

# Wales Biodiversity Champions Training October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009

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# Welcome



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# Housekeeping



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**9.30 am Coffee / registration**

**10.00 am Welcome / housekeeping**

**10.15 am Know Your Quotes**

**A group icebreaker session – and food for thought**

**10.30 am Session 1 - What's this biodiversity all about then?**

**The essential biodiversity pub quiz (an informal group session)**

**Refreshments and answers to the quiz**

**11.15 am Session 2 - Roles, relationships and responsibilities**

**Where to find your tools and how to use them (presentation and discussion)**

**12.00 noon LUNCH Visitor Centre restaurant (choice of hot meals)**



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**1.00 pm Session 3 - Communicating biodiversity**

**What are the best ways to share information with those who matter (presentation and discussion)**

**2.00 pm Session 4 – Where is the wildlife in Underwood Park?**

**Time to put your skills to the test in a practical exercise  
Refreshments and discussion**

**3.15 pm Session 5 - Planning for the future**

**Some current challenges and a commitment to action**

**3.50 pm Summing up**

**4.00 pm CLOSE**



# Know Your Quotes

Biodiversity is first and foremost a local issue, and local governments are the front-line guardians of natural resources. (CBD website)



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# Pub quiz

- In teams
- Fabulous prizes to be won!
- Three rounds
- Plus a bonus question



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# Global



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# Q1 In which decade of the last century was the term 'biodiversity' first used and in which decade did it enter public policy?

- 1960s and 1990s
- First used by wildlife scientist and conservationist Raymond F. Dasmann in a lay book - A Different Kind of Country.
- The term 'biodiversity' was introduced into public policy at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.



## Q 2 How many species are there estimated to be on Earth?

- The National Science Foundation's "Tree of Life" project estimates that there could be anywhere from 5 million to 100 million species on the planet, but science has only identified about 2 million.



# Q 3 When is (or was) the International Year of Biodiversity?

- 2010



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# Q4 How many signatories are there to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity?

- 192 (191 states + EU)
- Major non-signatories are Andorra, Holy See, Iraq, Somalia and United States. The US has signed, but not ratified.
- Iraq are scheduled to accede to the treaty in October 2009.



## **Q 5 How many trees does it take to produce one tonne of junk mail?**

- For each tonne of junk mail produced 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water and 390 gallons of oil are used; Source: Waste Awareness Wales



## Q 6 What percentage of urban area in the UK is greenspace and private gardens?

- 60% BUGS University of Sheffield –
- Roughly 5% of UK land area
- Private gardens cover half again the area that is given over to National Nature Reserves in Great Britain.



# Laws and legislation



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**Q 7 Under what Act of Parliament do local planning authorities now have a statutory duty to conserve biodiversity and when did it come into force?**

- (NERC Act 2006 (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act)  
October 1st 2006



**Q 8 A section 28G Authority is an authority, for example a local planning authority, that is required under Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) to consult with CCW on any decisions it takes, for example a planning decision, that will or is likely to affect an SSSI**

- True



# Q 9 What Technical Advice Note provides guidance to local planning authorities on biodiversity conservation?

- TAN 5



## **Q 10 Why were the Habitat Regulations amended?**

**C. In response to European Court of Justice Judgements – UK governments failure to transpose EU legislation correctly. 21st August 2007**



**Q 11 What assessment must a local planning authority make before considering a planning application that might affect a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA)?**

**B. Assessment of Likely Significant Effect**



## **Q 12 What is the maximum fine for damage to SSSI?**

### **And Breach of European legislation?**

- SSSI – up to £20000 + costs to return SSSI to previous state
- EU - £ lump sum up to £11 million + £1 million per day until rectified



**Q 13 Who is responsible for issuing licences to disturb European Protected Species by development, such as bats, otter, dormouse and great crested newt?**

**C. Welsh Assembly Government**



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# Q 14 Name three other protected species in Britain apart from European Protected Species

Includes badger, deer, water vole, breeding birds, and a wide range of other animal and plant species, protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act



# Q 15 When did the Habitats Directive apply to the UK?

1994 with the introduction of the  
Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.)  
1994



## Q 16 Who is responsible for policing the Habitats Directive? (up to 5 POINTS)

- Responsibilities for Local Authorities, CCW, WAG, UK Government and EU Government – breach may constitute a criminal offence, investigated by the Police



# Wales



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## Q 17 How many plastic bags are currently used each year in Wales?

- 460 Million plastic bags
- 159 carrier bags a year for every man woman and child in Wales



## Q18 What is the value of the Welsh environment in terms of GDP in Bn?

- £6 billion of GDP in Wales is directly dependent on the environment.
- 1 in 6 Welsh jobs is supported by the environment.
- The environment contributes £1.8 billion in wages to the economy of Wales each year.



# Q 19 Which body chairs Wales Biodiversity Partnership and how often do they meet?

- Welsh Assembly Government - currently Diana Reynolds
- Meet 3 times per year



# **Q 20 According to the Countryside Council for Wales - How far should anyone in Wales be from an accessible green space of at least 2ha in size?**

- 300 m - 500m

## Q 21 What is the name of Wales's only marine nature reserve?

- Skomer Marine Nature Reserve



## **Q 22 What percentage of the total area of Wales in hectares falls within farms excluding common land?**

- Around 71 %
- 77% of UK land is used for agriculture, 10% for forestry and 10% for urban land use



**Q 23 Where was Alfred Russell Wallace  
born and why is he famous?**

**B. Had the same ideas as Darwin and  
originally was given similar recognition**



# Q 24 How did penguins get their name?

- Pen Gwyn – whiteheads



# Final bonus question .....

Worth 10 points



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# Session 2: Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities



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# Biodiversity Duty

S40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states:

*“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”*



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# Key points

- In exercising its functions
  - ANYTHING and EVERYTHING
- Due regard
  - Be INFORMED and ACT UPON
- Purpose of conserving
  - PROTECTING, RESTORING and ENHANCING



# Section 42

- Can't conserve EVERYTHING
- Duty to have due regard, specifically to species & habitats important in WALES
- Section 42 List of NERC (S42 list)



# Duty – opportunity or burden?

- Good information and planning
- Early identification of biodiversity issues
- Used to encourage others e.g. Statutory undertakers (Western Power, Dwr Cymru, Highways Agency)
- Devolved to WAG
- WAG expects LA's to deliver



# Support

- Local Partnership
- Local ecologist/ Biodiversity officer
- Government bodies
- Local people
- Positive approach – positive outcomes



# More resources

- People WILL help you!
- CD
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership
- Other Champions

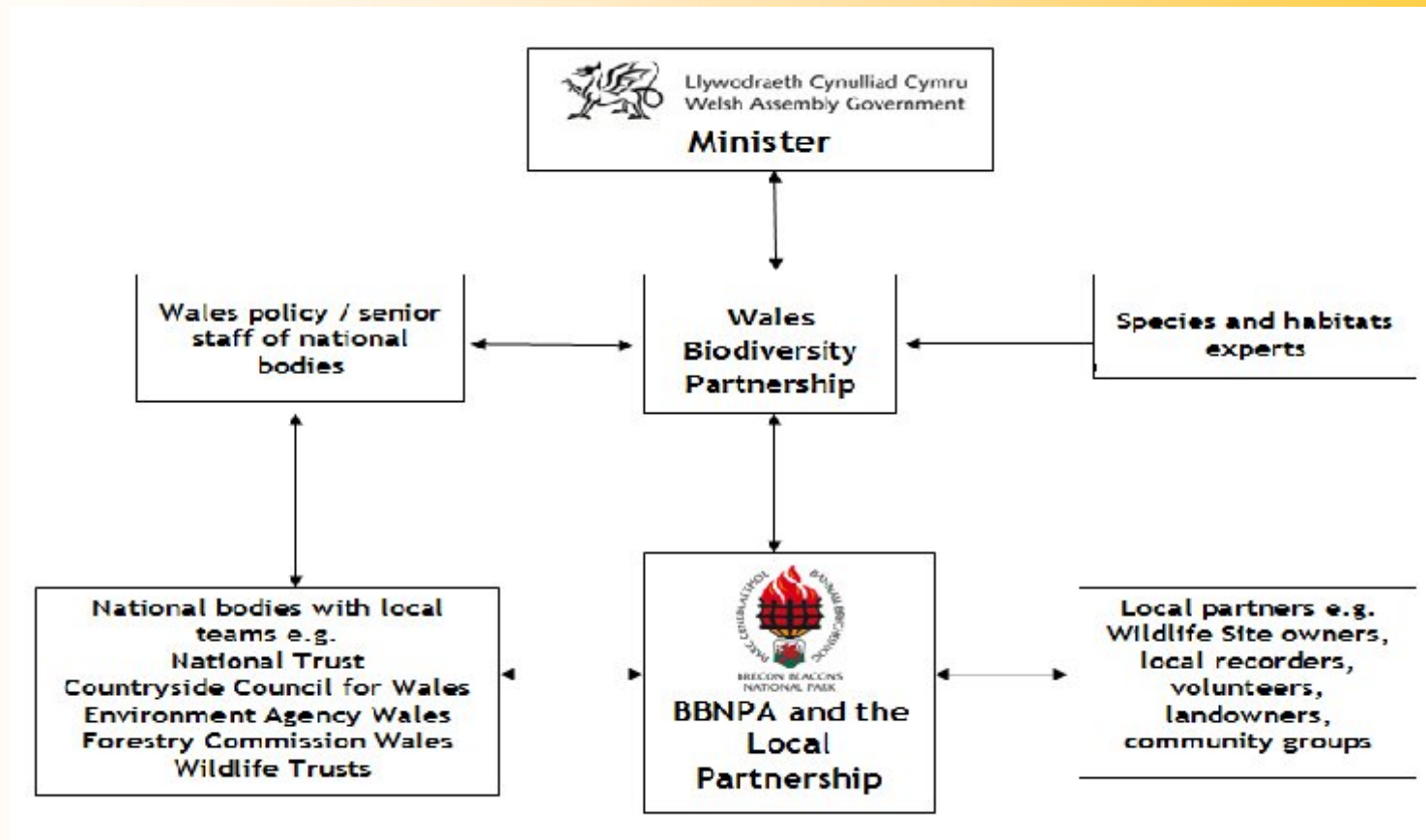


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# Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities



# Wales Biodiversity Partnership

- Everyone involved in Biodiversity in Wales is part of the partnership
- Partnership is a key approach of the UKBAP
- WBP guides and informs delivery of biodiversity conservation in Wales



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# Countryside Council for Wales

- Government statutory advisor on Nature Conservation
- Have statutory functions in Law
- Other roles such as access
- SSSIs, SACs, Protected Species



# Environment Agency Wales

- General Environmental Regulator
- Rivers, pollution, waste, flooding
- Licensing Authority
- Freshwater fisheries, angling
- Conservation of freshwater species



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# Forestry Commission Wales

- Management of public forestry
- Regulation of forestry and timber trade
- Access and recreation
- Woodland biodiversity
- Woodland grant schemes



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# Local Authorities

- Direct responsibilities to further biodiversity conservation
- Land owners including protected sites
- Planning control
- Every local service may impact on biodiversity
- Key role in Local Biodiversity Action Plans



# Biodiversity Champions

- What do you think the role is?



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- Lead member input on the Wales Environment Strategy, Rural Development Plan Wales and the Wales Biodiversity Framework.
- Highlight the importance of biodiversity in the assessment of any new development
- Work with members and officers to ensure a long term strategic and sustainable approach to the management and conservation of the Authority's own land holdings



- Recognise contributions made to biodiversity conservation by others within the National Park to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership.
- Work with partners to support the contribution to biodiversity conservation and to raise awareness of the advice available from all sources
- Champion the role of the Authority in its contribution to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Countdown 2010 Challenge.



# Communities

- Charities – Local Wildlife Trusts, species charities
- Local groups – allotments, anglers, church groups
- Local naturalists
- Vice County Recorders
- Local Record Centres



# FOOD.....



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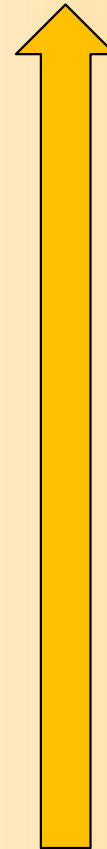
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# Session 3 - Communicating biodiversity

- Why bother?
- Audiences
- Messages
- Media choices



# The connections made through communication experiences can lead people to take action



Stewardship

Care for  
(I will help)

Care about  
(I want to help)

Understanding  
(I think i care)

Awareness  
(I'll think about it)

Curiosity  
(What is this about)



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# Some essentials

- Know your stuff
- Goals and objectives – know why
- Message – know what
- Audience – know who
- Medium - know how



# Science literacy

- How much do you need to know?
- How much do they need to know?



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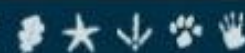
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**There is  
no general  
public!**



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# Target audience

- Target the group of people you expect to respond to your message
- The connections made through communication experiences can lead people to take action – **behaviour change!**



# How much difference can you make?

1. How tidy you look in the morning?
2. How much income tax rates are set at?
3. Climate Change?



# Audience Analysis

- General Description of audience members (age, special interest, what they know, other attributes)
- What does the audience want?
- What does the audience need?



***“Never try to teach a pig to sing  
... It’s a waste of time and just  
annoys the pig!”***



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# Remember ....

- People can only remember 5 - 3 'things'
- Most people are not science literate
- Make connections to things they know
- Be specific and interesting



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# Tea.....



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# Session 4 – Where is the wildlife in Underwood Park?

- Time to put your skills to the test in a practical exercise



# Underhill Park

- 15 ha on the edge of a small town.
- It is owned by the local Council.
- Terraced housing on two sides, school on third side and farmland to north.
- Old quarry with exposed face – pit is now a pond.
- Woodland around quarry
- Woodland and bracken/brambles around on eastern boundary
- Open field of rough grassland with patches of scrub/scattered trees.
- Three access points and two Rights of Way.
- The Council has gained funding of £10 000 to develop the site as community greenspace.



# How will you develop the site?

- **Consider:**
- What order should you do things in?
- Who needs to be involved in the development?
- What constraints can you identify?
- What about future management?



# Session 5 - Planning for the future

- A chance to raise any points from the day
- Any issues not covered



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# Finally

- One commitment to action.....

# Thank you for coming



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