

Check out our March newsletter which jam-packed with updates and articles from across Wales! We hope you enjoy reading and feel free to share with anyone you think might be interested – they can also join our Network by contacting [Jess Minett](#).

## March Newsletter

### WaREN Update

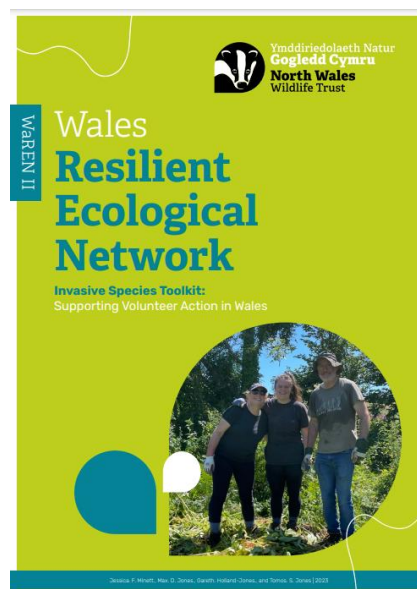
**The WaREN Invasive species toolkit is now online** (Welsh version coming soon)! The toolkit aims to support volunteer action and help you tackle invasive species in Wales. It should include all of the resources you need, including information on best practice management, project planning, biosecurity and awareness raising. The toolkit breaks down all of this information to help you protect our environment. **Check it out [here](#)!**



Last year WaREN sent out a form asking LAGs and volunteer groups across Wales what training would benefit and facilitate them in tackling invasive species. They highlighted a need for pesticide and brushcutter training and we have been able to organise and fund these sessions. The first training sessions took place earlier this year with more coming soon!

We would love to hear about all of the amazing invasive species work you got up to in 2022. **If you are a LAG or volunteer group tackling invasive species in Wales, [please fill out this form](#).** It's great to hear about everything you are doing! This form should take around 10-20 minutes to complete and it gives us better understanding of volunteer efforts on the control and management of invasive species in Wales.

The refreshed GB INNS Strategy 2023-2030 has been released. The refreshed Strategy provides a framework within which the actions of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government, our agencies and external partners can be better co-ordinated to deliver the most effective response to preventing, eradicating and managing invasive non-native species. It aims to ensure improved integration with other biosecurity regimes such as for plant health and to take greater account of the increased risks posed by invasive non-native species as a result of climate change. Check out the refreshed 2023-2030 Strategy [here](#).



Last month WaREN held our first Local Action group workshop at Venue in the Park Alyn Waters. The workshop was a great success with stakeholders from across North Wales attending. We talked about our new Invasive Species Toolkit, biosecurity and INNS Mapper. As well as hearing about the challenges LAGs face. We are now looking forward to our next LAG workshop coming up on the 16<sup>th</sup> March in Swansea University and we hope to see some of you there!

We are looking forward to running more training and engagement activities this year, especially during Invasive Species Week (15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May). Keep an eye out for any upcoming events on our [webpage](#) and in your inbox.



**Call for invasive species resources! If you, your group or project has any invasive species resources that you would like to share please get in touch.**

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## LAG and Volunteer Effort

### Llangenny Volunteer Group

On 16th Feb, Llangenny Volunteer Group were joined by members of the Llangattock Woodland Group and Dai from Brecon Beacons NPA Invasive Species team to clear invasive Cherry laurel and *Rhododendron ponticum* on the bank of the Grwyney (a tributary of the Usk) on some land recently purchased by the local community in central Llangenny. A huge amount was cut down - some of those laurel trees were huge! - and Dai carried out some stump treatment to reduce the chance of regrowth. There's still a huge amount to clear, but what a fantastic start, and the lovely old Hazel coppice stands, snowdrops and bluebells will definitely appreciate the increased sunlight.

Llangenny volunteers were also beneficiaries of a recent WaREN-funded pesticide training course and we are delighted to report that we all passed and are fully qualified up to PA6AW and stem injection.





# Snowdonia Society Update

The pink flowers of Himalayan balsam are still a few months away from unfurling; however, the Carneddau Local Action Group's (LAG's) are already stirring into action.

Sitting around a table, with plenty of cake and tea, this was an opportunity for local groups to have their say on balsam in their areas, and for us to strategise for the upcoming management period. With representatives from the Eryri National Park Authority, Gwynedd Council and Partneriaeth Ogwen, alongside LAG leaders from Rowen, Tal-y-bont and Trefriw, there was a lot to discuss!



Established LAG's such as those in Rowen and Tal-y-Bont, shared their experience, highlighting both their shared and different approaches to dealing with balsam over the years. These insights highlighted how LAGs are not a one size fits all, and different approaches are essential for new groups to be successful. Hopefully, with community groups like these working together, it will be easier for new groups to copy their methods and to spring into action, filling in the gaps along the catchment.

With public awareness being a key issue highlighted, we were delighted that a local artist from Ffiwsar was also in attendance and is planning on producing artistic pieces, to shine a light on the issue of Himalayan



balsam and the communities pushing back against it! Alongside this more public awareness is going to be generated through our planned work with primary schools, which already seem extremely eager to be involved in practical days pulling balsam this summer!

We look forward to continuing to support the communities of the Carneddau and to hopefully help encourage more! If you would like assistance/advice on how you can tackle balsam in your local area, please get in touch, [cai@snowdonia-society.org.uk](mailto:cai@snowdonia-society.org.uk).

# National Forest for Wales

## Introducing the National Forest for Wales Woodland Liaison Officers

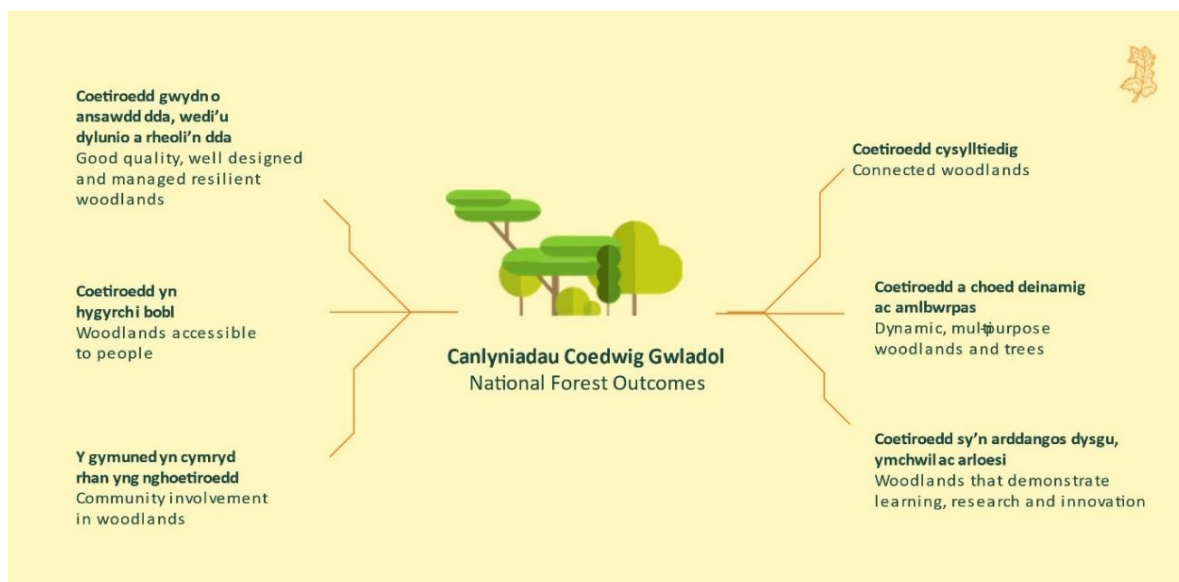
Welsh Government are delighted to announce the new National Forest for Wales Woodland Liaison Officers who are based in Natural Resources Wales.

Stacey Delbridge, is the Team leader and there are six National Forest Woodland Liaison Officers based in each of the Area Statement regions.

The team will support woodland owners with their ambitions to create and enhance woodlands in accordance with the National Forest Outcomes. They will advise projects on how to meet the National Forest Outcomes and are able to signpost them to relevant schemes. As well as helping with completing applications to the existing Woodland Investment Grant (TWIG) and the National Forest Status Scheme due to launch this Spring.



Being a part of the National Forest for Wales is all about being part of something unique for the people of Wales. Having National Forest Status allows exemplary woodlands to be recognised, to become part of something nationwide and provide opportunities to connect woodlands in lots of different ways.



The National Forest for Wales is inclusive, it covers all woodland types and settings. Woodlands will be recognised as National Forest sites by demonstrating they meet the three essential outcomes (left hand side) and at least one desirable outcome (right hand side) from the six above.

Please contact your Regional Woodland Liaison Officer as they will be delighted to hear from you about your projects, ambitions, any questions you have and what support they can offer you.

North West - [Tom Haynes](#)

North East - [Mike Robinson](#)

Mid - [Dafydd Lloyd](#)

South West - [Owain Grant](#)

South Central - [Rhodri Hewitt](#)

South East - [Holly McLellan](#)

Team Leader - [Stacey Delbridge](#)



**Coedwig  
Genedlaethol i Gymru**  
**National Forest  
for Wales**



# Biosecurity Planning across Marine Protected Areas

## Marine invasive non-native species biosecurity planning across the Marine Protected Area Network

This project is funded by the Welsh Governments Nature Networks programme and will run until March 2025. Building on the work carried out in the [Biosecurity Planning for Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation project](#), this project will work with key stakeholders to create and implement 4 biosecurity plans for the following MPAs:

- Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC
- Cardigan Bay SAC
- Pembrokeshire Marine SAC
- Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC

In addition, NRW staff and key stakeholders will explore opportunities for biosecurity at cross boarder sites; the Severn and Dee Estuaries SAC.

The project will also look at novel solutions to marine invasive species removal and conduct a review on how to best monitor marine invasive species in Wales.



So far, the project has been working on producing a video about marine invasive non-native species (INNS) in Wales, and this will be completed before the end of March. We have also been working with the Marine Biological Association to map the potential impact of marine INNS on a variety of marine habitat features in Wales, the maps and a report is due before the end of March.

[Chloe Powell Jennings](#), Senior advisor, Marine Biosecurity Planning, NRW

[Holly Peek](#), Senior advisor, Marine Biosecurity Planning, NRW

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## Research





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## Training and education

### **NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Nature Recovery at Black Mountains College**

Black Mountains College is a new college in the Brecon Beacons National Park, having launched in 2021. We aim to create a future where nature and humans thrive. Our courses will equip you with future-proof skills for a rewarding and sustainable career, providing you with skills that are in high demand.

**We are launching a brand-new NVQ Level 2 course for September 2023 in [Nature Recovery](#), a 1-year course which is FREE to all UK residents over the age of 16.**

**Nature is under threat from climate change and pressures from unsustainable land use practices.**

By studying Nature Recovery, you'll learn key skills for a career promoting environmental recovery and resilience through practical outdoor learning backed up with classroom theory.



You will study in beautiful, real-life settings within the Welsh Black Mountains and the National Park. Develop a successful career and make a real difference in national parks, local authorities, and wildlife trusts. You'll learn with a training provider and gain practical experience to give you an edge in the world of work. Our work experience partners include the BBNP and Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

**Modules include:**

- Undertake Work-Related Experience in the Land-Based Industries
- Environmental and Land-Based Business
- Introduction to Boundary Habitat Conservation
- Introduction to Countryside Access and Recreation
- Undertaking Ecological Surveys and Techniques
- Basic Principles of Soil Science
- Basic Principles of Plant Science

For more information, visit [www.blackmountainscollege.uk/fe](http://www.blackmountainscollege.uk/fe) and choose your pathway.

NEW FOR 2023 START

NVQ Level 2 Diploma

# NATURE RECOVERY

Black Mountains College in partnership with NPTC Group of Colleges, Brecon Beacons National Park, and Radnorshire Wildlife Trust





Coleg y  
Mynydd  
Du  
Black  
Mountains  
College

Not all classrooms have walls

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### **Nature Wise: Urban Eco-literacy for Nature Recovery**

Cynnal Cymru is the leading sustainable development charity in Wales. We support individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sector to understand why and how they can take action for a sustainable future. Our mission is to create affordable, flexible learning to accelerate action and impact on the most urgent issues of sustainable development.

Nature Wise eco-literacy is a science-based, action-focused course to help you to understand the relationships between people and natural systems. It shares knowledge, builds understanding and provide the tools to motivate and catalyse action.

**Are you a member of a community group or voluntary organisation located in an urban area of south Wales?**

**Would you like to take part in a free new programme to help protect and restore nature? Then this course could be for you!**

The Nabod Natur – Nature Wise training programme from Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales, teaches you about how the natural environment works, the threats it faces, and how we can all help nature thrive.

Thanks to funding from the [Great Western Railway Community Fund](#), we have developed the Nature Wise Urban Eco-literacy course, with a specific focus on how practical action including sustainable transport can benefit nature in an urban setting.

10 courses will be available from October 2022 to March 2023, offering 120 free places to staff, volunteers or members of voluntary organisations and community groups located within the urban areas along the GWR's mainline – Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Bridgend, Cardiff and Newport.

**Further information is available at:** [www.cynnalcymru.com/naturewise-urban-ecoliteracy/](http://www.cynnalcymru.com/naturewise-urban-ecoliteracy/)



NABOD | NATURE  
NATUR | WISE

Free eco-literacy training  
for community groups

Based in Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Bridgend,  
Cardiff and Newport



Great  
Western  
Railway



**Find out more about WaREN**

The Wales Resilient Ecological Network (WaREN) Project is being delivered by North Wales Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. WaREN is funded by the Welsh Government Sustainable Management Scheme until April 2023.



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar  
gyfer Datblygu Gwledig:  
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development:  
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government