

Name: Isabel Macho	Organisation: Carmarthenshire CC/Carms LBAP
<p>Current projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water vole project Llanelli – part of proposed NRW Water vole superhighway project <p>Objective: <i>to assist in a reintroduction project with NRW and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales to re-introduce water voles to key sites in the Llanelli area where water voles were recorded in the past.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with NRW and the WTSWW towards a water vole reintroduction project - mink control as a precursor to reintroduction and/or funding for collection of breeding stock from the Llanelli area by a qualified ecologist (Derek Gow) - this would involve taking underweight animals that wouldn't survive the winter – and supporting them through the winter. There would be a managed re-introduction of individuals next spring. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Red Squirrel project – see Lizzie Wilberforce’s and Jenny MacPeson’s updates 	
<p>Future projects:</p>	
<p>Other news: Hope to undertake some dormouse surveys this autumn and at potential sites.</p>	
Name: Becky Clews-Roberts	Organisation: The Mammal Society
<p>Current projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harvest Mouse Bait pot surveys – 2 sites have been done (Rhos Goch NNR & Kenfig NNR) with a third being done soon (Merthyr Mawr NNR). Samples are currently in the freezer waiting to be passed to Ceri/Jenny to then be passed to WIT. 2. Harvest Mouse Nest search surveys – 2 x workshops planned end Oct (Cosmeston Lakes with Vale of Glamorgan Council; Newport Wetlands with NRW warden). Newly formed South Wales Mammal Group will undertake nest search surveys at Kenfig NNR and Merthyr Mawr NNR and possibly Margam Moors. A 3rd workshop has yet to be set but will be at Ystradgynlais with Brecknock Wildlife Trust in late November. 3. Hedgehog footprint tunnels – Last push for the season. Many more links/contacts made with organisations wanting to do 10-tunnel survey (Trecco Bay Holiday Park; Glyndwr University; Northop College; Keep Wales Tidy; Dale Fort FSC.) 4. MaMoNet Wales Conference – bookings now being taken. 15th February 2014, Aberystwyth Arts Centre 5. Continue with people engagement events e.g. barn owl pellet dissection days; Ty Hyll Bioblitz etc. 	
<p>Future projects: 1/ Continue to encourage NE Wales Local Mammal Group and Ceredigion Local Mammal Group to form.</p>	

Other news: 1/ were unsuccessful in REF bid. Will apply for HLF next. The Mammal Society is keen to continue the project.	
Name: Audrey Watson	Organisation: BASC
Current projects: 1. Mink control for water voles – particularly on the Llyn but extending the areas to include the Dee 2. Grey squirrel control for red squirrels – particularly around Clocaenog and Cynwyd. 2 training days carried out in the last year. 3. Pine marten – monitoring hair tubes and working with VWT to find new sites 4. Dormice – monitoring existing nest boxes and trying to find new populations. Found dormice in Denbighshire wood in July – earliest I have found them there so far. Will be checking those boxes again later this month. Submitted my licence form and awaiting reply...	
Future projects: We plan to continue the above work	
Other news:	
Name: Rebecca Pritchard	Organisation: Menter Môn
Current projects: 1. Anglesey Riparian Mammals Project <i>Ongoing...</i> Key site surveys at Cors Ddyga and Cors Erddreiniog undertaken again this year. Mink raft monitoring in progress across Cefni, Braint, Lleiniog, Cadnant, and Alaw catchments with other rafts located in other key areas across the island such as Erddreiniog and Valley lakes. Wygyr catchment monitored by a volunteer.	
Future projects: 1. Hoping to work in partnership with the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency to extend the mink raft work along the A55 across Anglesey. 2. Further otter and water vole surveys 3. Hoping to secure funds to extend the project.	
Other news: Gareth Pritchard has left the project and is now working as a Circuit Rider in Menter Môn.	
Name: Rob Strachan	Organisation: NRW – Riparian Mammals
Current projects: 1. Cardiff University Otter Project: Continued mapping and collection of otter road mortality and subsequent post-mortem and eco-toxicology surveillance of pollutants (Otters as Sentinals) (Cardiff University/NRW) 2. Berriew – Newtown water vole superhighway - habitat restoration and mink management. (Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust/Severn Rivers Trust/NRW)	

3. Gwent Levels water vole project/mink management/Reens restoration (Gwent Wildlife Trust/RSPB/NRW)
4. Llanelli – Laugharne water vole superhighway – habitat restoration and mink management (Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales/RSPB/NRW)
5. Llangors water vole project – habitat restoration and mink management
6. Lley Mink management (BASC/NRW led)
7. Llechwydd Llwyd bog restoration including water vole habitat (Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust/NRW)
8. Rhos Fullbrook water vole habitat creation (adjacent to Cors Caron) (Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales/RSPB/NRW)
9. Our Beacons 4 Bats – habitat creation and enhancement (Vincent Wildlife Trust/NRW)

Future projects:

1. Usk to Wye Living Landscape (habitat creation and enhancement for range of species including bats and dormice) (Gwent Wildlife Trust/NRW)

Other news: Continued partnership working to deliver Ecosystem Resilience benefiting a range of priority BAP species.

Name: Steve Lucas	Organisation: Bat Conservation Trust
Current projects:	
<p>Working in partnership with the South East Wales Biological Record Centre, we have started a new group of volunteers to undertake the urban bat survey project in Newport with a view to developing this into a new bat group for Newport. I In Swansea/Neath, Glamorgan Bat Group have taken control of progressing the project with support from BCT. For both Newport and Swansea areas, training has been given by way of Using Your Ears presentation as well provision of a method structure for undertaking the survey.</p> <p>In Cardiff, the Cardiff Bat Group has assumed full control and direction of this work. The UBS project aims to develop skills in basic bat detector work so that volunteers can undertake basic levels of survey using the National Bat Monitoring protocols as a framework and then go on to higher level surveys within the NBMP.</p>	
Future projects:	
Other news:	

Name: Isabel Macho	Organisation: Carmarthenshire CCC (Carms LBAP)
Current projects:	
<p>Water voles: DC/WW has a 'Rainscape' project in Llanelli looking at innovative ways to remove surface water from the sewer system, which causes flooding problems. I have been to a meeting and talked about the potential create/enhance habitats for water voles as part of their work in the Llanelli area. I need follow up on this.</p> <p>Trying to get a site in Llanelli with water vole designated as a LNR. Site owned by CCC but having some difficulty in getting support from Asset management to do this.</p> <p>Dormice: Hope to continue with surveys this autumn around the Ammanford area with vols.</p> <p>Planning application refused because of impact on dormouse habitat. I think they are re-submitting with a plan for less houses though.</p> <p>Local ecologist is training up 3 vols to get their dormouse licence.</p> <p>Bats – Carmarthenshire Bat Group has lost its secretary and so has fallen into abeyance again! Lots of planning applications where bats are being considered.</p> <p>Red Squirrel – see MISE and WTSWW updates.</p>	
Future projects:	
Aim to organise training for bridges officers on bats and otters. Just need some time!	
Other news:	

Name: Becky Clews-Roberts	Organisation: The Mammal Society
Current projects:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> MaMoNet started 15 April – 1 year project. Focus on using citizen science methods to gather data on hedgehog and harvest mouse. Been building up contacts, recruiting volunteers and kick-starting project via talks and public 	

<p>events. Will be attending Vale of Glamorgan LBAP meeting 4 July. Merthyr Biodiversity Partnership meeting 18 July. Met with COFNOD in May, due to meet SEWBREC 3 July.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Footprint tunnels are used for hedgehog data gathering. Springwatch promoted them heavily – many more orders for the tunnels following the programme. Interest in Ceredigion for a local mammal group. Conference organisation has begun. Hopefully in Aberystwyth, 15 February 2014, focus on hedgehog, harvest mouse and National Mammal Atlas.
<p>Future projects: Harvest mouse surveys to begin autumn 2013. Training day 9 November. Hoping to use maps from COFNOD report to set bait pots. Possible student project in Llandrindod Wells.</p>
<p>Other news: Funding bids to BLF & REF are being worked up. Attending Funding Fair 11 July.</p>

Name: Rebecca Pritchard	Organisation: Menter Môn
<p>Current projects: Riparian Mammals Project – Ongoing. Approximately 70 mink rafts in operation across Anglesey. Currently seeking funding to sustain the project.</p>	
<p>Future projects:</p>	
<p>Other news:</p>	

Name: Gill Hampson	Organisation: Merthyr Tydfil CBC
<p>Current projects: Have had a few students from South Wales University that has been researching various mammals around Merthyr Borough. Might be worth contacting the biology dept to gain some of their research.</p>	
<p>Future projects:</p>	
<p>Other news:</p>	

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell	Organisation: NRW
<p>Current projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dormice in forestry – nothing to report. Landscapes for lessers. Ongoing. Have received update. Need to finalise report & guidance and discuss how to roll this out. Bats & Roads Research (Defra-led research project with Leeds University) to develop a bat survey technique for pre, during and post road construction, to assist in the development of survey guidance for road construction, and validate the methodology(s) by trialling on at least 5 varied field sites Defra bats & wind farms project (with Exeter University). Investigating bat activity and mortality at large wind energy installations in Britain. Steering Group has agreed to an additional year of study to investigate some sites in more detail. Bats & single mid-size wind turbines project (NERC with Exeter University). 	

Final year of a 3-year project focussing on areas known to have high bat biodiversity in South-West England and South Wales.

6. Welsh Bat Project (grant aid to BCT approved for 2012-13, 13-14 and 14-15) (see separate report).

7. Rare Woodland Bats Project - Bristol University has done modelling of bat diversity hot spots and predictive models for Bechstein's, barbastelle, serotine and leislers. Need to meet with BCT & VWT to discuss model and protocols and work with BGs to select areas for priority for surveys.

8. Developing an effective method for the systematic surveillance of bats in woodland habitats Defra, Leeds Uni & BCT, 2012-2014. Ongoing.

9. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE) – see separate project report.

10. Deer in Wales –The Deer Initiative WG ERD project to address the deer problem in the Elwy Valley in NE Wales has been completed. The project has been successful in using camera traps to assess levels of deer activity and is working with landowners to develop improved collaborative management. The resources from the project made it possible to develop improved relations with most landowners in the area and site plans have been prepared for most woodlands.

11. Lesser horseshoe bat roost cameras project. Nothing additional to report.

12. Automated bat counters Nothing additional to report.

13. Strategic mink control strategy. Nothing additional to report.

14. Harvest mouse habitat – the report by Cofnod (the N Wales LRC) on the assessment of potential dormouse habitat across Wales has been completed. The maps can be used to target survey effort, although the limitations of this work must be born in mind. Contact Liz or Jean if you would like to receive a copy of the report. A short paper giving advice on how the maps can be used will be produced.

15. The Mammal Society – MaMoNet Wales. Becky Clews has been appointed at the Mammal Society officer for Wales. See separate update.

Future projects:

Other news: Wales Bat Conference held on Anglesey. As part of the field work, volunteers out across the north Wales coastal areas focussing on detecting “big bats”. Serotines confirmed on Anglesey – likely to be roost somewhere along the Menai Strait coastal belt. Other records in the Conwy Valley still to be followed up.

Name: A Rogers	Organisation: Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership
Current projects: Mammal Atlas: 3x camera traps provided to County Recorder for this work.	
Future projects: Possible survey to confirm presence of Brown Long eared Bat in the County.	
Other news:	

WMBAF partner updates for 27th February 2013 meeting**Louise Sleeman****The Mammal Society**

National Mammal Atlas Project (NMAP)

The National Mammal Atlas Project (NMAP) has now been running for a year. The project, which aims to determine mammal distribution and abundance across the British Isles to facilitate appropriate mammal conservation, has had a great response from the public. So far 6011 mammal records have been submitted via our online form alone, and much more have been submitted by other means. Wales alone has received a total of 5920 records (from all sources). The most popular mammal records submitted by the public include the expected hedgehogs, foxes and grey squirrels, as well as roe deer and brown hare.

There are currently 27 volunteer verifiers dedicating their time to ensuring that the records we receive for their county are checked and 4 of these represent counties in Wales.

Rebecca Pritchard**Menter Mon**

We're continuing with the water vole project, a contractor is starting with us beginning of March and he and Gareth will be re-establishing the rafts across Anglesey and for the first time we're hoping to do some raft work on the rivers immediately adjacent to the Menai Strait on the mainland side.

Alice Reece**Gwent Wildlife Trust**

Centred on our wetland reserve, Magor Marsh on the Gwent Levels, our Water vole Project built on a regime of mink trapping we had already been doing on reserve for many years. We extended the mink trapping in a 1 km zone around the reserve and this 'buffer zone' will be increased by 1 km for each year of the project. We restarted the water vole steering group and here decided that mink numbers were low enough (given the high habitat quality at Magor Marsh) to enable us to release water voles on the reserve. Subsequently 70 water voles were released in summer 2012 at Magor Marsh using the soft release technique (sourced from the Derek Gow consultancy). An additional 30 voles were released in small groups over the following months (sourced from the Cynnrig Hatchery – these animals were originally from Derek Gow as well so genetics/disease not an issue) to mimic natural influx of animals from neighbouring populations. We had been surveying for water voles on the Marsh every year before the release and the nearest record was over 3km from Magor Marsh, so were as sure as we could be that no remnant populations were present on or near to the reserve. We plan to release more voles this year and have The One Show scheduled to come and film it. We will also continue to conduct water voles surveys to monitor the population and will continue with our volunteer led mink monitoring and trapping regime.

Lizzie Wilberforce**Wildlife Trusts Wales**

Current projects:

Gwent Wildlife Trust currently have 11 dormouse box rounds in Gwent including one on the MOD site at Caerwent where dodging bullets and sniffer dogs is a regular occurrence on that round. Very few numbers on all rounds this year even at Croes Robert and the adjacent Wet Meadow site, wet boxes are becoming a problem and some emergency roofs have been fitted on the worst. Yellow necks seem to be increasing in number on 2 of our sites in particular.

The water vole re-introduction at Magor is going well. GWT have released 100 now in total onto the Reserve and despite the worrying flooding lots of signs have been seen both across Magor Marsh and beyond which is great news. GAT's mink trapping has now extended surrounding the release site to a radius of 3km with 14 individual trapped and despatched in 2012. A top up release of 100 water voles in late Spring this year will hopefully ensure an established population onto the site and beyond with a Gwent Levels Living Landscape Project starting to engage with more landowners across the Levels to help focus management works for the reed network to ensure the right habitats are present for the new hopefully breeding water voles.

Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Dormice - WTSWW has recently found dormice in their Cwm Clettwr nature reserve in north Ceredigion. 50 boxes were put up earlier in the year as part of the MISE project, after there was a suspected sighting and chewed nuts were found. On the last box check of the year 2 dormice were found in one of the boxes plus some nests in other boxes. We also continue to manage habitat and monitor populations on various reserves including Pengelli Forest and Rhos Cefn Bryn. Rhos Cefn Bryn is now also being used for training new licensed surveyors. A new project is commencing on Gelli Hir nature reserve on Gower to try and establish the presence of dormice (no recent records despite favourable management and nearby records), tying in to a new partnership charcoal scheme to demonstrate sustainable woodland management that benefits dormice. Now ~60 boxes and 100 tubes installed, and site registered with NDMP.

Deer – ongoing work with WDI to manage the sika population based in the Cardigan area. Impact surveys in nearby nature reserves.

Pine Martens Pine marten survey work in 3 Ceredigion sites (Coed Simdde Lwyd and Pant Da nature reserves, and one site soon to become a new reserve, Allt Boeth) with VWT/MISE project. There are now more hair tubes in CSL and den boxes and some camera traps, all put in by VWT

Harvest Mice a good number of captive harvest mice now at our Bridgend office. A year out student Ellie Neighbour is continuing the survey and monitoring work in the wild population at the site (Parc Slip nature reserve) and has now created a bait station that the harvest mice are successfully using, and they have been captured on film on our remote cameras using them.

Red Squirrel Currently tying up ERD-funded project on behalf of the MWRSP. Almost 250 trapping days will have been completed across all the woodlands in a strategic part of the project's buffer zone. Record numbers of red squirrels have been recorded in the good RS habitat in the area.

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Welsh Beaver Project - The further investigations undertaken have identified many other areas in Wales that would be excellent for beavers including most notably the rivers and wetlands on the Llyn Peninsula, Pembrey Forest and surrounding areas, and the rivers and wetlands around Kidwelly. These areas have networks of wet woodland, willow carr and other wetland habitats that are in general not farmed or

used by man. However, although beavers in these areas would confer great benefits to the ecosystems, beavers might require a higher degree of management to avoid conflicts with adjacent human activities. Derek Gow is producing a report of the findings of the surveys.

The River Rheidol is currently looking like the most likely option for pilot reintroduction as it contains good beaver habitat and impact management would be minimal, as beavers would mostly live on the main river. The ecosystem benefits of beavers on the Rheidol might, however, also be less than in some other areas.

A site meeting with the Aberystwyth Angling Association has taken place and a presentation to them is to occur shortly. They have concerns re: salmon migration being hindered by beaver dams (which is unlikely but possible under some conditions). However, as there is only one spawning tributary present (the Melindwr) it would be easy to manage to ensure that there is no detrimental impact on salmon.

A meeting with WG Officers will be held before end march with the intention agreeing the release site.

Pete Smith (CEO at Wildwood) will also be assessing the Rheidol shortly to make absolutely sure there are no 'show stoppers' present (Wildwood have agreed to take responsibility for the sourcing and release of the beavers). There are some concerns regarding heavy metals and the fluctuations in water levels as a result of the hydro electric power station and other dams present, but at this stage these issues are not thought to pose a significant problem for beavers.

Liaison with landowners immediately adjacent to the Rheidol is underway and will continue. Land use surveys identifying potential areas where pre-emptive work might be needed are also underway.

We are commissioning a firm of lawyers to assess the legal status of beavers in Wales (it is a fuzzy area owing to beavers being on the EU Habitats Directive, but not on the UK Habitats Regs).

Lord Elis-Thomas will be sponsoring a beaver publicity event at the Senedd on 23rd April where we will be engaging with AMs and the public.

Dormice -. In Flintshire numbers of dormice over the last few years have been extremely low; in some sites the only evidence that dormice are still present is a single fresh nest found in a box. In Denbighshire numbers are continuing to do well and North Wales Wildlife Trust was delighted with a new dormouse record in their Coed Cilygroeslwyd nature reserve, and has plans to erect boxes this spring

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

Dormice – During 2012, MWT installed 200 new nest boxes on 2 nature reserves, which are being monitored as part of the NDMP. Found an empty dormouse nest at Coed Pendugwm in October, which is the first record on the site for 9 years. Two empty dormouse nests were found at Dolforwyn Woods in November, proving the presence of the species on the site for the first time.

Water Voles – Re-survey of recent and some historical sites across Montgomeryshire, in August & September, yielded disappointing results, with only three out of 14 sites with confirmed presence (the best of which was just in Ceredigion!). It is thought that the very poor summer and generally low density of the species on the sites is the cause of this poor success.

Lesser Horseshoe Bats – Roundton Hill dry mine, which has been monitored by CCW since 1984, will now be entered in the NBMP. The January count found 121, which is the highest ever count and continues the trend for good numbers seen in recent years. The new Montgomeryshire Bat Group (MBG) is helping with these counts.

Radnorshire and Brecknock WTs- no report at present

Future projects:

Brecknock WT will be doing some harvest mouse nest searching at their reserve in Ystradfawr this winter

Montgomeryshire WT will continue to monitor dormice at Coed Pendugwm & Dolforwyn Woods and have plans to erect 50 dormouse nest boxes at Dyfnant Meadows. New bat boxes are to be erected at Coed Pendugwm, Dolforwyn Woods and Dyfnant Meadows and will be monitored with the help of MBG. A new otter holt will be erected at Coed Pendugwm. MWT hope to also work on Water Voles and Pine Martens this year.

WTSWW hope to undertake water vole surveys on Teifi Marshes, Llangloffan Fen and Goodwick Moor this summer and do more mink trapping at Teifi Marshes. Monitoring efforts at Ffrwd Farm Mire will increase this year (no records for about 20 years) as a licence condition for SSSI management and as a result of a new record in close proximity to the site.

Other news:

Badgers have now been vaccinated on our nature reserves in the IAA.

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell

Organisation: CCW

Current projects:

- 1. Dormice in forestry** – the FCW/CCW project monitoring dormouse use of forestry in Crychan forest established in 2010 will continue into 2013. No significant outcomes to report to date.
- 2. Landscapes for lessers.** Ongoing. Currently updating predictive model (due Feb 2013) with aim of rolling this out to planners, conservation bodies etc later in the year.
- 3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project** (with BCT & Reading University). Final SG meeting in March. SNCOs will publish advice based on results & recommendations.
- 4. Defra bats & wind farms project** (with Exeter University). Investigating bat activity and mortality at large wind energy installations in Britain. Steering Group has agreed to an additional year of study to investigate some sites in more detail.
- 5. Bats & single mid-size wind turbines project** (NERC with Exeter University). Second year of a 3-year project focussing on areas known to have high bat biodiversity in South-West England and South Wales.

- 6. Welsh Bat Project** (grant aid to BCT approved for 2012-13, 13-14 and 14-15 (see separate report).
- 7. Rare Woodland Bats Project** - Bristol University has done modelling of bat diversity hot spots and predictive models for Bechstein's, barbastelle, serotine and leislars. Will work with BGs to select areas for priority for surveys. Will develop protocol based on Defra Woodland Bat survey (see below) initially using detectors to identify sites with high potential.
- 8. Developing an effective method for the systematic surveillance of bats in woodland habitats** Defra, Leeds Uni & BCT, 2012-2014. Aim is to devise a method that can be used on a large scale by trained volunteers. Field surveys undertaken in 2012 despite bad summer. Standard monitoring protocol being developed using combination of bat detectors and walked route and static detector and lure. Also continuing to develop call recognition software that will be freely available and will give % confidence levels for species i/d. MSc student based on Anglesey will trial methods at woodland sites with help from Gwynedd Bat Group & Coed Cymru.
- 9. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)** – see separate project report.
- 10. Deer in Wales** –The Deer Initiative has received a WG ERD grant to address the deer problem in the Elwy Valley in NE Wales. The project has been working with landowners to undertake camera trap assessment of deer densities and establish exclosures to assess the extent of browsing in woodlands across the area. The information gathered will be used to produce a deer management plan for the area. The DI are working with NWWT and other local groups, to encourage volunteers to help with continuing some of the monitoring work.
- 11. Lesser horseshoe bat roost cameras project.** Nothing additional to report.
- 12. Automated bat counters** Nothing additional to report.
- 13. Strategic mink control strategy.** Nothing additional to report.
- 14. Harvest mouse habitat** – Cofnod (the N Wales LRC) are undertaking an assessment of potential dormouse habitat across Wales. Using records of harvest mice and habitat information they will be identifying sites with a high potential of dormice being present. This information will then be used to target survey work.

Future projects:

- 1. Bats & Roads Research** Defra-led research project. Research spec has been developed & expressions of interest being looked at.
- 2. The Mammal Society – MaMoNet Wales.** The Mammal Society have been successful in applying for a CCW grant to support a Wales project officer. See attached job description for further information. The post will run from April 2013 to March 2014.

Other news:

- 1. Legislation guidance** – the Defra/WG statutory guidance on disturbance offence, including species-specific section and overview of damage/destruction offence – latest indication is that Defra will want very brief public guidance.
- 2. Natural Resources Wales** – the new body will be established on 1st April 2013. Changes to the structure of the 'legacy bodies' will be made gradually over the following year. Licensing functions currently with the WG will be transferred to the NRW. WG will however retain the badger licensing it currently carries out.
- 3. Article 17** – individual country reports are currently being amalgamated by JNCC to produce a UK assessment. External consultation will take place in the next few months.

Name: Mammals in a

Organisations: CCW, VWT, SNPA, WCC,

Sustainable Environment (MISE)	WIT, NBDC (Ireland)
<p>The purpose of the MISE project is to survey a range of native mammal species in Wales & Ireland, sharing expertise through cross-border collaboration. In addition, we aim to raise awareness, and involve new people through volunteer participation, school visits and public events.</p> <p>Red Squirrel Hair tube surveys ongoing at Cwm Mynach, Gwynedd & Cynwyd, Denbighshire. Also in Cwm Berwyn, Ceredigion. Trapping project in Carmarthenshire. The purpose is to ascertain whether reds are still present and investigate genetic diversity through DNA analysis at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). Early results show potential new haplotypes in the North Wales sites, similar to the Welsh haplotype. Requires further investigation. Grey squirrel control training day at Clawddnewydd, Denbighshire in partnership with BASC & FCW to encourage local landowners to help with control measures.</p> <p>Harvest mouse Bait pot technique trial to collect droppings for DNA analysis proved successful at one site. Nest searches carried out in Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd & Anglesey – found 11 nests at Cors Erddreiniog, Anglesey – first record in > 10 years. Intend to roll out surveys across Wales in 2013-14. DNA analysis of Barn owl & Kestrel pellets collected from potential Harvest mouse sites. Harvest mouse flyer to raise awareness – copies available for distribution.</p> <p>Dormouse Wales Dormouse workers’ day – November 2012 a great success. Nest box monitoring at various sites in N & W Wales, recent new records for Conwy valley, Flintshire & Ceredigion. Dormouse flyer to raise awareness – copies available for distribution.</p> <p>Otter Survey of Dwyryd river catchment (Gwynedd) planned for 18-19th May 2013, followed by long term monitoring of key sites. Considering continuing with Cefni survey, Anglesey. WIT carrying out genetic analysis to identify species, sex & individual genotypes. Monthly spraint collection on western Cleddau, Pembrokeshire and associated coastal sites in 2013. Otter diet workshop in Ceredigion planned for 2-3 March.</p> <p>Stoats & Weasels VWT refining hair tube survey method to be rolled out across Wales. Pilot succeeded in detecting weasels but not stoats. Further work on method being carried out in 2013.</p> <p>Public engagement & Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mini mammal surveys with schools using footprint tunnels, camera traps, bait pots for DNA analysis, small mammal trapping & otter surveying. Across Wales & Ireland over 170 young people have been involved. – Charity working with young offenders have made 60 Dormouse boxes for the project and will be helping put some up in North Wales this spring. – Volunteers involved in all surveys, providing them with training & experience. Over 1,500 volunteer hours have contributed to the project so far. 	
Name: Isabel Macho	Organisation: Carmarthenshire CCC (Carms LBAP)
Current projects:	

Water voles: habitat quality survey in Llanelli with WTSWW and EAW is complete and waiting for Map Info files and final report. This will inform future project work and assist with grant bids for a larger scale project to secure sympathetic management in this area for this species and also identify sites that have flood storage potential. EAW looking to undertake work in Millennium Coastal Path to improve ditches for water vole and encourage movement westwards!

- Three planning applications ongoing with water vole issues.

Dormice: Contracted local ecologist to undertake surveys in sites around Ammanford, which have suitable habitats but for which there are no records. Four sites identified to survey so far and so far one new record found in CCC-owned Ynysdawela nature park to the east of Ammanford. Results by March. Possible **harvest mouse** nests found as well. These are being checked.

- New record for another CCC site at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park
- Two planning applications being considered with dormice issues.

Bats – Carmarthenshire Bat Group will be arranging meetings this summer. They have their own blogspot: <http://carmarthenshirebatgroup.blogspot.co.uk/>
CCC–CCW met to discuss single turbine applications in county and cumulative impact and landscape issues.

- Lots of planning applications where bats are being considered.

Red Squirrel – see MISE and WTSWW updates.

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Ian Danby/Audrey
Watson

Organisation: BASC

Current projects:

Red Squirrel: A training events for BASC members around Clocaenog with FCW, the Red Squirrel Trust (RST) and MISE have been successful in coordinated trapping around the forest. Further development work will be needed to make this a complete buffer to the reds in the forest. A training event near Bangor was run in the last week to help develop the monitoring and trapping network around the reds breeding near Parc Manai. The event was recorded by BBC Wales with input from RST, BASC and our members and is expected to appear on their countryside focus show on Sunday mornings.

Pine Marten: The existing sites for with tubes for pine marten hair collection are still being run.

Water vole: Training courses on the Llyn have been run to increase the density of trapping in the area with new recruits coming on board. We will collect bag returns from the network in April.

Bats: This work programme has been hampered by lack of time from partners in bat groups to survey new land and is not likely to be continued with in 2013-14.

Dormice: Nest box checking in association with NWWT and MISE took place and 5 individuals were found in Hafod wood, which is the most recorded to date.

Future projects:

Further development of red squirrel and water vole work are priority areas for 2013-14.

Other news:

Name: Henry Schofield

Organisation: The Vincent Wildlife Trust

Current projects:

MISE: See separate report

Our Beacon for Bats: This project is now in its final year. In 2012 16 events were held which included public talks, a bat detector training workshop, roost visits, canal and road surveys, agricultural shows and bat walks. A total of 673 volunteer hours were clocked up including three volunteers who put in 391 hours on a lesser horseshoe bat and hedgerows project. This year has started with tree and hedgerow planting schemes in the Usk valley.

People and Pine Martens in Wales: Project Officer, David Bavin, started working on the project in November. He has spent the past three months getting this Cooperative funded two year project underway by expanding the existing MISE hair tube schemes and camera traps around Cwm Rheidol. Talks have been given to local mammal groups and interested students at Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities. A public attitude survey, erecting new den box schemes and a series of pine marten road shows at Cooperative stores are planned for 2013. Work has also started on modelling habitat suitability for pine marten in Wales.

General bat work: The Trust continues to manage its horseshoe bat reserves in Wales.

Future projects:

The Trust is at an early stage planning a potential broad mammal project in the Brecon Beacons National Park as a follow-on project to Our Beacon for Bats.

VWT is planning to start a national survey for polecats in 2014.

Other news:

The discovery of a road casualty pine marten near Newtown in November 2012 was the first carcass to be recovered in Wales since 1971

WMBAF update for 2nd October 2012 meeting

Name: Lizzie Wilberforce

Organisation: Wildlife Trusts Wales

Current projects:

Brecknock Wildlife Trust report from their ongoing monitoring programme that dormouse numbers appear to be slightly down this year

Gwent Wildlife Trust have reintroduced water voles at Magor Marsh, and have confirmed post-release breeding, and some expansion of range across the reserve. They are about to conduct another set of surveys to check how far they've gone. Work will continue next year with a post-winter survey, and probably another top-up release as well. The programme is licensed and supervised by CCW, and advised by Rob Strachen, both are on the project steering group. Mink monitoring is continuing around the reserve in the wider countryside. For more info contact Alice Rees (arees@gwentwildlife.org). GWT have also continued to run dormouse nestbox schemes in several places in Monmouthshire.

Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales have a number of projects running. At Parc Slip (Bridgend) last year two placement students from Cardiff undertook some refugia based research assessing preference of sheet sizes of various species including small mammals. At the same site, harvest mouse monitoring is underway: attempting to use motion-sensitive cameras and bait stations. Also, comparing trip-traps and Longworths as a capture method.

Currently undertaking water vole surveys (including video footage) at Tywi Forest under contract to FCW, a water vole/otter survey at Henllan for the NT and water vole habitat mapping in Llanelli for EAW/CCC.

Dormouse monitoring is ongoing at Pengelli Forest, Ffrwd Farm Mire and Rhos Cefn Bryn (the latter including an enormous 32g dormouse weighed by warden Richard Pond) and now also at Cwm Clettwr in north Ceredigion in partnership with MISE.

WTSWW continue to be partners in the beaver initiative, hosting one drop-in day and delivering talks about beaver ecology etc.

Ongoing work with the Deer Initiative in relation to non-natives (sika) and currently doing some camera trap work to assess the population size and distribution in west Wales.

Badgers are currently being vaccinated by WG on WTSWW land in the IAA.

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust report a terrible water vole survey season here in the Rhayader area but seemingly good for water voles themselves. Several new site records but relating to juveniles dispersing more than finding new colonies. Existing colonies have done well but clearly some source/sink dynamics in action. We had a useful mid Wales water vole meeting in April between the Powys Wildlife Trusts/NT/Elan valley ranger/Powys CC and Ceredigion CC biodiversity officers with Rob Strachan talking about water vole strategy action in Wales.

North Wales Wildlife Trust nothing to report this quarter

Future projects:
WTSWW: Creating artificial otter holt at Coed y Bedw nature reserve,
Harvest mouse nest searching at Parc Slip, and small mammal trapping programme at Cwm Colhuw, probably in spring- all sites in Glamorgan.

Other news:

Name: Isabel Macho

Organisation: Carmarthenshire CCC (Carms LBAP)

Current projects:

Water voles: working with WTSWW and EAW to undertake a habitat quality survey in Llanelli. The objective of this project is to determine the extent and quality of the habitat in this National Key area for water voles in the Llanelli levels. This will be carried out through the mapping of existing habitat quality, and potential creation areas to support the Llanelli metapopulations at sustainable levels.

The information generated will assist in the identification of land necessary to maintain the water vole population and will inform future projects to secure sympathetic management in this area for this species and also identify sites that have flood storage potential.

Dormice: New records at Troserch woods (near Llanelli) where there is a community project - WT have put boxes up and vol is being trained for dormouse licence. Boxes put up at Llyn Llech Owain CP and Carmel NNR after nuts found at both sites. Both sites have vol groups. Nut hunts to be held at Llyn Llech Owain CP and Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park in October – led by Jacqueline Hartley, who is leading on an informal dormouse group in the county and has set up a Facebook page.

Bats – Carmarthenshire Bat Group tried to meet regularly this summer when the weather allowed!

CCC–CCW meeting to discuss single turbine applications in county.

Red Squirrel – see MISE and WTSWW updates.

Future projects:

Other news:

Name:

Organisation:

Current projects:

BBNP

- Our Education Team works in partnership with VWT’s “Our Beacons for Bats” project.
- Wardens occasionally construct otter holts in relation to other habitat works
- Henallt Common SSSI: habitat enhancement project from the 1220mm natural gas pipeline and also a CCW S15 agreement with the commoners; habitat improvements include scrub and bracken control that benefits dormouse
- We have several BWW grant schemes running; one, at Carreg Cennen Woodlands SSSI, includes grey squirrel control
- Annual ditch mgmt. works at Llangasty (part of Llangors Lake SSSI/SAC), which benefits the water voles that were re-introduced there a few years back by EAW

- Development control advice, about 95% of which is about EPS, principally bats
- Assisting VWT with its scat surveys for pine marten
- Annual census of small mammals at Danywenallt Residential Education Centre (YHA)
- BIS habitat suitability modelling for bats and other EPS (under SLA with BBNPA); will eventually be used on our planning constraints layer to provide greater context for planning and conservation advice
- Constantly rescuing house mice from my cat.

Bridgend

- On-going dormouse survey at Bedford Park with Wildlife Trust
- As part of a river study, Swansea University will be carrying out an otter spraint survey on upper stretches of rivers Garw and Ogmere.
- Cardiff University have been undertaking small mammal trapping at Kenfig as part of field course and results should be fed back somewhere.

Pembs

- Project to look for evidence of Grey Long-eared Bats in known Brown Long-eared Bat roosts following the discovery of the species in the County.

• Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Otter (*Lutra lutra*) Survey 2012 Specification

Introduction

The contract for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Otter 2012 survey is being let by Milford Haven Port Authority on behalf of the Relevant Authority Group (RAG) partnership for the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, with the SAC Officer, Sue Burton, as project manager.

The Pembrokeshire Marine SAC RAG is a voluntary partnership of management authorities within the marine SAC who through joint action seek to better fulfil their statutory obligations under the EC Habitats Directive. The otter (*Lutra lutra*) is one of the features of interest for the site and requires protection within the SAC. It should also be noted that the otter is a biodiversity action plan species and thereby receives protection in the UK under UK legislation.

Background

The Pembrokeshire Marine SAC RAG has previously let contracts (see annex 1 - references) to better understand the otter's use of the marine environment within the SAC (much existing otter study is focused on inland rivers). This current work is intended to expand upon that research.

The project objectives are primarily;

- a) to work to establish how and when otters use the coast and marine environment of Pembrokeshire, and
- b) to work to establish whether the otters making use of the Pembrokeshire Coast are part of the inland waterway population who are transiting to the coast for occasional visits to the sea, or are a separate population based solely on the coast, and
- c) to make recommendations for future monitoring/surveillance methods which can meet the needs of Special Area of Conservation reporting.
- d) to highlight the otter's conservation needs in order to inform future conservation strategies for Pembrokeshire.

A detailed task list for the project is included in the supplementary spreadsheet.

Outputs

Outputs are to include the following:

- 1) Total list of sites to be visited with a sub-set of sites for onward seasonal (using volunteers) study;
- 2) Interim report summarising the results of snap-shot coastal and watershed surveys (including inland input from CCW if available).
- 3) Spraint prey analysis (via Swansea University – organised by contractor, separate financing)
- 4) Spraint geneology analysis (via Marine Institute in Ireland – organised by contractor)
- 5) Literature study on otter surveillance and monitoring methods (aided by SEACAMS – organised by contractor)
- 6) Final report including recommended surveillance and monitoring protocol and conservation recommendations for future management.

The results of this project will be shared amongst the RAG partnership members and passed to the county mammal recorder and the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre. The survey data may be used strategically to protect and enhance the otter populations, and to fulfil action from the SAC Management Scheme and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Deadlines for the contract

The interim report should be submitted by 31 January 2013, final report to be submitted by 31 December 2013. An extension to this deadline if required can be agreed with the project manager Sue Burton.

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Rob Strachan

Organisation: Environment Agency Wales

Current projects:

1. Cardiff University Otter Project. Post-mortems continue to be carried out on otters received from across EA Regions (approximately 50 otters per annum from Wales, 150 from England). From April 2013 new funding will need to in place to take account of the Single Body being formed and collaborative funding through the EA Evidence Directorate (England). EAW is seeking clarification on its budget under the SB.

The most recent Interim Report on the post-mortem studies (and spin-off research) can be found on the CUOP website: **Cardiff University Otter Project:** <http://www.otterproject.cf.ac.uk/>

Among the outputs is an interactive otter map. Each red dot on the map represents an individual otter casualty received for post mortem and clicking on each dot reveals associated data. Reproductive status is relevant only for adult females, which may be pregnant, lactating or quiescent (sub-adult females being classified as such by absence of evidence of reproductive activity).

http://www.otterproject.cf.ac.uk/otter_map.html

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Mink control/management continues to be aimed at protecting key water vole populations across North Wales, Anglesey and South-East Wales the latter to protect water vole reintroductions (Wye & Usk Foundation and Gwent Wildlife Trust). Obvious gaps in effort have been identified around Llanelli, Pendine, Pumlimon and Elan-Wye. Additional mink management is planned for Ogmere Anglers and Carmarthen Rivers Trust 2012/13. 3. Water vole habitat is due to be created this winter around the Afon Dafen (Llanelli) Tywi floodplain (Kidwelly) and on the Gwent Levels. 4. Established another population of water voles to South East Wales (Magor Marsh) in association with Gwent Wildlife Trust by captive breeding at Cynrig as demonstration projects (as seen on Countryfile 30/09/12). New sites within the Gwent levels are being investigated and better management of reens/ditches have been implemented by EAW and IDB. 5. A further three gauging stations have been modified to provide bat roosts (Afan, Taff & Wye) 		
<p>Future projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the water vole reintroduction at Magor Marsh, Gwent Levels in association with Gwent Wildlife Trust in June/July 2012. A successful creation of a mink corden sanitaire buffer around the reserve will expand across the levels through involvement of the IBD and RSPB (Futurescapes) and additional mink raft deployment is intended to establish a potential second reintroduction area associated with the Newport wetlands RSPB reserve. 2. Across Wales the EAW has adopted the 2015 targets from the water vole BAP as a reportable objective in its Outcome Delivery Plan (ie; Expand the current known water vole range to 90 X 10km squares by 2015). This will be done by targeted action within and around the Regional key areas for the species. 		
<p>Other news:</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive is a major driver for EAW spending and conservation action and this will carry through to the Single Body. Mitigation measures for diffuse pollution and even gross pollution such as mine waste water includes the creation of reedbeds, wet woodland, ponds and riparian buffer strips. Wet woodland and buffer strips are being used to create better connectivity and foraging for Lesser Horseshoe bats and other species</p> <p>Another driver is the need to built resilience into rivers against climate change. To this end a riparian shading initiative is being promoted on important salmonid spawning rivers to ensure cooler water with the Upper Wye catchment. This will encourage better buffering of watercourses by tree planting and riparian fencing. Biodiversity and fishery staff will work together to ensure that protected mammals such as otters and bats benefit and that habitats are connected, but also that water vole habitat is not lost in the process.</p>		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Name: Audrey Watson</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Organisation: BASC</td> </tr> </table>	Name: Audrey Watson	Organisation: BASC
Name: Audrey Watson	Organisation: BASC	
<p>Current projects:</p> <p>Red squirrels: running a training day 12 Oct with MISE and the Red Squirrel Trust to train/advise on grey squirrel trapping to benefit populations in Cynwyd and Clocaenog.</p>		

Water vole: continuing to supply mink rafts and traps across N Wales to aid mink control to benefit water voles. Gave a presentation to Environment Agency Predator Conference and a few fisheries expressed interest in becoming involved.

Pine Marten: hair tubes erected on NW Wales site but not had the pads analysed as yet. Tubes on a shoot near Pentrefoelas not been checked yet.

Dormice: boxes have been checked once this year but no dormice found as yet. Last checks will be done on Oct with the hope of finding some (as I found them last Oct in the Denbighshire wood)

Bats: Gwynedd Bat Group had a weekend on a shoot on the Llyn in May but I have had no feedback or results as yet.

Future projects: Continuing these projects

Other news:

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell

Organisation: CCW

Current projects:

- 1. Dormice in forestry** – the FCW/CCW project monitoring dormouse use of forestry in Crychan forest established in 2010 will continue into 2013.
- 2. Landscapes for lessers.** Ongoing. No progress since last meeting.
- 3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project** (with BCT & Reading University). Ongoing. Due to finish June 2013.
- 4. Defra bats & wind farms project** (with Exeter University). SG meeting Oct to discuss preliminary results of 2012 season.
- 5. Bats & single mid-size wind turbines project** (NERC with Exeter University). Ongoing. 2012 report awaited.
- 6. Welsh Bat Project** (grant aid to BCT approved for 2012-13, 13-14 and 14-15 (see separate report).
- 7. Rare Woodland Bats Project** –CCW has approached Bristol re collation of data and info from models to produce list of sites for survey. Further discussion between needed between CCW, BCT & VWT re next stage. Proposed to use additional money this FY for equipment &/or preparation of training notes.
- 8. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)** – see separate project report.
- 9. Deer in Wales** – the Wales Deer Action Plan Delivery Group has met for the first time to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. The Deer Initiative has received a WG ERDF grant to address the deer problem in the Elwy Valley in NE Wales. A previous grant to the DI has identified that the majority of the deer in the Cardigan area are red deer with some Sika deer also present.
- 10. Lesser horseshoe bat roost cameras project** with Chester Zoo. Ongoing. Bat camera at CCW Centre at Ystradlyn (Cader Idris) will go on-line. Worth a visit!
- 11. Automated bat counters** at horseshoe bat nursery roosts. CCW counters at Glynllifon and Slebech. Ongoing. Hope to link this with above project.
- 12. Strategic mink control strategy.** CCW funded WTSWW to produce document to guide action and help with funding bids. Draft doc awaiting further distribution info from WG Glastir monitoring, but may need to go ahead & publish without this as no

progress on this. Some funding left this year to discuss with WTs & BASC – possible purchase of mink rafts?

Future projects:

1. Bats & Roads Research Defra-funded research project. CCW has bid for funds for contribution.

2. Mapping harvest mouse habitat in Wales. Potential contract to target harvest mouse surveys.

Other news:

1. Legislation guidance – the Defra/WG statutory guidance on disturbance offence, including species-specific section and overview of damage/destruction offence – latest hold up was Defra review of guidance, now completed. New deadline awaited.

2. Single Body – the new body will be established on 1st April 2013. Changes to the structure of the ‘legacy bodies’ will be made gradually over the following year. Licensing functions currently with the WG will be transferred to the SB. WG will however retain the badger licensing it currently carries out.

3. CCW grants – there is currently an opportunity to apply for a CCW grant, although applications are restricted to organisations that are not already in receipt of a CCW grant. Closing date is xxxx. See CCW website for more details or contact Liz/Jean.

4. Article 17 – draft reports due to be with JNCC by end October. There will subsequently be an external consultation period.

WMBAF update for 2nd October 2012 meeting

Name: Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)

Organisations: CCW, VWT, SNPA, WCC, WIT, NBDC (Ireland)

The purpose of the MISE project is to survey a range of native mammal species in Wales & Ireland, sharing expertise through cross-border collaboration. In addition, we aim to raise awareness, and involve new people through volunteer participation, school visits and public events.

Red Squirrel

Hair tube surveys ongoing at Cwm Mynach, Gwynedd & Cynwyd, Denbighshire.

Trapping project in Carmarthenshire. The purpose is to ascertain whether reds are still present and investigate genetic diversity through DNA analysis at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). Early results show potential new haplotypes in the North Wales sites, similar to the Welsh haplotype. Requires further investigation. Grey squirrel control training day at Clawddnewydd, Denbighshire 12th October in partnership with BASC to encourage local landowners to help with control measures.

Harvest mouse

Trialling bait pot technique to collect droppings for DNA analysis, to be followed up with nest searches at sites with historic records in Denbighshire, Flintshire & Gwynedd. Intend to roll out across Wales in 2013-14. DNA analysis of Barn owl & Kestrel pellets collected from potential Harvest mouse sites. Produced Harvest mouse flyer to raise awareness (see attachment) – copies available for distribution.

Dormouse

Nest box monitoring at various sites in N & S Wales, recent new records for Conwy valley & Ceredigion. Produced Dormouse flyer to raise awareness (see attachment) –

copies available for distribution.

Otter

Survey of Cefni river catchment on Anglesey & Ceredigion coast to follow on from coastal surveys in 2011. WIT carrying out genetic analysis to identify species, sex & individual genotypes. Analysis completed on Lleyn, Anglesey, Ceredigion & NE Wales coastal surveys. Preliminary results have identified several individuals & show strong sex bias at some sites. We are currently considering how to follow this up in 2013.

Otter diet workshop held in Bangor in February 2012, 45 volunteers attended over 2 days. Following this model, our colleagues in Ireland will hold a similar workshop in November, and VWT hope to do the same in 2013.

Stoats & Weasels

VWT trialling hair tube design to be rolled out across Wales.

Public engagement & Volunteers

- Mini mammal surveys with schools using footprint tunnels, camera traps, bait pots for DNA analysis, small mammal trapping & otter surveying. Across Wales & Ireland over 170 young people have been involved.
- Charity working with young offenders have made 60 Dormouse boxes for the project and hope to help put some up in North Wales this winter.
- Volunteers involved in all surveys, providing them with training & experience. Over 1,500 volunteer hours have contributed to the project so far.

Future projects:

The MISE project will run until December 2014. It is intended that the above projects will continue, with eventual roll out across Wales. Future plans include habitat improvement for Dormice, and the production of Bi-lingual Dormouse & Harvest mouse survey packs to encourage groups to undertake their own surveys.

Name: Steve Lucas

Organisation: BCT

Current projects:

- Funding for BCT's Wales Officer, by CCW, has been assured for the next three years albeit at a fixed and reduced level. In real terms this will mean an overall and year on year reduction in funding. We will continue to look at other sources of funding however, funding is very much reliant on match funding. Potentially bat groups have a huge resource of match funding through their voluntary activities which could be used by BCT – please do let us know.
- The Wales Agri-environment monitoring (evaluation) Programme has just come to an end after three years surveying farms in south and west Wales. BCT was part of a consortium of wildlife NGOs led by RSPB investigating the impact of the Welsh higher level agri-environment scheme, Tir Gofal, on farmland biodiversity. Funded by Welsh Government, this contract involved the monitoring of a range of flora and fauna on Welsh farmland and addressed the question: does the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme help maintain and enhance biodiversity. The report has been submitted to the Welsh Government and we are hopeful that it will be published at some stage.

- As part of the NBMP strategy for 2012/13 we are focussing on increasing survey coverage in Wales. Tying in with this we are currently making recommendations to CCW on a strategy for optimising bat monitoring in Wales through the support conservation monitoring. CCW are also handing over the coordination of lesser horseshoe colony counts in Wales to the NBMP team this summer so those of you who take part in this survey will receive survey packs from us before the start of the survey period in May. Kate Barlow will be available during the Day to answer any questions you may have.

- NBMP trainers. We now have five people in Wales who can deliver NBMP training including Using Your Ears – Richard Crompton, Richard Dodd, Mike Castle, Keymar Wake and Steve Lucas. If you want to organise something then please get in contact with Philip Briggs at pbriggs@bats.org.uk

- Wales' biodiversity action plans for bats- BCT is the lead partner for six of the eight bat species listed under section 42 NERC Act 2006 (common and soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, noctule, Bechsteins and barbastelle bats). We are also joint lead partner with CCW for the lesser horseshoe bat and CCW are lead partner for the greater horseshoe bat. We have drafted seven biodiversity action plans which have been sent to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership for publication on their web site. The action plans are currently being reviewed in terms of their targets but the actions won't change, so the plans will be updated in due course.

- Rare bats in Woodlands. Project under development with CCW and VWT.

- Urban bat survey project – primarily an outreach project to recruit new volunteers into bat conservation science. Been running over three years in Cardiff, Swansea/Neath, Carmarthenshire and Clwyd. In 2011, 162 volunteers took part. Data is sent to relevant LRCs.

- Significant involvement with other NGOs through Wales Environment Link on consultations issued by Welsh Government especially on the new Single Body, Living Wales, Sustainable Development Bill as well as various changes to the planning system

Future projects:

Other news:

Publications

Good Practice Guidelines- the second edition is now available. You can download (in non-printable PDF format) at: <http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/batsurveyguide.html> . Hard copies can be purchased from NHBS: http://www.nhbs.com/bat_surveys_tefno_154031.html . We will be reviewing the document periodically to assess the need for addendums. Please send any comments to surveyguidelines@bats.org.uk

Professional Training Standards- This project provides a set of standards for professional bat surveyors (consultants, ecologists, etc.) relating to bat work in the UK. These standards cover the variety of work that a professional bat surveyor may be asked to do and outline the level of knowledge and skills expected of an individual to perform key tasks. The standards are from: http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/professional_training_standards.html .

Forthcoming publications- there are two new BCT publications due out in the next couple of months. 'Guide for Landscaping for bats and Biodiversity' is aimed at landscape architects and for larger developments. There will also be new guidance on lighting and bats.

Research

Soprano pipistrelle exclusion research – this project (University of Bristol with BCT) is studying what happens to bat colonies that are excluded from houses. Thanks to the efforts of the bat workers who responded to our request for information on sites where exclusions were planned, three roosts will be studied by the researchers when they are excluded this spring. Please continue to share information on sites where exclusions are planned as three more roosts are needed for the study in spring 2013.

Churches research– soprano pipistrelle surveys will take place in several eastern counties this summer. A shortlist of churches for participation in the 2012 field season of the Natterer's bat study has been drawn up.

(A Special Research Bulletin was circulated to bat groups last summer about all three of these projects; for further information please contact Dr Karen Haysom, Director of Conservation at BCT: karenhaysom@bats.org.uk).

Bats and Breathable Membranes. EngD study with Reading University Stacey Waring will be giving a presentation at the Bat Workers Day.

Other research projects for which BCT is active on

Defra Bats & Wind Turbines research project– Exeter University

NERC Bats & Single Midsize Wind Turbines Research Project – Exeter University

Defra Bats & Woodlands Research Project Leeds University

Defra, NE and Highways Agency re research on bat mitigation on roads.

National Bat Monitoring Programme

NBMP coordinators within bat groups– several bat groups around the UK have an NBMP coordinator who takes on the role of promoting NBMP participation within the group. This can range from simply requesting lists of unallocated sites in your bat group area to forward around the group to organising practical sessions for group members who wish to build up their confidence, such as mock surveys or assisting with actual surveys. We are in the process of putting together a resource pack to support coordinators in this role. We are keen to have NBMP coordinators within as many bat groups as possible so if you are interested in please contact Nicole Lechiara at nbmp@bats.org.uk

NBMP training– we are currently starting to organise this year's programme of NBMP workshops. These include introductory bat detector workshops and also workshops that focus on the survey and species ID techniques needed to take part in specific surveys (Field Survey, Waterway Survey, Sunset/Sunrise Survey). If your group would like us to run a workshop for you then please contact Philip Briggs at pbriggs@bats.org.uk

NBMP survey coverage– we are looking to increase survey coverage in all regions in order to be able to deliver species population trends at the regional level, so any help that you can give would be very valuable. Details of how to take part and an online sign-up form can be found at <http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/nbmp.html>

Fund Raising and Membership

Membership– growing BCT membership (currently just under 5000) continues to prove challenging however more members are needed to demonstrate to government and funders the importance of bats to the public. Pay monthly options have been initiated and 2012 there'll be programme of recruitment at events and exhibitions including Gardner's World at

the NEC in June. Volunteers always welcomed at these events or if you other ideas of ways to help recruitment members contact sballard@bats.org.uk

Fundraising initiatives- 'adopt a bat' was launched in 2011; these wild adoptions are designed to be gifts (for yourself or someone else!) that support our native species. We also trialled Halloween community fundraising in 2011. Some bat groups used the Halloween fundraising pack to do their own fundraising and a new improved pack will be prepared for 2012. Any groups using the packs do please let us know how you get on even if it wasn't for BCT we'd still love to know what works, and how much you raised for bat conservation.

Projects

Count Bat Project- this project has now ended. The final output was a resources pack "Bats for All" which includes a DVD of supporting materials for engaging a wide variety of different groups with bats. The DVD is available at today's event or the content can be downloaded from the BCT website at: www.bats.org.uk/pages/count_bat_project.html . BCT is currently seeking funding for focussed follow up work.

Roost website- the mitigation website 'Roost' is up and running: <http://roost.bats.org.uk> . You can add case studies of good (or bad) mitigation. Please do add examples if you have them. Any questions please contact Kelly Gunnell, Built Environment Officer at BCT: kgunnell@bats.org.uk

Habitat Regs Review- BCT is contributing to Natural England and Defra consultations about the Habitat Regulations; submitting recommendations and case studies. Lisa Hundt, Head of Biodiversity at BCT, is leading on this. Lisa can be contacted at lhundt@bats.org.uk

Thank you to anyone who completed the online survey that fed into the BCT submission; a summary of which can be found by following the link from the BCT website at: www.bats.org.uk/pages/consultations.html

Pan European Indicator Project- In December BCT completed a project to develop a prototype European bat population indicator using data , in collaboration with Dutch Mammal Society, Statistics Netherlands and monitoring schemes from 9 partner countries (including Netherlands, Austria & Germany). The report to European Environment Agency is expected to be published in the EEA Technical publication series.

BatLife Europe- launched at the 17th European Bat Symposium in Vilnius, Lithuanian last August (2011). There are 28 member organisations from 26 countries. BatLife does not have its own staff and instead projects will be delivered through partner organisations. (There are 14 trustees from across Europe.)

GIS Project- BCT now has MapInfo to support landscape scale project work and for use with NBMP data.

Habibat- this is a partnership between BCT and EcoSurv for an integral bat box for developments but with an associated monitoring scheme to understand how effective they are. The Habibat website is: www.habibat.co.uk

Building for Biodiversity- BCT is part of a pilot scheme looking at giving the managers of existing buildings a way to enhance their biodiversity value and get recognition for it. We are looking for industry partners to support the new Building Biodiversity Assessment Tool. Please contact Kelly for further information kgunnell@bats.org.uk

WMBAF update for 24th April 2012 meeting

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell | Organisation: CCW

Current projects:

- 1. Dormice in forestry** – monitoring of nest box scheme in Crychan forest established in 2010 will continue into 2012. No significant data yet.
- 2. Landscapes for lessers.** Jean sorting out data. Model to be re-run in April.
- 3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project** (with BCT & Reading University). Ongoing. Stacey will be at WBWD next week.
- 4. Defra bats & wind farms project** (with Exeter University). First year work completed. Confirmed that bats have been killed by turbines, but too little data to analyse re risk factors. Don't have as many sites as wished, but sufficient for project to continue.
- 5. Bats & single mid-size wind turbines project** (NERC with Exeter University). Student has started & has good number of sites for this year's survey season. Will be at WBWD next week.
- 6. Welsh Bat Project (grant aid to BCT approved for 2012-13, 13-14 and 14-15.**
- 7. Rare Woodland Bats Project** – have some money to fund this. Will be used to collate data and info from models to produce list of sites for survey. Initial surveys will be undertaken using detectors and follow up surveys with lures and traps. Further discussion between CCW, BCT & VWT needed.
- 8. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)** – see separate project report.
- 9. Deer Strategy in Wales** – The Action Plan for the strategy has been published an a Wales Deer Action Plan Delivery Group has been established to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. The group will meet for the first time on 16th May. Please contact Liz if you are interested in attending.
- 11. Lesser horseshoe bat roost cameras project** with Chester Zoo. Ongoing.
- 12. Automated bat counters** at horseshoe bat nursery roosts. CCW counters at Glynllifon and Slebech. Hope to link this with above project.
- 13. Strategic mink control strategy.** CCW funded WTSWW to produce document to guide action and help with funding bids.

Future projects:

We have a small amount of funding available for work on priority BAP species this year. Priority projects to be discussed at forum meeting.

Other news:

- 1. Legislation guidance** – the Defra/WAG statutory guidance on disturbance offence, including species-specific section and overview of damage/destruction offence – latest hold up was Defra review of guidance, now completed. New deadline awaited.
- 2. Single Environment Body** – creation of the new organisation has been approved & changed its name already. Some staff from FCW, CCW and EAW are setting up the shadow organisation and the new body should be in place in April 2013.

Name: Isabel Macho

Organisation: Carmarthenshire LBAP

Current projects:

- Urban **Bat** Project in partnership with BCT – took place last summer. Steve Lucas analysing results.
- Bat Group with blog activity and will meet through the summer.
- Plenty of bat issues through planning system
- **Dormice** – grant funding received from CCW via Carms Community Strategy. Survey of Carmel NNR and boxes/tubes put in place. Vols involved in monitoring.

Boxes erected at Llyn Llech Owain CP – vols trained to help with monitoring. Info panel produced for LLO. Hedgerow restoration work undertaken to improve connectivity in area adjacent to known dormouse site – building on previous project by WTSWW.

- With MISE two new sites surveyed and nuts found.
- Informal Dormouse groups and Facebook page established in county.
- Four current planning applications dealing with dormouse issues.
- CCC-owned site in Llanelli with **water vole**. EAW have opened up ditches and created ponds.
- Planning application for houses in Llanelli with significant water vole mitigation/habitat creation being undertaken.
- Vol awarded bursary from PTES to work on dormouse project. Worked with WTSWW.
- **Red squirrel** – CCW-funded habitat assessment project undertaken for Tywi forest.
- MISE/WTSWW organised public survey events. MISE – organised event with Amman Valley School.
- WTSWW obtained grant funding from Environment Wales for a grey control project in targeted buffer area of Mid Wales Focal area.

Future projects: Always looking for opportunities through grant funding sources and work with partners/vols.

Other news:

Name: Rebecca Pritchard

Organisation: Menter Môn

Current projects:

1. Mink Raft Work

Environment Wales funded project was extended utilising funds from EAW. Circa 200 rafts were located and monitored on river catchments across Anglesey from September 2011 – ongoing until mid May.

2. Mink Raft Training Days

A series of five mink raft training days were organised in conjunction with BASC targeting Llyn, Bangor area, Conwy and Anglesey to encourage volunteer participation. An additional two training events were held on Anglesey for local groups. The training events formed part of the Environment Wales funded project.

Future projects:

1. National Key Site Surveys

The key site surveys will be undertaken again this year in May and September.

2. Volunteer Water Vole Surveys

A number of water vole survey days will be organised across North Wales under the guise of the North West Wales Riparian Mammals Group.

3. Otter Surveys

Menter Môn will be working with the MISE Project to organise inland waterway surveys. Spraint will be collected for genetic analysis.

4. Harvest Mouse

Hoping to work with the MISE Project on Anglesey following training last year.

5. Dormouse

Hoping to work with MISE on Anglesey to monitor nest boxes.

Other news:

Hugh Knott Environmental Projects Manager at Menter Môn retired at the end of March.

WMBAF update for 24th April 2012 meeting

Name: Ceri Morris

Organisation: MISE project

Current projects:**Red Squirrel surveys & Genetic diversity**

Hair tube surveys in Cwm Mynach, Cynwyd and Brechfa to begin this summer to ascertain presence of red squirrels and investigate genetic diversity. Recent genetic analysis of hair samples collected from previous study in Cynwyd has found possible unique Welsh haplotype. Grey squirrel trapping in Clocaenog, Cynwyd & Brechfa. Volunteers needed to help with surveys – please contact Ceri!

Otter genetics & Dietary analysis

Genetic analysis ongoing on Anglesey, Llyn, N Wales Coast & Ceredigion coastal surveys. Able to identify species, sex & individual identities from spraint. Dietary analysis workshop for volunteers held in February with >40 participants. New surveys planned this year including Anglesey on 26th May.

Bat dietary analysis

Lesser Horseshoe & Brown long eared bat dropping analysis from roots across sites, to build baseline data for reference with future changes in prey distribution in relation to climate change.

Dormice

Nest boxes installed & monitored in various sites across Wales. Nut hut events for volunteers carried out in Dolgellau & Ynys Hir last Autumn. Wales Dormouse Workers day – 17th November, Aberystwyth.

Harvest Mice

Training for key staff, LBAP officers, volunteers etc on survey techniques provided by Sarah Bird last November. Bait pot surveys to collect faeces for genetic analysis, and barn owl pellet genetic analysis ongoing.

Pine Marten

Hair tube survey in Cwm Rheidol, & other sites across Wales following sighting reports. Ad-hoc scat analysis – no +ve results yet.

Stoats & Weasels

Hair tube method being trialled by Jenny in S Wales. Training day on 12th May – contact Jenny for more information.

General

School visits & nature clubs using bait pots, footprint tunnels & small mammal trapping to carry out small mammal surveys.

Future projects:

As above – MISE will continue until 2014

Other news:

Name: Isabel Macho

Organisation: Carmarthenshire LBAP

Current projects:

- Urban **Bat** Project in partnership with BCT – took place last summer. Steve Lucas analysing results.
- Bat Group with blog activity and will meet through the summer.
- Plenty of bat issues through planning system
- **Dormice** – grant funding received from CCW via Carms Community Strategy. Survey of Carmel NNR and boxes/tubes put in place. Vols involved in monitoring. Boxes erected at Llyn Llech Owain CP – vols trained to help with monitoring. Info panel produced for LLO. Hedgerow restoration work undertaken to improve connectivity in area adjacent to known dormice site – building on previous project by WTSWW.
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- **Red squirrel** – CCW-funded habitat assessment project undertaken for Tywi forest.
 - MISE/WTSWW organised public survey events. MISE – organised event with Amman Valley School.
 - WTSWW obtained grant funding from Environment Wales for a grey control project in targeted buffer area of Mid Wales Focal area.

Future projects: Always looking for opportunities through grant funding sources and work with partners/vols.

Other news:

Name:

Organisation:

Current projects:

Future projects:

Other news:

WMBAF update for 14th November 2011 meeting

Name: Ian Danby

Organisation: BASC

Current projects:

Green Shoots in North Wales

The project continues to monitor pine marten boxes in Conwy and the Snowdonia National Park. No records yet.

The project officer (Audrey Watson) worked with Ceri Morris (MISE) checking dormouse boxes BASC erected in Hafod wood, Conwy. With help from a licensed volunteer, 3 dormice were confirmed on site. This is a new site for Conwy for them with only one or two other confirmed populations.

Audrey Watson has trained volunteer mink controllers on the Llyn Peninsula in line with the NW Water Vole Conservation Strategy. Further training dates are planned, the next of which is in December 2011. We hope for a good network of rafts by March 2012 on a substantial part of the peninsula.

Green Shoots online survey tool – BASC are developing an web survey tool which will collect the location of shooting land and biological records for use in our Green Shoots programme. Data will be shared with NBN where we are given consent from members.

We will be requesting users to provide wildlife records on key species at a Wales level.

The system will be live from Feb 2012.

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Iolo Lloyd

Organisation: Forestry Commission Wales – Coed y Gororou FD

Current projects:

Red squirrel Monitoring at Clocaenog Forest.

Contract has been awarded this Winter 2011/12 to monitor the red squirrel population at Clocaenog through radio tracking.

If successful in capturing red squirrels, there will be other biometric information and hair samples collected for future genetic analysis. This may be a part of MISE study project.

Hair samples will also be taken from any grey squirrel caught.

Future projects:

For reduction of possible threat to the red squirrel population at Clocaenog from SQPV, a grey squirrel management contract is also planned this winter 2011/12.

Other news:

Name: Ceri Morris/Jenny Macpherson	Organisation: CCW/VWT -
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<p>Current projects: MISE Project</p> <p>Red Squirrels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey squirrel trapping, Hair tube and camera trap surveys planned in MWRS core area concurrent with grey squirrel control in buffer from end of January to beginning of March. • Hair tube work continuing at Cwm Mynach & Aberhiraant with SNPA. • FC running survey in Clocaenog. • Would like to begin Cynwyd surveys <p>Otters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIT in process of analysing spraint from Ceredigion, Anglesey, Pen Llyn, Denbighshire & Flintshire surveys. <p>Dormice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nut hunts at Ynys Hir, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire & Dolgellau in coming weeks. <p>Stoats & weasels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot hair tube study in Carmarthenshire. WIT currently analysing results. Planning to roll out to wider area next year with volunteers. <p>Polecat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflet asking for recent sightings evidence, particularly in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Anglesey <p>Harvest mice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trialling bait pots as survey method. • Trialling barn owl pellets for DNA analysis • Training event for key surveyors at Chester Zoo – fully booked. • Planning surveys in Snowdonia (Hafod Garegog) & Anglesey (Cors Erddreiniog) over winter
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Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Lizzie Wilberforce	Organisation: Wildlife Trusts Wales
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<p>Current projects:</p> <p>A variety of smaller projects ongoing across the 6 Trusts in Wales. WTSWW and NWWT continue to work on the terrestrial mammal part of the Tir Gofal monitoring contract to the Welsh Government which will be completed by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Two year out students from Cardiff University are based at our Parc Slip site near Bridgend and have successfully been undertaking a harvest mouse survey on the reserve using plastic trip-traps mounted on canes. Harvest mouse nests found on Ffrwd Farm Mire nature reserve (Gwernydd Penbre SSSI) in Carmarthenshire.</p>
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WTSWW is also hosting a licensed, PTES-funded intern to undertake a landscape scale assessment of dormouse habitat quality and survey and monitor dormice using boxes and tubes around a WT reserve in the Llannon area of Carmarthenshire. Brecknock WT We report a bumper dormice season again at three of their 6 sites in Crychan & Halfway (two of the ones that didn't were brand new sites).

They also report some high counts in some of the **Lesser Horseshoe bat** maternity sites along the River Usk (Brecknock bat group)

Gwent Wildlife Trust report **dormouse**: Ongoing dormouse monitoring across a number of reserves and other sites with CCW. Harvest Mouse: We completed a funded harvest mouse project this year and are now hoping to keep up with at least basic surveying. We had some interesting records (given the paucity of records held at SEWBReC). Also trialling harvest mouse nest boxes

Future projects:

WTSWW has been successful with a Biodiversity Grant from Environment Wales to undertake some **grey squirrel control** in a pilot area (around the Cothi valley) for the Mid Wales Red Squirrel Project, which will start after Christmas and be completed by the end of the financial year.

Gwent Wildlife Trust report: **Water Vole**: We are looking at developing a water vole reintroduction project at Magor Marsh. This has been considered for many months now but has recently had the support of Rob Strachan which has been a great help in deciding if a re introduction is feasible. We are hoping to introduce a mink monitoring and trapping programme in a buffer zone around Magor Marsh in the very near future depending on funding. We have been trapping mink at Magor Marsh annually now since 2005.

Other news:

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell	Organisation: CCW
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Current projects:

- 1. Dormice in forestry** – monitoring of nest box scheme in Crychan forest established in 2010 continued.
- 2. Landscapes for lessers.** Jean sorting out data, to be sent to Cofnod who will provide it on-line for verification by key local bat recorders and then get model re-run.
- 3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project** (with BCT & Reading University). Ongoing.
- 4. Defra bats & wind farms project** (with Exeter University). First year work completed. Confirmed that bats have been killed by turbines, but too little data to analyse re risk factors. Still need more wind farm sites to take part. Presentations to RenewableUK conference.
- 5. Bats & single mid-size wind turbines project** (NERC with Exeter University). Student has started. Now looking for suitable sites for monitoring. Will be in contact with LPAs.
- 6. Welsh Bat Project (grant aid to BCT on an annual basis).**
- 7. Red squirrels in mid-Wales** – awaiting final report of project to identify patches of key red squirrel habitat within the Mid Wales Focal Site.
- 8. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)** – see separate project report.
- 9. Deer Strategy in Wales** – A Wales deer stakeholder meeting was held in October

to discuss the draft action plan arising from the Deer Strategy. The action plan is now being finalised and it has been agreed that there will be meetings of the Deer Initiative in Wales to allow discussion of local issues.

10. Lesser horseshoe bat roost cameras project with Chester Zoo. Ongoing.

11. Automated bat counters at horseshoe bat nursery roosts. CCW counters at Glynllifon and Slebech. Hope to link this with above project.

12. Strategic mink control strategy. CCW to fund WTSWW to produce document to guide action and help with funding bids. (Joint application for WG biodiversity funding got to panel stage, but wasn't approved – need to seek funding elsewhere).

Future projects:

We have a small amount of funding available for work on priority BAP species this year. Priority projects to be discussed at forum meeting.

Other news:

1. Legislation guidance – the Defra/WAG statutory guidance on disturbance offence, including species-specific section and overview of damage/destruction offence is still being reviewed by Defra lawyers!

2. Single Environment Body – the business case for a single body created from FCW, CCW and EAW is expected to be presented to the Minister in the next few weeks, with a decision being taken by cabinet by the end of the year.

WMBAF update for 20th June 2011 meeting

Name: Rob Strachan

Organisation: Environment Agency Wales

Current projects:

1. Otter Survey of Wales 2010. Unfortunately, this is still not available but will be published on-line as a PDF download from the EAW website. A notification will be sent once it is out.
2. Cardiff University Otter Project. Post-mortems were continued to be carried out on otters received from across EA Wales. So far some 86 animals were received across the EA network this year (22 from Wales). The most recent Interim Report on the post-mortem studies (and related research) can be found on the CUOP website: **Cardiff University Otter Project:** www.otterproject.cf.ac.uk
3. Priority Otter Road Mortality sites in Wales (M.Res Studentship with Bristol University). GIS analysis of otter mortality database to determine hotspots and mitigation measures. A report will be made available at the end of 2011.
4. Conservation Genetics of the Water Vole in Wales (KESS studentship with Bangor University). Underway to identify which populations are most at risk from genetic bottlenecks and inbreeding depression and help set priorities for where the on-the-ground conservation measures should be focussed. Water vole sites are being visited to collect droppings in over Summer 2011 (A number of surveyors have been provided with sampling kits)
5. EAW spending has focussed on the delivery of the Water Framework Directive with particular attention to impassable weir to migratory fish. Environmental enhancements on the back of the various projects include retrofitting otter ledges or steps around weirs and the creation of artificial otter holts with suitable planting
6. Water vole conservation has continued through wetland creation and enhancement in the Swansea-Llanelli area, general habitat enhancement around water vole key areas (including over 6km riparian fencing), water vole reintroduction/top up at Llangors lake and support of a number of mink control/mink raft projects (especially Anglesey, Afon Wheeler, Gwent Levels, Wye and Usk)
7. Four more gauging stations are due to be modified to provide bat roosts (Wye, Usk, Tywi, and Taff)

Future projects:

1. No other mammal projects in the pipeline

Other news:

A number of Water Framework Directive initiatives are under way to identify projects to meet compliance for Good Ecological Status. Habitat enhancement and creation schemes will be used to deliver biodiversity benefits.

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell

Organisation: CCW

Current projects:

- 1. Dormice in forestry** – nest box scheme established in Crychan forest to look at dormouse use of clearfell areas as habitat re-establishes. Roger Trout is continuing the monitoring of the sites established in 2010.
- 2. Landscapes for lessers.** GIS workshop & meeting held in March to look at habitat suitability modelling and its application. Data to be verified – Jean talking to Cofnod about how to do this & then the model will be re-run and rolled out.
- 3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project** (with BCT & Reading University). Ongoing.

- 4. Automated Bat I/d system** for use at underground swarming sites (Leeds University). Ongoing.
- 5. Defra bats & wind farms project** (with Exeter University). More wind farm sites are needed for the research project. May need to put pressure on wind farm developers / operators – e.g. use of planning conditions. Preliminary results of the trials using dogs to find bat carcasses have been encouraging.
- 6. Bats & mid-size wind turbines project** (NERC with Exeter University). Will start soon – more information as available.
- 7. Welsh Bat Project (grant aid to BCT on an annual basis).**
- 8. Red squirrels in mid-Wales** – awaiting final report of project to identify patches of key red squirrel habitat within the Mid Wales Focal Site.
- 9. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)** – The MISE project started in March and the two project officers are now in post, Ceri Morris for CCW and Jenny MacPherson for VWT. Project ideas are being developed. The project will run until December 2014.
- 10. Deer Strategy in Wales** – has been published by WG: (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-8czed6>). A Wales stakeholder meeting will be held later this year to discuss implementation of the strategy.

Future projects:

We have a small amount of funding available for work on priority BAP species this year. Priority projects to be discussed at forum meeting

Other news:

- 1. Legislation guidance** – the Defra/WAG statutory guidance on disturbance offence, including species-specific section and overview of damage/destruction offence is due to be published in the next few weeks.
- 2. Environmental Delivery Options** - a feasibility study has been undertaken to look at a possible merger between CCW, EAW and FCW. This has now gone for further examination.

Name: Ian Danby Organisation: BASC

Current projects:

Green Shoots in North Wales. This project has secured funding from CCW and EAW for 2011/12. Mammal work programmes include:

- 1) monitoring the two sites which have had VWT scored **pine marten** sightings
- 2) further developing **mink** control on the Llyn peninsula to stimulate **water vole** recovery (linked with EAW)
- 3) continue to liaise with NWWT over **dormouse** surveying and monitoring projects
- 4) facilitate access to BASC members' land to **bat** groups for surveys, particularly brown **long eared** bats, **lesser horseshoe** bats and **pipistrelle** bats
- 5) Start a new project around Clocaenog to collect sightings of **red** and **grey squirrels** and then focus grey control to best advantage reds (liaison with FCW)

Future projects:

Other news: BASC are developing an online survey tool for data recording from hunters. It is UK scale and will encourage better recording of all species. Records are to be shared with the NBN.

Name: Lizzie Wilberforce

Organisation: Wildlife Trusts Wales

Current projects:

- WTSWW continues to work on behalf of Wildlife Trusts Wales under contract to WG to deliver the mammal monitoring part of the consortium contract to assess the impact of Tir Gofal on priority species. Project officer Vaughn Matthews is currently working on water vole survey.
- Radnorshire WT are continuing their work on the Marteg project with survey and habitat work for water voles and mink trapping. Water vole signs were well down at the spring survey at Nannerth pools compared to the last 2 years and the site was particularly dry (normally marshy) with some of the small pools also dry.
- WTSWW has a successful student internship funded by PTES through Richard Pond, who will be undertaking landscape dormouse assessments round the core population at Rhos Cefn Bryn NR in Carmarthenshire
- WTSWW continue to gather hedgehog and brown hare records from across south west Wales as part of a public survey
- Radnorshire WT involved in the launch of a Mammal Atlas in March 2011. The Atlas was supported by RWT both in terms of moral support and financial, but was compiled by Sorcha Lewis on behalf of the Rads Mammals Group. It is a 100 page book and copies are still available from RWT or Sorcha for £5 + p&p. We hope it will encourage much more recording in Rads as there are still massive gaps in our knowledge.
- Radnorshire WT have had a couple of pine marten reports on the Rads / Shropshire border in May. One turned out to be a polecat (d.o.r) the other has yet to be substantiated.
- Brecknock WT continue monitoring dormice at Crychan and Halfway forests

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Isabel Macho

Organisation: Carmarthenshire LBAP

Current projects:

- Carms are taking part in the urban bat survey run by BCT this year - over 40 vols taking part.
- Dormouse surveys at at least 3 sites under NDMP. Loose informal group formed for dormice in county. One vol has received a bursary from PTES to build on exiting work looking at connectivity around WTSWW reserve at Rhos Cefn Bryn.
- Red squirrel – looking to develop project opportunities with MISE Interreg project.

Future projects:

Other news:

WMBAF update for 17th February 2011 meeting

Name: Steve Lucas

Organisation: Bat Conservation Trust

Current projects:

Undertook Urban Bat survey projects in Swansea, Neath, Cardiff and Clwyd during 2010. Looking to continue with those this year and to start new surveys in Carmarthenshire towns.

The WAG AES monitoring scheme continues with survey work mainly in south East Wales but also some sites in west Wales. 2011 is the final year for this project before write up in 2012.

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Rob Strachan

Organisation: Environment Agency Wales

Current projects:

1. Otter Survey of Wales 2010. Project completed and report near finalization (QA process and translation required). Due to be published on-line as a free download by end of financial year. Otters now present at 89.9% of the 1108 sites examined.
2. Cardiff University Otter Project. Post-mortems were carried out on otters received from across EA Regions. Interestingly totals received have gone down for third year running - 231 received in 2008, 218 in 2009 and 161 last year (although it is possible that otters are still in freezers waiting to be sent down to Cardiff). In Wales between 40 and 60 animals per year have been collected for examination since 2000 with a peak of 65 in 2007. The most recent Interim Report on the post-mortem studies (and spin-off research) can be found on the CUOP website: **Cardiff University Otter Project:** www.otterproject.cf.ac.uk
3. EAW spending was also done to retrofit of an otter ledge (Penbont) on a priority otter road mortality site on the A40. (further blackspots are due to be identified see below)
4. Water vole conservation was carried out through wetland creation and enhancement in the Swansea-Llanelli area, general habitat enhancement around water vole key areas (including over 5km riparian fencing), water vole reintroduction at Llangors lake and support of a number of mink control/mink raft projects (especially Anglesey and Afon Wheeler)
5. Four gauging stations modified to provide bat roosts (Wye, Tywi, Seiont, Elwy)

Future projects:

1. Conservation Genetics of the Water Vole in Wales (KESS studentship with Bangor University). Using non-invasive techniques, DNA samples will be collected from every key-area population of water voles in Wales to quantify the level of genetic diversity and population connectivity. This will identify which populations are most at risk from genetic bottlenecks and inbreeding depression and help set priorities for where the on-the-ground conservation measures should be focussed. Water vole sites will need visiting to collect droppings in Spring and Summer 2011 (Surveyors will be provided with sampling kits)
2. Priority Otter Road Mortality sites in Wales (M.Res Studentship with Bristol University). GIS analysis of otter mortality database to determine hotspots and mitigation measures. A report will be made available at the end of 2011.

Other news:

All future EAW Biodiversity Funding from 2001-12 will be directed at the CCW Outcome 21 Actions database (Remediation of protected sites to favourable conservation status) and Water Framework Directive actions for good ecological status of river basins. No stand alone BAP projects will be funded.

Name: Sarah Bird

Organisation: Chester Zoo

Current projects:

Dormice: continued study of population at Bontuchel (and reintroduction site at Wych) - hopefully some findings and publications later this year. Plan to attend the International Dormouse Conference in September and present a paper or poster.

Red Squirrel: provided some funding towards further reintroduction on Anglesey in 2010.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat: Hoping to get bat monitoring camera project at roost at Bodidris Hall Hotel running this year. CZ and CCW funded this, but there have been delays...!

Future projects:

CMI! wildlife recorder training project may extend into North Wales in 2011 if funding bids are successful – working with NWWT, Cofnod, NEWW and anyone else who wants to...

(Count Me In! is the wildlife recorder training project Chester Zoo have been running in Cheshire for the last 2 years with RECORD (LRC) as partners, and funded by HLF and Esmmee.)

Other news:

Harvest Mice: advise on survey techniques as required

Name: Kate Williamson

Organisation: Snowdonia Mammal Group

Current projects:

1. Winter bat box checks. Having come across numbers of noctules in our boxes during very cold weather either side of winter, we decided to do some winter checks, just using torches from the ground to minimise disturbance. We checked 25 boxes at Plas Tan y Bwlch and 20 at Dol Idris. A couple of pipistrelles and a handful of noctules at Plas and nothing at Dol Idris. We won't repeat.
2. Hibernation surveys in Llanbedr area. Following on from surveys undertaken last summer, we went underground to have a look for hibernating bats in adits found in the valley. A fairly substantial system had 20 odd LHS in it and there were a few in several small adits, but the gem was 101 LHS in one small, forked adit. We will continue monitoring these sites on an annual basis.
3. Harvest mouse survey at Morfa Harlech last autumn recorded harvest mice on the site. The first record in the Park for many years. We will be undertaking further surveys for this species this coming autumn.

Future projects:

1. Our main focus survey for this summer is to repeat the coastal otter surveys of 2003/4. SMG will be undertaking the Lleyn coast and then 2 of our volunteers are doing the Park coast and another 2 volunteers from North East Wales will

be doing sites along the north coast from the Conwy to the Dee estuary. This will not only give us a full picture of the whole of the North Wales coast, but will allow comparisons over the past 10 years or so and go some way to addressing some of the SAC monitoring requirements. The new INTERREG project, Mammals in a Sustainable Environment will be launched in Wales on the Friday before our Lleyrn surveys at Plas Tan y Bwlch and then the Irish project officers and WIT staff will be taking part in the survey weekend. The hope is that they can then set up something similar in Ireland.

2. SMG will be one of a handful of local mammal groups selected to participate in The Mammal Society pilot hedgehog survey this spring/summer. TMS have secured some funding from PTES to work with Richard Yarnell at Nottingham University to trial a footprint plate method and compare with spotting techniques.
3. We will continue to monitor our bat box schemes over the season. We are building and installing a 'bat house' in the community orchard at Plas Tan y Bwlch. We are just waiting for our planning permission to come through! We will then monitor this with a view to being able to use it as a mitigation and conservation tool in the future, at appropriate sites.

Other news:

1. Interreg project, but I'm sure someone else will say more about that.
2. SMG are hosting a regional Mammal Society symposium this autumn, at Bangor University on Saturday 12th November. There will be speakers and workshop sessions and it is hoped that many regional mammal workers, amateur naturalists and students will attend. It is a chance for TMS staff and Council members to meet local members and others as well as for us in the area to hear about projects and ideas from across a range of topics.

Name: Ian Danby	Organisation: BASC
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Current projects:
 We have been successful in gaining funds from CCW and the EA for running the Green Shoots project in North Wales for another 12 months from April. We will be working on Red Squirrels in addition to water vole, pine marten and bats.

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Lizzie Wilberforce	Organisation: Wildlife Trusts Wales
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- WTSWW and North Wales WT both continue to work on behalf of Wildlife Trusts Wales under contract to WAG to deliver the mammal monitoring part of the consortium contract to assess the impact of Tir Gofal on priority species. Project officer Vaughn Matthews and support surveyor Rhian Hughes are currently completing the second year of winter brown hare monitoring.
- North Wales WT are continuing work on the north Wales dormouse project
- Radnorshire WT are continuing their work on the Marteg project with survey and habitat work for water voles and mink trapping
- Radnorshire WT are planning a full season of bat events and bat work on reserves as part of the year of the bat
- Gwent WT are working towards a funded small mammals project on their patch
- Gwent WT have been running a successful harvest mouse project which

included training people in survey techniques, and which has resulted in positive records

- Gwent WT have ongoing works monitoring for dormice and training surveyors for licences
- Brecknock WT have been continuing their dormouse monitoring work and report high numbers for 2010
- Brecknock WT report muntjack sightings from Crickhowell and are monitoring potential spread west from the Forest of Dean, also an orphaned baby otter found near the Honddu in Brecon, water vole sighting at Llangorse Lake (re-introduced pop) and lesser horseshoe bats seem to be doing well in the Usk Valley.
- Montgomeryshire WT report a 'bold, daylight bog dormouse' at their wetland site Cors Dyfi in the Dyfi Estuary
- Montgomeryshire WT also report that they are pleased that lesser horseshoe bats continue to use the mine at Roundton Hill for hibernation in large numbers (the latest count was 112).
- WTSWW has continued its ongoing dormouse monitoring on reserves, has taken part in an LBAP project in Carmarthenshire to expand the knowledge of dormouse range in the county, and installed dormouse boxes on three reserves in Pembrokeshire and Gower under contract to Mott MacDonald as part of a mitigation project
- WTSWW continue to gather hedgehog records from across south west Wales as part of a public survey

Future projects:

Other news:

Name: Jean Matthews/Liz Halliwell	Organisation: CCW
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Current projects:

- 1. Dormice in forestry** – nest box scheme established in Crychan forest to look at dormouse use of clearfell areas as habitat re-establishes.
- 2. Landscapes for lessers.** GIS workshop & meeting to be held 16 March to look at habitat suitability modelling and its application & consider future actions for the project.
- 3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project** (with BCT & Reading University).
- 4. Automated Bat I/d system** for use at underground swarming sites (Leeds University).
- 5. Defra bats & wind farms project** (with Exeter University). More wind farm sites are needed for the research project. May need to put pressure on wind farm developers / operators – e.g. use of planning conditions. Preliminary results of the trials using dogs to find bat carcasses have been encouraging.
- 6. Welsh Bat Project (grant aid to BCT on an annual basis).**
- 7. Red squirrels in mid-Wales** – project underway to identify patches of key red squirrel habitat within the Mid Wales Focal Site. FCW also have a project to review grey squirrel control in the area and identify opportunities for collaborative working.
- 8. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)** – Interreg funding for this project has now been secured (March 2011 – December 2014). Project partners include the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), Waterford County Council, the Irish National Data Centre, the Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT), the Countryside

Council for Wales (CCW) and Snowdonia National Park Authority. VWT and CCW are both employing a Welsh project officer. Priority species for the project include pine marten, red squirrel, otter, bats, small carnivores and other small mammals including dormouse and harvest mouse. The project will involve monitoring and conservation activities for these species and will be carried out within the Welsh Interreg 4A area (the counties of Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire).

WIT has developed novel techniques for monitoring mammals from non-invasively collected samples (eg faeces and hair). Genetic analysis provides species, gender and individual identification. The project will use this approach to monitor small and medium sized mammals. Sample collection will be largely carried out by volunteers through field surveys. Training will be provided for volunteers through workshops and field training. This will enhance public awareness of the importance of mammals in the environment. Data analysis will also allow the identification of potential threats to individual species (eg habitat fragmentation) which will be used to advise on conservation work where appropriate.

See <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/about-ccw/ccw-jobs.aspx> for details of project officer vacancies. Closing date for applications is 25th February.

Future projects:

We have a small amount of funding available for work on priority BAP species this year. Priority projects to be discussed at forum meeting

Other news:

1. Legislation guidance – the Defra/WAG statutory guidance on disturbance offence, including species-specific section and overview of damage/destruction offence, is being updated in light of the Morge case and is due to be published in the next few weeks.

2. Environmental Delivery Options - a feasibility study has been undertaken to look at a possible merger between CCW, EAW and FCW. This has now gone for further examination.

3. Funding -CCW has not been affected as badly as some organisations. The overall revenue reduction will be just under 10% over the next 3 years, i.e. reducing by 3% pa from the 2010 baseline. This has a knock-on effect of reducing the amount of money that we are able to give to grant partners and to use for commissioning work. A reduction in staff numbers from 520 to 440 within this financial year is being achieved through voluntary redundancies and early severance.

Name: Henry Schofield

Organisation: The Vincent Wildlife Trust

Current projects:

Habitats for Horseshoe Bats- landscape work around the VWT bat reserves involving radio-tracking and detector work to identify foraging areas, commuting routes and alternative roosts used by the bats in the reserves.

Prospects for Pine Martens- Using DNA techniques to establish the presence of pine martens from scat searches, collection and evaluation of sightings data and volunteer involvement and education. Project finishes in April 2011

Polecat- distribution and abundance work using road casualty data

Dormouse- trialling new nest box and hair tube designs

Future projects:

Our Beacon for Bats- community involvement project based in the Brecon Beacons National Park gathering information on lesser horseshoe bat landscape use, habitat

enhancement work and trialling new night roost designs. Part-time project officer to be appointed in March 2011

MISE- Interreg project with amongst others WIT, CCW and Snowdonia Mammal Group- project details given in the CCW update

Other news:

Name: Isabel Macho

Organisation: Carmarthenshire County Council

Current projects:

Carmarthenshire Dormouse Project 2010-2011 – report circulated.

Distribution map for hedgerhogs from public records survey with WTSWW.

Mid Wales Red Squirrel Project ongoing.

Future projects:

Other news:

WMBAF partner updates for 20th October 2010 meeting

Name: Lizzie Wilberforce &
Rob Parry

Organisation: WTW

Current projects:

Water vole: second year now complete of water vole surveys under contract to WAG for monitoring the success of Tir Gofal.

Brown hare: second year now underway of water vole surveys under contract to WAG for monitoring the success of Tir Gofal. Public sightings survey continuing in west wales.

Hedgehog: public survey (sightings) in Carmarthenshire ongoing.

Dormice: working through Carms LBAP on dormouse project and developing landscape-scale project around one of our reserves in the county. Working with Vale of Glamorgan on dormouse survey. Working through LBAP on project in Pembs to establish presence in new sites. Undertaking some work for Mott MacDonald (dormouse nest boxes) on reserves as mitigation for powerline work

Dormouse monitoring project recently established near Pencoed South Wales at WTSWW's newly acquired Brynna Wood and Llanharan Marsh Nature Reserve.

Small mammal refugia survey at Parc Slip Nature Reserve – looking at whether artificial refugia (roofing sheets) can be used as a means of monitoring/surveying for small mammals (Project Proposal attached).

Future projects: none planned at present

Small mammal trapping with Cardiff University student to compliment work undertaken by existing student on refugia.

Other news: Contributing to other ongoing projects as partners: Mid Wales Red Squirrel Partnership, Llanelli Water Vole Action Group, National Otter Survey and others

Radnorshire WT is in the 3rd year of the Cwm Marteg Water Vole Project – Surveying and monitoring water voles in the areas as well as coordinating mink control in the wider Rhyader area.

Montgomeryshire WT is in the process of undertaking a large scale mammal survey of their Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve 'Dyfi Fur Balls' project – looking for dormouse, harvest mouse, water vole and otter, all of which are thought to be present.

Brecknock WT - BWT and volunteers are carrying out long term monitoring Crychan and Halfway Forests for Dormice. We currently have 350 boxes up having regular monthly checks.

We have assisted EA in their water vole release project at Llangorse and have also conducted a survey of water voles in the uplands of Brecknock.

We are involved in the Mid-Wales Red Squirrel project.

Name: Kate Williamson

Organisation: SNPA and SMG

Current projects:

1. Recently went to check an old dormouse nest box scheme near Dolgellau with RSPB volunteers, on one of their reserves and found 6 dormice. Only the second confirmed dormouse population in SNP in last 10 years. The other one is Jack Grasse's Pantperthog scheme. We hope to assist RSPB in developing the scheme to fit National Dormouse Box Monitoring Scheme and train volunteers up for their own licenses. SMG is undertaking further nut hunt surveys and habitat assessments in nearby woodlands this autumn (Found a new dormouse site!).
2. SMG bat box schemes continue to be monitored throughout the year. There

seems to be no pattern in usage across the board but some sites show increased usage in autumn, others in winter, e.g. much higher numbers of noctules in Plas boxes during hibernation (these are flat boxes that can be checked with a torch!)

3. Several 'new' GHS records have been made during this years' flight season. Following on from this, a residential weekend survey was held in Llanbedr during August, to try and increase our knowledge of Greater Horseshoes in the area. Bat workers from across the UK, and even one lady from New Zealand, joined us for the weekend, conducting detector transects, roost visits, underground and bridge surveys. A summary report is being produced for dissemination to the local population and a talk being presented to this years' Wales Bat Workers day.
4. SNPA, along with partners from NT, CCW and Gwynedd Council will conduct feral goat surveys again this autumn. Volunteers are welcome to join in the annual census and results are fed in to the co-ordinated management strategy managed via a partnership steering group. Over recent years numbers have soared, but it will be interesting to see this year's results after such a hard winter.

Future projects:

1. Having found dormice in Dolgellau area we will be looking to establish a box scheme there and undertaking further habitat surveys to look at the extent of dormice in that area.
2. Following on from the Dwyryd Otter Partnership coastal otter work in 2003/04 we are collaborating with LBAP partners in North East Wales and hopefully a partner on Anglesey to do a comprehensive coastal otter survey of North Wales. We envisage using the same methodology as DOP's original survey, so those areas being resurveyed will be comparable. All spraints will be collected and archived as a dataset for any student to use for projects in the future. The full report of the previous DOP work (coastal, rivers and lakes) is almost finalised and should be downloadable from the SMG website very soon (if not already).
3. A weekend survey for harvest mice is planned for this November, possibly targeted around the Mawddach and Ardudwy areas.
4. An owl pellet workshop, postponed from earlier in the year, will be rescheduled over the winter. The idea is to try and record some of our rarer small mammals using owl pellets and also to undertake training so volunteers can identify these species from pellets themselves in the future.
5. SMG are in discussions with Marine Awareness North Wales as to how we can assist with and collaborate on their harbour porpoise work. We hope to boost the number of volunteers and survey days undertaken next year.
6. SMG are also thinking about bats on the Lleyrn and undertaking some survey work in the area.
7. The current bat box schemes run by SMG/SNPA will be enhanced next year with a number of different box designs. This project is looking to compare the success of differing box designs and constructions in similar habitats. We are currently building a number of boxes, ready for putting up over the winter.

Other news:

1. A very successful Mammal Society annual conference was held this March in Bangor, with a number of talks from Welsh mammal workers.

2. Interreg project bid has been submitted (more info from Liz I'm sure).
3. Progress on Snowdonia Mammal Atlas.....
 Good news – over 5 years of recording has led to in excess of 12,600 records. All these records are now with Cofnod, the local records centre and are being used in development control work, consultant surveys etc.
 Not so good news – our attempts to prioritise and schedule in the time to write it up has been fantastically unsuccessful. We are now looking at working on producing a set of maps in conjunction with Cofnod, so at least people can see what our distribution data looks like now. These will be downloadable from Cofnod and SMG websites.

Name: Iolo Lloyd	Organisation: FCW
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Current projects: Forest / woodland management.

Future projects:
 Would like to see a closer relationship (data sharing) between mammal expert group and the Raptor study, to understand the productive impact on prey item population fluctuation in forests.

Further understanding on the ecosystem processes and how mammals can inform whether systems are functioning i.e. is there an indicator species or measure that can inform the ecosystem groups.

Other news:

- Within FD, possible looking at camera traps as a way of verifying presence of grey/ red squirrel.
- Otter survey in Vyrnwy (Spring 2010) confirmed otter activity within catchment. This survey was to ensure minimal impact during forest operations as an EPS requirement.
- FD looking at cataloguing conservation monitoring projects to review effectiveness and outcomes and to better inform forest management.
- Internal GIS systems now developed to record species and spatial conservation management programming. I hope that this will allow better reporting on species and management in the future.

Name: Nida Al Fulaij	Organisation: PTES
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Current projects:

1. Dormice
 National Dormouse Monitoring Programme ongoing. 28 sites are regularly contributing data in Wales (232 in England). 2009 data will shortly to be added to previous trend data and will be published in next Dormouse Monitor magazine. Great Nut Hunt (GNH) was run in 2009 and yielded 74 potential new dormouse sites to date (3 in Wales).

 2009 reintroduction was in Warwickshire this is the 17th reintroduction in England. Would there be interest in doing one in Wales? How could this be funded?
2. Hedgehogs
 PTES has a plan of work co-funded with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society

running from now for the next three years consisting of reviewing monitoring, a research programme, a public engagement strand and support for hedgehog carers.

BTO has been commissioned to review the hedgehog records arising from various monitoring surveys including PTES' Mammals on Roads and Living with Mammals and other surveys run by BTO, RSPB and Game (what is their acronym?!!) with the aim of identifying what further monitoring might (or might not) need to be done for hedgehogs.

PTES has received and invited expressions of interest from researchers able to respond to some specific questions about hedgehogs:

- Food resources: what is the link between hedgehog numbers, movement and the availability of food? What makes suitable foraging habitat for hedgehogs in rural areas? And, variations in the availability of macro-invertebrate biomass and abundance across habitats in the rural environment.
- Nesting, refuge, dispersal and hibernation resources: what is the most appropriate management of hedgerows and field boundaries for hedgehogs?
- The minimum viable population size of hedgehogs through a desk-top modelling study to predict which populations are most vulnerable, identifying key habitat and demographic variables.
- Devising a survey and detection method to enable sites to be surveyed thoroughly for hedgehogs with a low risk of not detecting any animals where they are present, a technique that can be used by volunteers and preferably could provide abundance data.

Full applications will be considered by a review group in November.

PTES is trialling 'Hedgehog Street' which will encourage hedgehog volunteers to create and maintain hedgehog friendly habitat in their street involving their immediate neighbours. This will be trialled in urban and rural areas, on allotments and other suitable areas. Support resources are being produced. The pilot phase of 5 or 6 projects will run until the spring.

BHPS is leading on supporting hedgehog carers so gather information on the outcome for released animals.

Future projects:

1. Dormice

The intention is to run the Great Nut Hunt again in 2010/11 as the hazel nut crop last year was patchy. Many Wildlife Trusts and other organisations helped with GNH and there was good media coverage for dormice.

PTES has approached HLF for funding to expand the NDMP and incorporate the new GNH sites across Wales and England. The aim is to double the monitoring effort which will give sufficient data to feedback local trends to monitors. The project will focus on a drive to recruit further volunteer monitors, provide training and set up a mentoring scheme with current monitors helping new ones. It will also involve advice and training for land managers and owners on dormouse friendly management of woodlands and hedgerows drawing on the experience of the 'Hedgerows for Dormice' project that has been running in England and finishes in March 2011, and some actual replanting of hedgerows.

2. Hedgehogs

The results of the monitoring review will be published in a 'State of Britain's hedgehogs' style report by PTES and BTO. If necessary a new hedgehog monitoring survey will be launched or one or more of the existing ones will be modified.

Research grants will be awarded by the end of the year. Results will be translated into habitat management advice as soon as feasible.

Hedgehog Street will be launched more widely in spring either across England and Wales or in restricted regions depending on the outcomes of the trial.

Name: Liz Halliwell/Jean Matthews

Organisation: CCW

Current projects:

1. Working with FCW to set up a project looking at dormice in forestry – how do dormice respond to forestry operations (ie clearfell and thinning) and how long does it take for dormice to return to a clearfell area. Some problems with setting up the project has meant that progress has been slower than was hoped.
2. Landscapes for lesser project failed to get HLF funding which was to be used to match fund LIFE project. Considering what can be achieved this FY – hope that outcomes will be extension of habitat suitability model set up for Brecon Beacons to the whole of Wales and shopping list of priority conservation projects that can be funded as opportunities arise or which funds could be bid for.
3. Bats & Breathable Roofing Membranes Project (with BCT & Reading University).
4. Automated Bat I/d system for use at underground swarming sites (Leeds University).
5. Defra bats & wind farms project (with Exeter University).
6. Welsh Bat Project (grant aid to BCT on an annual basis).

Future projects:

Funding prospects for next year (and for the foreseeable future) do not look good, so it may not be possible to set up many new projects. However, work we would like to see undertaken include:

1. an assessment of the use of dormouse bridges across road schemes. Dormice have been shown to use the mesh-tube design in a controlled situation, but do they actually work 'in the wild'?
2. application for NERC project on Bats & single wind turbines (with Exeter University) to start next year.

Other news:

An application was made in June of this year to the Ireland-Wales Interreg programme for a project known as 'Mammals in a Sustainable Environment'. The project will use DNA-based technology to monitor key species in Ireland and Wales and apply that information to conservation initiatives. The application was led by the Waterford Institute of Technology and also involved the Vincent Wildlife Trust, SNPA, CCW and Waterford County Council. Targeted species will include pine marten, red squirrel, otter, bats, dormouse, harvest mouse and small carnivores. A decision on the application is expected in December.

Name: Henry Schofield

Organisation: The Vincent Wildlife Trust

Current projects:

1. Habitats for Horseshoe Bats- landscape scale work around VWT reserves involving radio-tracking and bat detector surveys
2. Prospects for Pine Martens- Project work in England and Wales using a variety of

techniques to detect these elusive carnivores

3. Polecat RTA survey- Road casualty surveys in September and October to determine spread and changes of abundance.
4. Dormouse work- various nest box studies

Future projects:

1. Our Beacon for Bats- three year project based around VWT reserves in the Usk Valley involving habitat restoration and community involvement. 80% of funding achieved but we're awaiting the result of a HLF bid, which we will hear about in November.
2. CASE studentship with Bristol University looking at lesser horseshoe bat genetics and landscape fragmentation. Grant applied for.

Other news: We are looking into running a dormouse symposium in Wales.

Name: Ian Danby	Organisation: BASC
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Current projects:

Green Shoots in North Wales continues its mammalian work programmes:

1. verification of pine marten records provided by members – scored by VWT phone interview technique and two sites with hair tubes in place to collect hair samples
2. collaborative project, principally with EAW, on water vole habitat advice and developing current mink detection and control networks in line with the current conservation strategy for the species
3. collaborative project with NWWT on dormouse conservation, principally checking nest boxes put into two shoots and assessing population levels on other land accessed by BASC members

Future projects:

Bid in to CCW/EAW to extend project from April 2011 to April 2012. Above work programmes set to continue. Inclusion of red squirrel into work programme proposed, initially on the land surrounding Clocaenog to establish a new grey squirrel control group and targeted habitat advice.

Bid into CCW to assist with development of an internet survey tool to update data collected in the Green Shoots in North Wales project in 2004/5 and to enable Green Shoots to extend into the rest of Wales. Data capture will include all groups and so new data and contacts on mammals will be created.

Name: Rob Strachan	Organisation: EAW
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1. Current projects: The Otter Survey of Wales 2009-10 is the fifth National Survey for Wales since the baseline survey of 1977-78. Surveys were carried out approximately every 7 years (1977-78, 1984-85, 1991, 2002 + 2009-10). The survey was not designed to find all the otters but rather show the trends in the population. **Signs of otters were recorded at 996 sites out of the total of 1108 giving the percentage of positive sites as 89.9% for the fifth Otter Survey of Wales. In the baseline survey of 1977-78 only 20% of the sites had signs of otters.** Out of 1108 sites surveyed across Wales only 112 gave negative results for otters at the time of survey but as it is very difficult to confirm a negative this is probably over estimate of negative sites. Four catchments were of particular concern in 2002, Anglesey, Mid Glamorgan, Taff and Glaslyn/Lleyn and these now have shown an impressive expansion in sites occupied by otters. The most impressive expansion however has been on Anglesey with an impressive leap from 18% positive in 2002 to 67.5%

positive in 2009 with new sites in the west and north of the island. Mid Glamorgan also showed an impressive leap from 18% positive in 2002 to 70% positive in 2010. Otters can now be found using many of the rivers of the valleys even where disturbed by human activity. On the River Taff and River Ely, otters can now be found in the middle of Cardiff.

The recovery has been the result of natural expansion from the remnant populations without the need for reintroduction (as elsewhere in the UK). The prospects are for full recovery across Wales is very probable within the next decade. This represents a major success story for pollution control, as well as investment by the water industry and efforts by landowners and river managers to improve river and riparian habitat.

2. A water vole alert map for Wales has now been drawn up that identifies all the key populations across Wales. As part of the mapping project GIS buffers were incorporated to delineate where the stronger populations occurred. The first buffer eliminated any cluster of sites less than 6km in size – these mapped sites have high local importance for the species. A second buffer that eliminated any area less than 35km in size found that only 3 populations remained, 2 in North Wales and 1 in mid-Wales. These are likely to be the most robust of the Welsh populations having high Regional and National importance. (In this exercise all the sites on Anglesey got eliminated which is worrying).
3. During 2010 some 60 water voles were captive bred at Cynrig hatchery for reintroduction to Llangorse Lake and surrounding areas. Their colonisation has been closely monitored and a final top-up release is planned for 2011 with a small number of animals to mimic a natural immigration event.

- Future projects: Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarship (KESS) MRes studentship based at Bangor University in partnership with EAW: Conservation genetics of the water vole in Wales. DNA will be extracted using non-invasive techniques from faecal pellets with samples taken from all key area populations. Micro satellite DNA markers will then be used to quantify levels of genetic diversity and connectivity among Welsh populations of vole. Populations at risk from genetic bottlenecks and inbreeding depression will be identified. These genetic data will then be used to make management and conservation recommendations
- MRes student project with Bristol University in partnership with EAW to examine the Welsh Otter Road Mortality Database to assess priority areas for conservation mitigation. Associative analysis and other statistical techniques will be used to identify the principal factors associated with otter road kill blackspots.