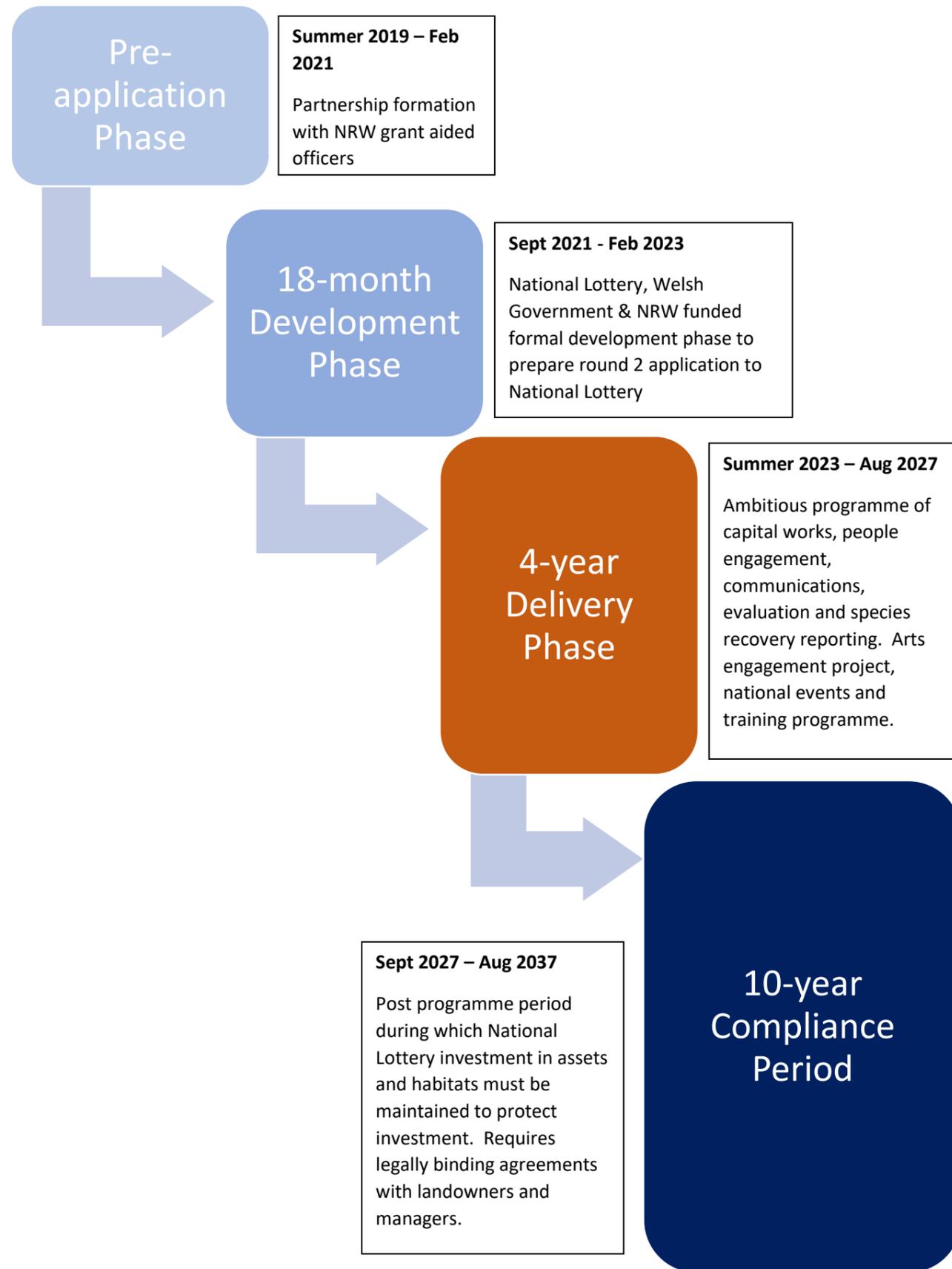
NCWP 10 – Fundraising

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded the Natur am Byth partnership over £4.1m after two years of detailed planning. NRW has contributed £1.7m and the Natur am Byth partners have secured a further £1.4m from Welsh Government, Arts Council of Wales and a number of charitable trusts, foundations and corporate donors. These include donations from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£200k) and the Banister Charitable Trust (£136k), plus a nationally significant grant award of £250k from Welsh Government's Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).



Eryri © Natural Resources Wales

Timeline



Programme Budget

Activity area	Total cost
Strand 1 – Species Recovery for Resilient Ecosystems	
Species and habitat focused project staff (place-based)	£2,755,852
Site specific management, capital works and interventions for species recovery	£982,386
Surveys and monitoring to assess baseline and measure populations	£431,603
Volunteer support costs, training, T&S and equipment costs for practical management works	£26,155
Land agency advice and services related to capital works and assets	£36,000
Other costs associated with capital works & landowner engagement, incl. T&S	£221,071
Strand 2 – Resilient Sector Supporting Green Recovery	
Paid trainee scheme	£74,432
Student placements and student support/training costs	£40,750
Staff and volunteer training programme	£65,349
Peer to peer landowner knowledge exchange	£18,620
'Diverse by Nature' EDI environment sector webinar series	£7,300
Strand 3 – Rethinking the Way We See Species	
Arts engagement programme	£200,000
Framing training to upskill our staff and volunteers to communicate species recovery	£15,000
Communications officer	£186,694
Launch event, end of programme celebrations and learning event, national event materials and kit.	£42,580
Place-based project events, celebrations, and interpretation upgrades to inspire local communities about nature	£169,827
Web design, digital media training, videos, professional photography, digital branding, and bi-lingual communications resources	£75,000
Virtual field trips with National Museum Wales, oral histories training	£23,900
Strand 4 – Community Empowerment	
Community support scheme	£75,000
Place-based learning events and training to upskill landowners, volunteers & community groups to take action for nature	£150,618
Equipment and tools for volunteers, landowners, and community groups	£8,338
People engagement co-ordinator role & Swansea's Stars of the Night Bat Conservation Trust staff time and RSPB staff time in running events.	£318,788
T&S for volunteers associated with above activities	£10,896
Programme management	
Programme manager / finance & administration officer (e.g., salaries, IT)	£487,973
FCR for NGO staff in governance roles and programme management tasks	£117,365
T&S for central programme staff and NGOs attending governance meetings	£36,846
Recruitment across all staff roles	£23,100
Monitoring and Evaluation including independent consultant	£45,500
Inflation On all non-staff cash costs excluding contingency	£247,391
Contingency on all cash costs @ 5% (including VAT)	£348,837
TOTAL Programme CASH costs	£ 7,325,389
Non-cash costs	
In-kind contribution of staff time across partners (cash equivalent)	£260,411
Volunteer time (cash equivalent)	£363,672
TOTAL PROGRAMME COSTS	£7,949,471

Target Species

		Yellow = occurs in two NaB projects					
Quick Ref.	Species No.	Scientific Name	Common Name (Welsh)	Common name (English)	Natur am Byth Project	Drivers of Decline	Action Needed - Red text indicates ex situ propagation, translocation, reintroduction or population restoration via released biota.
Reptile	1	Vipera berus	Gwiber	Adder	Adder Action	Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, concomitant persecution and disturbance	Habitat management in NaB target areas, esp. mosaic habitats. Training of volunteers to collect DNA samples from shed skins; work with Bangor University on a paid training placement to assess genetic fitness and distribution of the species.
Mammal	2	Barbastella barbastellus	Ystum du	Barbastelle	Barbastelle bat	Woodland management, habitat and roost loss.	Assessment of population size and range. Regenerate woodland understorey in targeted areas. Map connectivity with foraging areas outside of roosting woodlands.
Butterfly	3	Fabriciana adippe	Y fritheg frown	High brown fritillary	High Brown Fritillary	Last colony in Wales. Declines in foodplant, increased grassiness and reduction in Bracken litter	opening up of woodland areas to increase the availability of optimal habitat.
Bee	4	Osmia xanthomelana	Saerwenynen	Large mason bee	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Coastal erosion, overgrazing	Site management.
Beetle	5	Chlaenius tristis	Chwilen ddaear lwydaidd	Black night-runner	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Site management; isolation	develop and implement a habitat management at Cors Geirch, a fen, to restore populations
Bird	6	Numenius arquata	Gylfinir	Eurasian curlew	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Agricultural intensification, increasing predator populations	creation of early successional conditions via bare ground scrapes; landowner engagement for maintenance
Bird	7	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Brân goesgoch	Red-billed cough	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or of mowing)	heather cutting on coastal heath; creation of habitat mosaics; landowner engagement

Caddisfly	8	<i>Limnephilus tauricus</i>	<i>Limnephilus tauricus</i> (pryf pric)	<i>Limnephilus tauricus</i> (a caddisfly)	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Unknown	vegetation clearance and landowner liaison to ensure appropriate grazing regimes
Conifer	9	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Merywen	Juniper	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Populations too fragmented to regenerate successfully	Ex-situ propagation and translocations; vegetation clearance and landowner liaison to ensure appropriate grazing regimes; surveillance.
Diptera	10	<i>Stratiomys chamaeleon</i>	Pryf milwrol	Clubbed general	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession, grazing management	vegetation clearance and landowner liaison to ensure appropriate grazing regimes
Diptera	11	<i>Idiocera sexguttata</i>	Pryf teiliwr chwe smotyn	Six-spotted crane fly	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession, inappropriate grazing management	Site management, surveillance
Flowering plant	12	<i>Juncus capitatus</i>	Corfrwynen	Dwarf rush	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession, lack of grazing and disturbance	Ex-situ propagation; followed by seed-spreading; site management; liaise with landowners - grazing; surveillance
Flowering plant	13	<i>Nitella tenuissima</i>	Rhawn yr ebol bach	Dwarf stonewort	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession	Pond / ditch management; surveillance.
Flowering plant	14	<i>Rumex rupestris</i>	Tafolen y traeth	Shore dock	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Changes to natural geomorphological process on beaches, afforestation.	Ex-situ conservation measures followed by seed-spreading and translocations; Site management; conifer removal; surveillance
Flowering plant	15	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Cor-rosyn rhuddfannog	Spotted rockrose	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Adverse management (burning, scrub invasion, fertiliser drift, nutrient enrichment from overwintering livestock)	Ex-situ conservation measures followed by seed-spreading and translocations; site management; Liaise with landowners - grazing; surveillance
Mammal	16	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	Llygoden y dŵr	Water vole	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	INNS (mink predation), Wetland drainage, watercourse canalisation, inappropriate habitat management	Assessment of upland populations, INNS (mink) Control, habitat improvement, re-assessment of past known populations.
Mollusc	17	<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	Malwoden droellog Desmoulin	Desmoulin's whorl snail	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession, under-grazing, overgrazing	Survey, site management, SSSI designation
Mollusc	18	<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	Malwoden droellog Geyer	Geyer's whorl snail	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession, inappropriate grazing	Survey, surveillance, site management
Stonewort	19	<i>Chara baltica</i>	Rhawn yr ebol y Baltig	Baltic stonewort	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Succession	Dune slack creation / clearance; surveillance

Lichen	20	Cladonia peziziformis	<i>Cladonia peziziformis</i> (cen)	<i>Cladonia peziziformis</i> (a lichen)	Pen Llŷn ac Ynys Môn	Unknown - anecdotal evidence of establishment following heathland burning	Management to be informed by student research project on influence of coastal/maritime heath burning on establishment. Potential for trial burning management of coastal/maritime heath with monitoring + test potential for Ryetec collector/flail to deliver right conditions.
Bee	21	Bombus sylvarum	Y gardwenynen feinlais	Shrill carder bee	Saving the Shrill Carder Bee in Wales	Habitat fragmentation, Site management	Site management; Bee habitat connectivity providing bespoke land management advice to landowners; volunteer survey training
Beetle	22	Meloe brevicollis	Chwilen olew gwddf byr	Short-necked oil beetle	Saving the Shrill Carder Bee in Wales	Land-use change and declines in host solitary bees.	Habitat management of coastal grassland, scrub, sand dunes, and arable.
Flowering plant	23	Aster linosyris	Gold y môr	Goldilocks aster	Saving the Shrill Carder Bee in Wales	Succession, grazing management. Small populations.	Habitat management of coastal grassland, scrub, sand dunes.
Flowering plant	24	Viola lactea	Fioled welw	Pale dog violet	Saving the Shrill Carder Bee in Wales	Succession, grazing management. Small populations.	Habitat management of coastal grassland, scrub, sand dunes.
Stonefly	25	Isogenus nubecula	Pryf y cerrig Isogenus nubecula	Scarce yellow sally	Scarce Yellow Sally	River modification, siltation, water quality	River restoration, Autecological studies, Survey, possible captive rearing and release to historic sites .
Mammal	26	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Ystum pedol lleiaf	Lesser horseshoe bat	Swansea Bay, Stars of the Night	Roost loss and Habitat degradation, light pollution. connectivity issues for isolated population	citizen science to understand how the species follow unlit corridors to address and mitigate effects of urban light spill in Swansea
Beetle	27	Eurynebria complanata	Chwilen y draethlin	Strandline beetle	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Strandline loss, Climate change; isolation	Site management, translocation
Damselfly	28	Coenagrion mercuriale	Mursen las Penfro	Southern damselfly	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Succession, Under-grazing, Overgrazing	Survey, surveillance, site management
Diptera	11	Idiocera sexguttata	Pryf teiliwr chwe smotyn	Six-spotted crane fly	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Succession, Grazing management	targeted clearance of scrub from ditches, pools and ponds; Site management; surveillance
Flowering plant	29	Valerianella rimosa	Gwylaeth-yr-oen llydanffrwyth	Broad-fruited cornsalad	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Changes in agricultural practices	Land manager engagement, potential translocation and the development of best practice guidelines

Vascular plant	30	Neotinea ustulata	Cordegeirian	Burnt-tip orchid	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Site management; isolation	Site management; grazing; ex-situ cultivation; re-introduction.
Vascular plant	31	Liparis loeselii	Tegeirian y fign galchog	Fen orchid	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	stabilisation of sand dune systems	Site management; improved grazing regime; survey, surveillance,
Vascular plant	23	Aster linosyris	Gold y môr	Goldilocks aster	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Succession, grazing management. Small populations.	Control of invasive non-native species and scrub management along coastal grasslands of south Gower coast. Liaise with landowners - grazing; surveillance
Flowering plant	32	Ranunculus tripartitus	Crafang-y-frân tridarn	Three-lobed water crowfoot	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Succession; Lack of appropriate grazing	targeted management of ditches, pools and ponds; liaise with land-owners - grazing; surveillance.
Moth	33	Idaea dilutaria	Ton sidan	Silky wave	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	South Gower hosts one of only three populations in UK; declines due to INNS and changes in land management	Control of invasive non-native species and scrub management along coastal grasslands of south Gower coast
Lichen	34	Cladonia peziziformis	<i>Cladonia peziziformis</i> (cen)	<i>Cladonia peziziformis</i> (a lichen)	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Unknown - anecdotal evidence of establishment following heathland burning	Management to be informed by student research project on influence of coastal/maritime heath burning on establishment. Potential for trial burning management of coastal/maritime heath with monitoring + test potential for Ryetec collector/flail to deliver right conditions.
Mollusc	35	Vertigo angustior	Malwen droellog ceg gul	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Succession, Under-grazing, Climate change	Improved grazing regimes; survey, surveillance, site management
Reptile	36	Lacerta agilis	Madfall y tywod	Sand lizard	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	Habitat loss and deterioration, lack of bare sand; fragmented habitats leading to isolated populations. Human disturbance of habitat	translocation & dune re-mobilisation works to ensure dune frontals provide suitable habitat for the species to colonise
Spider	37	Dolomedes plantarius	Corryn rafftio'r ffen	Fen raft spider	Swansea Bay: Coast, Commons & Communities	The Fen Raft Spider population on the Tennant Canal and Crymlyn Bog is one of only 3 known populations in the UK	Habitat management to prevent scrub encroachment and to create/maintain open pools (Crymlyn Bog only). DNA analysis; volunteer training for surveys
Vascular plant	38	Persicaria vivipara	Canwraidd y mynydd	Alpine bistort	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Over-grazing; Climate change	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme; liaise with land-owners - grazing; surveillance
Vascular plant	39	Cerastium alpinum	Clust-y-llygoden Alpaid	Alpine mouse-ear	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Over-grazing, climate change	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme; liaise with land-owners - grazing

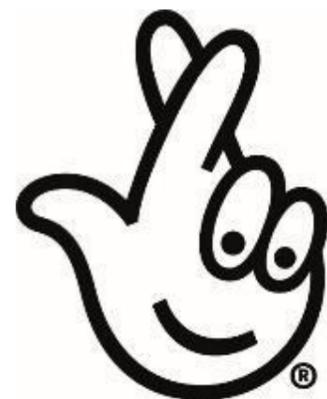
Vascular plant	40	Saussurea alpina	Lliflys y mynydd	Alpine saw-wort	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Atmospheric N-deposition, climate change, grazing (incl. by goats), recreation (winter climbing)	Exclosures, ex-situ growth of plants, translocation to new sites, goat control, plus further survey
Vascular plant	41	Woodsia alpina	Rhedynen-woodsia Alpaidd	Alpine woodsia	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Historic plant collecting, climate change	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme
Bivalve	42	Pisidium coventus	<i>Pisidium coventus</i> (cragen gylchog)	Arctic pea-clam	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Climate change; isolation	Establish volunteer group to assist professional surveyor to assess current status of population of Arctic Pea-clam as indicator of a changing climate
Vascular plant	43	Polystichum lonchitis,	Rhedynen gelyn	Holly fern	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Historic plant collecting, grazing (trampling)	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme; liaise with land-owners - grazing
Vascular plant	44	Saxifraga rosacea	Tormaen Iwerddon	Irish saxifrage	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Historic plant collecting, possible inbreeding depression and genetic drift	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme
Vascular plant	45	Dryas octopetala	Derig	Mountain avens	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Over-grazing, climate change	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme; liaise with land-owners - grazing
Vascular plant	46	Woodsia ilvensis	Rhedynen-woodsia hirgul	Oblong woodsia	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Historic plant collecting, possible inbreeding depression and genetic drift	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme
Vascular plant	47	Hieracium snowdoniense	Heboglys yr Wyddfa	Snowdon hawkweed	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Over-grazing	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme; liaise with land-owners - grazing; surveillance
Beetle	48	Chrysolina cerealis	Chwilen yr Wyddfa	Snowdon rainbow leaf beetle	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Grazing; Climate change; isolation	Engage and supervise contactors to create three gated exclosures; work with volunteers to monitor impact of reduced and/or regulated grazing on target species and vegetation.
Vascular plant	49	Saxifraga cespitosa	Tormaen siobynnog	Tufted saxifrage	Tlysau Mynydd Eryri	Over-grazing; Climate change	Ex situ propagation and volunteers planting into historic or extant locations; monitoring programme; liaise with land-owners - grazing; surveillance
Beetle	50	Schizotus pectinicornis	Chwilen ysgarlad	Scarce cardinal beetle	Welsh Marches	Loss of veteran/ancient trees and/or associated deadwood niches (including fallen deadwood) related to site, tree management, deadwood removal. Lack of replacement trees in unbroken continuum.	Engage and upskill volunteers and landowners to identify and record ancient and veteran trees. Upskill volunteers to survey historic sites using expert entomologist. Follow-up management advice. Local authority planning dept training on veteran/ancient trees. Planting trees to provide continuum of niches. Veteranisation

Lichen	51	Caloplaca lucifuga	<i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> (cen)	<i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> (a fire-dot lichen)	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), site management (grazing)	Upskilling volunteers to survey historic sites using expert lichenologist. Follow-up management advice e.g. halo thinning. Work on veteran/ancient tree habitat management. Include ash dieback mitigation. Local authority planning dept training.
Lichen	52	Scutula circumspeta	<i>Scutula circumspeta</i> (cen)	Circumspect dotted lichen	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), Ash Dieback, site management.	As for <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> . Will address S7 action. Ammonia (and wider N-pollutants?) monitoring at Gilfach to inform further nitrogen work.
Lichen	53	Anaptychia ciliaris subsp. ciliaris	<i>Anaptychia ciliaris isrywogaeth ciliaris</i> (cen)	Eagle's claw	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), Ash Dieback, site management.	As for <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> . Will address S7 action. Citizen-science search for new records.
Lichen	54	Caloplaca herbidella	<i>Caloplaca herbidella</i> (cen)	Geranium fire-dot lichen	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), Ash Dieback, site management.	As for <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> . Will address S7 action.
Lichen	55	Lecanographa amylacea	<i>Lecanographa amylacea</i> (cen)	<i>Lecanographa amylacea</i> (a lichen)	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), site management.	As for <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> . Will address S7 action.
Lichen	56	Buellia violaceofusca	Buellia violaceofusca	Buellia violaceofusca	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), site management.	As for <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> . Will address S7 action.
Lichen	57	Bellicidia incompta	<i>Bellicidia incompta</i> (cen)	Sap-groove lichen	Welsh Marches	Habitat loss (veteran/ancient trees), Ash Dieback, site management.	As for <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i> . Will address S7 action.
Lichen	58	Bryoria fuscescens	<i>Bryoria fuscescens</i> (cen)	Horsehair lichen	Welsh Marches	Climate change, habitat loss, N-pollution	Citizen-science search for new records, engagement/awareness raising of nitrogen impacts.
Liverwort	59	Riccia nigrella	Grisial-lys du	Black crystalwort	Welsh Marches	Scrub encroachment	Scrub/tree control to prevent shading at Stanner Rocks, one of 3 remaining GB sites. Improve understanding of nitrogen impacts on site. Local authority planning dept training.
Moss	60	Tortula canescens	Mwsogl troellog	Dog screw-moss	Welsh Marches	Scrub encroachment. Last population in Wales at Roundton Hill Montgomeryshire	Scrub management at Roundton Hill, where gorse growth enhanced by N deposition threatens colony. Ammonia (and wider N-pollutants?) monitoring on site to inform further nitrogen work.
Moss	61	Bartramia aprica	Afal-fwsogl	Upright apple-moss	Welsh Marches	Scrub encroachment, habitat loss from quarrying. Only British site at Stanner Rock Radnorshire.	Scrub/tree management at Stanner Rocks to reduce shading. Improve understanding of nitrogen impacts on site. Reintroduction to Breidden Hill from last remaining GB population (Stanner Rocks). Will address S7 action.

Fungi	62	Buglossoporus quercinus	Ysgwydd y derw	Oak polypore	Welsh Marches	Loss of veteran/ancient trees related to site and tree management. Lack of replacement trees in unbroken continuum. Inbreeding as a result?	Engage and upskill volunteers and landowners to identify and record ancient and veteran trees. Upskill volunteers to survey historic sites using expert on fungi. Trail inoculation of veteran trees to bolster population. Follow-up management advice. Local authority planning dept training on veteran/ancient trees. Planting trees to provide continuum of niches. Veteranisation
Fly	63	Ctenophora flaveolata	Ctenophora flaveolata (pryf teiliwr)	Wasp-banded comb-horn crane fly	Welsh Marches	Loss of veteran/ancient trees and/or associated deadwood niches (including fallen deadwood) related to site, tree management, deadwood removal, and Ash Dieback. Lack of replacement trees in unbroken continuum.	Engage and upskill volunteers and landowners to identify and record ancient and veteran trees. Upskill volunteers to survey historic sites using expert entomologist. Follow-up management advice. Ash dieback advice. Local authority planning dept training on veteran/ancient trees. Planting trees to provide continuum of niches. Veteranisation
Beetle	64	Hypulus quercinus	Chwilen saposylyg	A false darkling beetle	Welsh Marches	Loss of veteran/ancient trees and/or associated deadwood niches (including fallen deadwood) related to site, tree management, deadwood removal. Lack of replacement trees in unbroken continuum.	Engage and upskill volunteers and landowners to identify and record ancient and veteran trees. Upskill volunteers to survey historic sites using expert entomologist. Follow-up management advice. Local authority planning dept training on veteran/ancient trees. Planting trees to provide continuum of niches. Veteranisation
Cold water coral	65	Eunicella verrucosa	Môr-wyntyll binc	Pink sea-fan	Welsh Marine Treasures	Seabed interacting activities, water quality (suspended sediments)	Site management, adaptive management of population around Skomer to determine empirically what activity is causing decline.
Mollusc	66	Ostrea edulis	Wystrysen frodorol	Native oyster	Welsh Marine Treasures	Historical overfishing, water quality, parasites, competition with INNS - <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> .	Site management - improvement in water quality, restoration via oyster lay deployment , raising awareness of ecosystem benefits
Seagrass	67	Zostera spp.	Morwellt	Seagrass	Welsh Marine Treasures	Historical decline due to wasting disease, water quality, moorings and anchoring, dredging and smothering	Site management - improved water quality, restoration, use of eco-moorings

**Natur
am Byth!**

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