

Action Plan for Pollinators

Case Studies

Research & Surveying

The **Urban Pollinators** project, led by the University of Bristol, is researching insect pollinators in urban habitats in the UK. The project is funded under the UK Insect Pollinators Initiative and runs from 2011 until 2014.

Initially, the project investigated the current status of insect pollinators found in UK urban areas by simultaneously sampling plant-pollinator communities in towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales (including Cardiff in 2011). The project will then assess whether the addition of large-scale pollen and nectar resources in the form of introduced flower meadows can benefit urban pollinator populations.

The data collected will be used to inform practical conservation strategies for insect pollinators across four major urban areas (Bristol, Reading, Leeds and Edinburgh) and the findings from this research will be conveyed to the rest of the UK practitioner community via a fully funded practitioners' conference at the end of the project in 2014.



Photo: Bumblebee visiting a flower in an urban flower meadow in Reading
©Nadine Mitschunas

Education and Awareness

Newport City Council's Biodiversity in Schools Officer will help schools develop their grounds as an educational resource and as a haven for wildlife. Fifty-five schools are part of the Biodiversity in Schools programme in Newport which is part funded (50%) by Natural Resources Wales and the other 50% by the schools themselves. Participating schools have plans for creating wildlife areas, planting trees, making wildlife habitats, creating willow structures and developing wetland habitats.

The project has shown that there is a definite need within schools for support and guidance in developing and using their grounds. Teachers often do not have the time, experience or knowledge to develop their grounds for biodiversity. The focus on enhancing biodiversity, improving the grounds as an educational resource and being a point of contact for all things 'Eco' has proved crucial in Newport. The **Eco-Schools** programme was developed in 1994 by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and introduced into the UK in 1995. It is an international initiative that encourages pupils to engage with environmental and sustainable development issues.



Photo: Planting a Butterfly Border at Monnow Primary ©Natalie Waller/Newport CBC

Planning

The **Roadside Verges Project** in Denbighshire aims to protect the county's wildflowers. There are over 1110 kms (690 miles) of roadside verges in rural Denbighshire, with the most important being found on the minor roads which often follow ancient routes and pathways.

The Highways Authority along with Denbighshire Countryside Service and the North Wales Wildlife Trust are working together to develop improved management regimes for the verges of Denbighshire, especially in rural areas, to maintain and improve their value for biodiversity but without compromising road safety. Verges in two pilot areas within the County have for a number of years been cut in a more wildlife-friendly way. Apart from where road safety is an issue, cuts in these areas have been timed so that wild plants can flower and set seed. This has proved extremely successful and we are now working with communities to identify other areas that would also benefit from this regime, with the aspiration to slowly expand the project in the next few years.



Photo: Denbighshire Road verge © Denbighshire County Council

Welsh Government Estate

The **Welsh Government** Administrative Estate is varied, comprising of rural and urban locations. At Aberystwyth and Llandudno Junction offices we are working with Vinci Facilities Management to install two bee hives and a colony of honey bees. The local Bee keepers Associations have advised on the positioning of the hives and mentoring Vinci staff who will manage the bee hives. Opportunities to improve bio-diversity in our landscaping at both sites when there is a need to replace existing plants and to provide wild flower areas where possible which will benefit both bees and other pollinators and wildlife.



Photo: Beekeeper next to beehive at Aberystwyth Office ©Welsh Government

Beekeeping

Pembrokeshire Beekeepers' Association is currently developing the 'Pembrokeshire Beekeeping Centre', at Scolton Manor near Haverfordwest. The project has been funded by Environment Wales and the Prince's Countryside Fund until 2014:

- Phases 1 and 2 established a working apiary in 2011/12, to provide training facilities for beekeepers and allow safe public viewing.
- Phase 3 will include a honey processing facility in 2013 for the hygienic preparation of hive products for sale on site and an adjacent audio/visual public viewing area with exhibits, information and live 'bee-cam' monitors fed from cameras in an apiary hive.
- Phase 4 is the development of a second apiary; to further increase the number of pollinators locally, provide additional training facilities, honey production and a queen rearing programme to ensure the long term sustainability of the project.



Photo: Inspecting a hive at Scolton Manor ©Pembrokeshire Beekeepers' Association

Governance and Infrastructure

Buglife is undertaking a 3 year project to work on five brownfield sites, in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. The Waste Recycling Environment Network has funded Buglife to work with local councils as well as experts and local people passionate about wildlife. Survey work starts in 2013 and includes sweep netting, pan traps, pitfall traps and light traps. Project work will see wildflower-rich habitats created, as well as bare ground scrapes and bee banks, resulting in 48 hectares of brownfield habitat restored for the threatened invertebrates, including the Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) and the Dingy skipper (*Erynnis tages*).



Photo: Cymmer Tip, Neath Port Talbot © Buglife

Landscape

Keep Wales Tidy is currently running 'The Long Forest', a landscape scale project, in the Brecon Beacons National Park. This is an initiative aimed at encouraging community support in researching, recording and restoring the network of hedgerows in the National Park. The project has been funded to the value of £120,000 from the Brecon Beacons Trust and the Sustainable Development Fund operated by the National Park Authority. The initiative was launched in the autumn of 2012 and is due to run for nearly two years. This initiative brings together farmers/landowners, community groups, schools, NGOs such as local Wildlife Trusts, as well as local businesses willing to sponsor the work.



Photo: Canal side hedge survey, Llangattock ©Keep Wales Tidy