



Atebion Newydd ar gyfer Natura 2000 yng Nghymru

New Solutions for Natura 2000 in Wales

Rhaglen Natura 2000 LIFE yng Nghymru / LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales

Adroddiad 4 / Report 4

Dulliau a Threfniadau Rheoli Newydd Arfaethedig Potential New Management Approaches and Mechanisms



LIFE N2K Wales: LIFE11 NAT/UK/385
Supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community

Published by:
Natural Resources Wales
Cambria House
29 Newport Road
Cardiff
CF24 0TP

0300 065 3000 (Mon-Fri, 8am - 6pm)

enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

© Natural Resources Wales

All rights reserved. This document may be reproduced with prior permission of
Natural Resources Wales

Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	6
1.1. LIFE Natura 2000 Programme	6
1.2. Natura 2000 in Wales.....	7
1.3. Definitions	7
1.4. Methods	7
1.5. Caveats	7
2. New Mechanisms and Approaches	9
2.1. Types of New Mechanisms and Approaches	10
2.1.1. Management or Funding Mechanisms	11
2.2. Dominant Themes	11
3. Conclusions.....	13
Appendix A: New Mechanism Case Studies.....	14
Appendix B: Methods Used in Study	19

Associated Inventories

Inventory 1: Inventory of new mechanisms and approaches

Crynodeb Gweithredol

Mae safleoedd, rhywogaethau a chynefinoedd Natura 2000 yng Nghymru'n elwa o amrywiaeth o fesurau rheoli ac adfer. Fodd bynnag, er gwaethaf hynny, mae dau draean yn dal mewn cyflwr anffafriol ac mae pwysau presennol a bygythiadau a allai godi yn amharu ar y rhan fwyaf. Dibynnir ar amrywiaeth gymharol gul o drefniadau rheoli wrth gynnal gwaith gwella ac, er bod y rhain yn gallu bod effeithiol iawn ac yn cael eu defnyddio'n aml, mae ganddyn nhw eu cyfyngiadau ac mae prinder arian cyhoeddus yn gallu eu llesteirio.

Felly, mae rheswm da dros ystyried defnyddio amrywiaeth ehangach o ddulliau ac atebion ar safleoedd Natura 2000 i ymateb yn well i'r heriau sy'n wynebu Natura 2000 yng Nghymru. Gan ddefnyddio gwybodaeth gan randdeiliaid arbenigol ac adolygu llenyddiaeth, nododd yr astudiaeth hon 89 o drefniadau newydd, posibl, rhai ohonynt sydd eisoes ar gael yng Nghymru ond heb eu defnyddio'n eang, ac eraill sy'n cael eu defnyddio neu'n cael eu profi yn rhywle arall yn y DU, Ewrop a'r byd.

Nodwyd amrywiaeth eang o drefniadau a dulliau newydd, y rhan fwyaf yn disgyn i'r categorïau canlynol:

- ffurfiau newydd o ddeddfwriaeth a rheoliadau
- ffynonellau ariannol, grantiau, buddsoddiadau neu gynlluniau rhyddhad treth newydd
- cyfuno ar anghenion Natura 2000 mewn strategaethau, cynlluniau a pholisïau presennol
- cynlluniau rheoli manylach ynghylch rhai materion penodol
- targedu mentrau addysg
- cynlluniau achredu marchnata a chynnyrch
- mentrau talu ymwelwyr yn ôl
- cynlluniau i ganiatáu codi tâl am wasanaethau ecosystemau
- cyfraniadau gan ddatblygwr

Roedd llawer o'r trefniadau newydd oedd yn cael eu hystyried yn mynd y tu hwnt i fesurau cadwraeth bioamrywiaeth traddodiadol a rheoli a rheoleiddio syml, yn ystyried a ddylid defnyddio cymhelliant neu reoli ar sail contract ac a fyddai'n bosibl cysylltu a chreu synergedd rhwng rheoli Natura 2000 a chyrraedd nodau amgylcheddol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd eraill. Roedd cryfhau partneriaethau gyda rhanddeiliaid lleol, cymunedau, busnesau ac ymwelwyr er budd pawb yn neges oedd yn treiddio trwyddi draw.

Cynhaliwyd yr astudiaeth yn 2013 gan Raglen Natura 2000 LIFE yng Nghymru, sydd wedi'i sefydlu ar y cyd gan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a LIFE+ yr Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Executive Summary

Natura 2000 sites, species and habitats in Wales benefit from a range of management and restoration measures, however, despite this, two thirds are still in unfavourable condition and most are adversely affected by current pressures and potential threats. A fairly narrow range of well-used management mechanisms are relied upon to deliver improvements and whilst these can be very effective, they do have limitations and are constrained by the size of public budgets.

Therefore, there is good reason to explore a wider range of approaches and solutions which may be used on Natura 2000 sites to better address the challenges facing Natura 2000 in Wales. Using data from expert stakeholders and a literature review, this study identified and appraised 89 potential new mechanisms, some which are already available in Wales but not widely used, and others which are in operation or being trialled elsewhere in the UK, Europe and the world.

A wide range of new mechanisms and approaches were identified, the majority of which fell into the following categories:

- new forms of legislation and regulation
- new funds, grants, investments or tax relief schemes
- better integration of the needs of Natura 2000 into existing strategies, plans and policies
- more detailed, issue-specific management plans
- targeted education initiatives
- marketing and produce accreditation schemes
- visitor payback initiatives
- schemes to allow payment for ecosystem services
- developer contributions

Many potential new mechanisms went beyond traditional biodiversity conservation measures and simple regulation and control, to consider the use of incentive or contract based management and the possibilities of making links and synergies between Natura 2000 management and the delivery of other environmental, social and economic goals. The reinforcement of partnerships with local stakeholders, communities, businesses and visitors to achieve mutual benefits appeared as cross-cutting message.

The study was carried out in 2013 by the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, which is co-funded by Natural Resources Wales and EU LIFE+.

Introduction

Whilst Natura 2000 (N2K) sites, species and habitats in Wales benefit from a range of management and restoration activities delivered by farmers, landowners, and the public, private and voluntary sectors, they still face many challenges. Around two thirds of species and habitat features are in unfavourable condition and 98% are currently adversely affected by one or more issues (pressures).¹

At the same time, there is a tendency to rely on a fairly narrow set of familiar management mechanisms to deliver improvements.² Whilst these may be effective in some cases, they do have limitations and are constrained by the size of public budgets. Furthermore the rate of progress towards favourable condition is relatively slow.

Therefore, in order to begin the process of exploring and introducing new approaches and solutions to better address the challenges facing Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection areas in Wales, the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme carried out this study in 2013. The study sought to identify and appraise a range of potential new mechanisms, some which are already available in Wales but not widely used, and others which are in operation or being trialled elsewhere in the UK, Europe and the world.

1.1. LIFE Natura 2000 Programme

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales is developing a strategic forward plan to manage and restore Natura 2000 species, habitats and sites in Wales. Working with stakeholders it will determine the key challenges facing these European protected sites, and identify the actions required, priorities, costs and funding opportunities to address them.

The Programme is run by Natural Resources Wales and funded by the European Union scheme LIFE+ Nature. For full details see Natura 2000 in Wales: Facts and Figures report³.

¹ Challenges Facing Natura 2000 in Wales, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, Report 2, An Analysis of Issues and Risks (Action A.2)

² Addressing the Challenges on Natura 2000 sites in Wales, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, Report 3, An Appraisal of Current Management Mechanisms (Action A.3)

³ Natura 2000 in Wales: Facts and Figures, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, Report 1

1.2. Natura 2000 in Wales

There are 122 designated Natura 2000 habitat and species features on the 92 Special Areas of Conservation and 20 Special Protection Areas in Wales. These are described in full in Natura 2000 in Wales: Facts and Figures report⁴.

1.3. Definitions

A 'mechanism' as defined for the purposes of this study is a legislative, regulatory or policy instrument which enables organisations to implement management changes on a Natura 2000 site to deliver conservation management. For example, agri-environment scheme, direct management or Shoreline Management Plans. Natural Resources Wales conservation officers responsible for Natura 2000 sites routinely log actions required to address issues and risks in the Natural Resources Wales Actions Database. In each case an appropriate mechanism is selected as a means of delivering the action.

A 'new' mechanism was defined as any new management or funding mechanism or approach which is not available or widely used in Wales.

1.4. Methods

The data was obtained from three principle sources:

- Contributions from 76 stakeholders at three workshops held in September 2013. Stakeholders represented organisations with an interest in Natura 2000, including conservation practitioners and specialists, users and regulators. Collectively they represented a wide range of experience and expertise.
- Literature search to identify mechanisms used or trialled in Wales, the UK, Europe or further afield, to address similar conservation issues.

The findings were compiled into Inventory 1: New Mechanisms and Approaches for Natura 2000.

For full details for the methods used see Appendix B.

1.5. Caveats

The workshop data provides a qualitative overview of new mechanisms based on the experience, knowledge and professional expertise of those attending. It should not be considered as fully representative, comprehensive research.

⁴ Natura 2000 in Wales: Facts and Figures, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, Report 1

Likewise the literature review sought to identify key examples of new mechanisms, but is in no way exhaustive.

The objective of the study was to present new ideas for consideration by site managers, policy makers and other decision makers. The new mechanisms listed in Inventory 1 and in this report are solely a record of the findings and do not represent the opinion or recommendation of Natural Resources Wales or the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme.

In practice, some mechanisms listed may not be appropriate for implementation across the Natura 2000 site series in Wales and indeed may have negative impacts in some cases. A more thorough analysis of suitability, benefits and impacts would be needed before introducing any new mechanism.

NB. The inventory includes notes on the benefits and constraints, however, these are not included for every mechanism, only for those for which this subject was discussed in the workshops or identified during the literature review.

New Mechanisms and Approaches

The findings from the workshops and the literature search were drawn together to produce an inventory of new mechanisms and approaches which can be found in Inventory 1. Similar new mechanisms or approaches were classified into broad subject categories, These are shown below:

Mechanism / Approach Category	Description	No of different new mechanisms/ approaches	No of times mechanism /approach cited
Legislation & regulation	Use of legislation & regulation to control activities	19	25
Funds, grants, investments & tax relief	Financial means of contributing to the support of N2K conservation	11	22
Integration	Integrate N2K needs into existing strategies and action plans, and into the Welsh, national and international policy and planning	4	21
Targeted Education	Education and awareness raising of N2K sites and issues affecting them	5	15
Payback schemes & donations	Funding streams for management through tourism and voluntary contributions	4	15
Management plans	The review and production of management plans	8	13
Partnerships	The development and promotion of partnerships working	4	13
Marketing of produce and accreditation	Marketing of products from N2K sites	6	12
Payment for ecosystem services	Schemes to allow payment to be made by the public, companies, utilities to those responsible for managing sites providing eco-services	5	12
Advice & support	Providing practical solutions via advice and support to overcome barriers to management	4	8
Development	The better provision of infrastructure and the raising of funds for N2K management from developers	4	7
Business & enterprise	Businesses delivering conservation benefit	4	6
Land purchase	Targeted land purchase by conservation bodies	2	6
Community/user engagement	Engagement with the community and volunteering on N2K sites	3	5
Information gathering	Holistic and targeted information gathering	2	5
Spatial approach	Strategic landscape approach to management	3	4
Technology	Support the development of technological solutions to N2K management problems	1	3
TOTAL		89	192

89 new mechanisms and approaches were collated, many of which were identified by stakeholders. Many of the mechanisms were cited by different stakeholders a number of times. The most frequently mentioned mechanism was quoted 12 times.

1.6. Types of New Mechanisms and Approaches

The measures identified could be categorised into three broad types:

a) Mechanisms which are currently available in Wales but which are rarely used, under-used or poorly implemented/enforced.

These meet the formal definition of 'Mechanisms' described in Section 1.3 above.

Those mechanisms which are rarely, if ever, used included, for example Ground Water Regulations and the inheritance tax exemption scheme. Mechanisms regarded as under-used included, for example, bye-laws and targeted land purchase, management planning, targeted education, or employment of Natura 2000 site officers.

In some cases, the mechanisms in these categories are not available as options for selection in the Natural Resources Wales Actions Database when conservation practitioners are planning actions for Natura 2000 sites, and this may contribute to the lack of use. In other cases, they are available in the database but rates of usage are still low. Other factors may apply, such as poor knowledge of the mechanism, complexity or inflexibility of the scheme, lack of organisational support and procedures, or fact that the mechanism is very specific and lacks general applicability.

Other mechanisms, while used more widely are seen to be poorly enforced (e.g. cross-compliance measures) or have a constrained scope (e.g. insufficient number of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones) so that their full potential is not realised.

b) Mechanisms which are employed elsewhere but are not currently available for use in Wales

These mechanisms such as environmental covenants, General Binding Rules, loan funds, biodiversity offsetting schemes currently have no legal or procedural structure in Wales to support them. These could only be used in the future following governmental supported changes to legislation, policy or regulation.

c) New approaches, initiatives or projects

Many of the suggestions cited in the inventory were not mechanisms in the strictly defined sense, but rather new approaches, for example, improved integration into other sectors, promoting community involvement or local business involvement, greater use of volunteers or the establishment of grassroots stakeholder groups. Although they can be tackled on a piecemeal basis locally these approaches (if considered of high priority) need to be actively promoted by government and Natural Resources Wales, to embed more firmly into normal ways of working.

In some cases, these new approaches are probably best progressed as prioritised projects or initiatives, where an investment of resources over a fixed period can bring about more long-term change e.g. marketing of produce from Natura 2000 sites, establishing a visitor payback system.

1.6.1. Management or Funding Mechanisms

The inventory entries were classified as being directed at either 'management', 'funding' or a combination of the two. Management mechanisms and approaches comprised the majority (49) and directly addressed barriers to reaching favourable condition of habitats and species on sites. For example, developing codes of conducts for recreational users, creation of management plans to deal with fire, or a pollution incident, or more extensive use of a regulations or permits.

Funding mechanisms (21) relate to improved means of obtaining funding for Natura 2000, for example, by placing levies on development, encouraging private sector funding, improved access to grants from other sectors etc. They do not directly influence the nature of management and restoration of sites but enable more work to be done.

In some cases, delivery of management and funding are closely connected , for example, management agreements which are based on incentives, payment in lieu of profit or rights forgone, or those where a product of management can be sold at a profit. There were 16 examples of these joint mechanisms.

1.7. Dominant Themes

A number of key themes emerged from the study:

New legislation & regulation – cited 25 times by stakeholders or in the literature. 14 specific regulations were quoted as needing to be used more frequently, improved or better enforced. The need to reduce or streamline legislation in general, to reduce red-tape and encourage innovative approaches, was cited 4 times.

Funds, grants, investments & tax relief – cited 22 times. The focus was on considering new or improved means of accessing funds for Natura, such as tapping into funds from other sectors, establishing a loan scheme, setting up a permanent Natura 2000 grant fund, or making better use of European funds,

Payback schemes and donations - cited 15 times. In this closely related theme, stakeholders highlighted the opportunity to generate income from visitors attracted to Wales because of its high quality environment. Suggested schemes

included a voluntary tourist levy on hotel rooms or restaurant meals, and web-based crowd-sourced donations. The challenge of directing funds generated in this way directly to site restoration and management rather than a central budget were discussed.

Payments for ecosystem services (cited 12 times) was another closely related financial theme. The amendment of agri-environment schemes to align them more closely to specific conservation outcomes on Natura 2000 sites was mentioned. There was significant interest in facilitating private companies and utilities to contribute to the management of sites that deliver services such as water purification or flood control.

Integration (cited 21 times) of Natura 2000 needs into existing strategies and action plans, and into Welsh, national and international policy and planning, was seen as a key approach which has to date been not fully utilised. It was felt that significant funds and staff existed to deliver a range public benefits which rarely took Natura 2000 into consideration. Alignment of agendas could release substantial resources for Natura 2000.

Targeted Education - cited 15 times. Rather than general awareness raising about Natura 2000 to the public or school children, the focus was on using education and awareness raising to address specific issues deliver stated objectives. For example, to change behaviour of recreational users causing damage (perhaps as an alternative to regulation), or to specifically engage and involve the community local to a site.

Partnership working was cited 13 times. Coordinated working between organisations was emphasised, as was the idea of facilitating grassroots management groups of say farmers, commoners or other users to come up with locally appropriate solutions to a range of problems.

Management Plans as a mechanism was cited 13 times. Whilst all Natura 2000 sites have core management plans, the opportunity for moving forward with creation of more detailed management plans to address specific issues and risks such as grazing, recreational disturbance, fire, etc was emphasised. The review of management plans for the government estate (e.g. public forests) to ensure the best outcomes for Natura 2000 was proposed.

Marketing and accreditation of produce from protected sites was cited 12 times. This included meat primarily but also other products including biomass. The focus was on schemes to promote, market and quality assure high standard meat products which would simultaneously generate income to farmers and conservation improvements.

Conclusions

This study demonstrates that there is a wealth of potential new ideas and opportunities to be explored to improve the management and financial support of Natura 2000 sites in Wales. While not all will be suitable or practical for all sites there is clearly great scope for further investigation. The stakeholder events also revealed a generally high level of enthusiasm amongst the workshop delegates and a clear appetite for change.

The range of new mechanisms and approaches was very broad, but many looked beyond traditional biodiversity conservation measures and simple regulation and control and explored the use of incentive or contract based management and the possibilities of making links and synergies between Natura 2000 management and the delivery of other environmental, social and economic goals. The reinforcement of partnerships with local stakeholders, communities, businesses and visitors to achieve mutual benefits appeared as cross-cutting message.

Appendix A: New Mechanism Case Studies

This section highlights five case studies which demonstrate how novel mechanisms have been used to deliver conservation action around the world. Inclusion does not imply any NRW or LIFE Natura 2000 Programme recommendation or endorsement of the initiative or of any specific conservation policy or action.

1. Legislation and Regulation Case Study

New York State Coastal Erosion Management Permit Program

The Coastal Erosion Management Permit Program is currently being implemented in vulnerable 'Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas' in New York State. The programme aims to maintain the natural capacity of shoreline habitats, to protect human populations, reduce costs associated with man-made coastal defences and preserve otherwise vulnerable habitats and species.

This is a regulatory system that issues permits for activities which may have a negative impact on the ability of coastal habitats to act as defences against extreme weather events. If a permit is granted, restrictions are put in place so that consented activities are undertaken in a way that minimizes damage to natural protective features and other natural resources and reduce the impacts of erosion. The permits ensure activities meet a focused set of standards which assess the impacts on coastal features.

Source: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6064.html>

2. Marketing and Accreditation of Produce Case Study

Biosphere Reserves in Rhön (Germany) and Entlebuch (Switzerland)

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves have developed active marketing and labelling schemes to promote the sale of wildlife-friendly meat and other produce.

This is in response to the decline in traditional farming practice of low-intensity grazing with older breeds, which has led to undergrazing or abandonment of species-rich habitats. The "protection by utilisation" concept aims to restore the economic viability of this type of farming and directly deliver essential conservation management.

The approach involves:

- Identifying appropriate products, these are primarily lamb, beef and milk but also herbs, bread, processed meats and shellfish.
- Working closely with farmers and co-operatives. (In some cases the marketing initiatives are self-organised).

- Promoting the product as high value, e.g. organic, improved taste and texture, naturally reared, ethical, supporting nature etc.
- Actively targeting new markets, especially high quality and niche markets e.g. Direct to restaurants, specialists retailers, direct sales, baby food, farmers' markets but also regional supermarkets.
- Emphasising regional/local aspect, which generates loyalty from producers and customers.
- Developing a distinct brand to aid recognition.
- Developing a quality control label with rules and conditions which ensures that the product is sourced from the protected area, is delivering conservation benefits and is of high quality.

Conservation objectives are being supported by income from a viable market rather than relying on public funds and bureaucratic support schemes. The marketing approach has also demonstrated additional benefits such as an increase in pride in the area by farmers and customers, and a more positive attitude by farmers to the Biosphere designation. It does require significant up-front input of resources to yield results but can attract grant aid from, for example, EU economic development funds.

Rhön Biosphere Reserve

Rhön Biosphere Reserve markets Rhön sheep (a local traditional breed), 'Biosphere Beef' and Signal and European Crayfish. Over 10 years Rhön sheep numbers increased from 40 to 4000.

Rhön brand



Quality assurance label



Entlebuch Biosphere Reserve

Entlebuch Biosphere Reserve has promoted the 'Real Entlebuch' label since 2008. They also run programme of events such as gastronomy days and fetes. They have accommodation and restaurant partners who use Biosphere produce and who benefit from mutual advertising and promotion.



Source: http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/internationalernaturschutz/2011-AfriBR-14-Pokorny_Rhoen.pdf
[http:// www.biosphaere.ch/de/regionale-produkte](http://www.biosphaere.ch/de/regionale-produkte)

3. Targeted Education Case Study

Love your Lakes Project, Lake District

Education has been used for many years to help address conservation issues however 'targeted education' specifically relates to raising awareness in order to change behaviour which contributes to/or delivers outcomes which meet specific measurable targets.

In 2001 the Lake District Still Waters Partnership identified that Lake Bassenthwaite Special Area of Conservation was in need of urgent attention – in particular phosphate levels within the catchment were excessive. The main contributors were considered to be agriculture and detergents.

In response, the Bassenthwaite Lakes Restoration Programme and the Love Your Lakes project was established by a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations. The Love Your Lakes project encouraged local communities, businesses and visitors to change their behaviour to help contribute to a reduction in phosphate. It differed from other projects because as well as involving environmental bodies it also engaged with local tourism and business organisations.

Love Your Lakes contacted 400 tourist businesses by post and 226 businesses received a one-to-one advisory visit. Partnership working enabled 700 additional businesses to be made aware of the project. A Love Your Lakes approved scheme for businesses was established and the project also improved the availability of phosphate-free detergents for businesses.

The project involved a great deal of community engagement with 5000 households being contacted by post. As well as the usual leaflets, posters and press releases, local action groups were formed and a number of novel methods were used to engage the public such as performances and a book of poems about the lake.

The result was a significant rise in the understanding of the issues surrounding water quality in the area and how people could help address them. After the campaign had finished, 98% of those surveyed had a good or excellent level of awareness, and 80% said they used phosphate-free detergents.

As part of the wider Bassenthwaite Lake restoration project there was a 59% reduction in the phosphate levels between 2001 and 2011. It has now been rolled out to the Windermere catchment.

Source:

http://issuu.com/amymcloughlin/docs/love_your_lakes_report_2011?e=2940830/3198061
<http://www.windermere-reflections.org.uk/projects/choices-for-a-greener-future/>

4. Payment for Ecosystem Services Case Study

Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP) in North West England

Peat ecosystems provide a variety of services, such as habitat for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water purification and regulation of water supply. If this natural filter is intact, less expenditure is necessary to maintain water quality. However, in North-West England, there has been significant loss or degradation of upland peat land between the 1940s and 1980s, largely as a result of land being drained for more intensive farming combined with private rights to cut peat.

United Utilities, a private water company, owns 57,385 hectares in Peak District and Bowland areas of which nearly 30% is on designated land, comprising mainly of upland blanket peat. Between 2005 and 2010, United Utilities, the RSPB and other partners undertook a peat bog restoration project to reverse damage to an area subject to intensive farming, under the Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP).

A major part of the programme was to apply an integrated approach to catchment management (across 10,000ha) where sensitive farming practices were adopted to prevent further degradation. The project has demonstrated clear benefits of enhanced biodiversity, peat bog restoration leading to improved water colour and water quality, reduced flood risk and lower long-term costs to customers. These benefits were estimated as worth between £1.2 million and £2.6 million annually (based on costs of 'end of pipe' water treatment expected to be avoided).

This case study shows how private business can benefit from investing in the natural environment. Due to the success of the first phase, SCaMP 2 is planning to deliver across the two remaining United Utility estates (30,000 ha) in the Lake District and West Pennines.

5. Development Case Study

Planning Obligations - Section 106 Agreements in Carmarthenshire (a Community Infrastructure Levy)

Cross Hands in Carmarthenshire has been identified as a growth area in the Carmarthenshire's Local Development Plan. Located within this area is Caeau Mynydd Mawr Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a site for marsh fritillary butterflies. In addition, there is a series of 'Rhos' pasture fields in a defined area approximately 2km around the SAC itself which support the meta-population of marsh fritillary. These fields may be subject to applications for development in the future.

Carmarthenshire County Council produced draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (July 2013) with the objective of providing a strategic framework that will ensure that as development proceeds in the area, appropriate land within the same area is managed as supporting habitat for the marsh fritillary butterfly. This will mitigate for the potential loss of supporting habitat and connectivity due to development and ensure the conservation objectives of the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC are being met.

Conservation work is funded from a levy paid by developers to the local authority. These planning obligations have a legislative basis in Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Funds from the scheme will be used to secure and manage 'Rhos' pasture in the meta-population area. The conservation objectives for the SAC seek to establish 50ha of habitat under management, however the scheme has the potential to provide 100ha of suitable habitat.

This scheme has some similarities with the Biodiversity Offsetting initiatives which are currently being trialled in Essex and elsewhere in England.

Source:

<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/English/environment/planning/Planning%20Policy%20and%20Development%20Plans/Local%20Development%20Plan/Documents/Draft%20SPG%20Caeau%20Mynydd%20Mawr%20SAC.pdf>

Appendix B: Methods Used in Study

1. Stakeholder Engagement

A wide range of stakeholders including governmental and non governmental organisations and representatives from the marine and water industry sectors attended three technical workshops across Wales in September 2013.

Date	Location	Workshop groups	Attendees
18 Sept 13	Wales Biodiversity Partnership Conference, Bangor University	1	6
27 Sept 13	Europe's Special Places Conference Cardiff Millennium Stadium (in association with Welsh Government, NRW and EC DG Environment)	6	49
12 Sept 13	Relevant Authorities Group meeting, Aberystwyth	1	16
			71

Following introductory presentations, workshops participants were asked to draw on their knowledge and experience to identify new funding and management mechanisms which could to address issues affecting Natura 2000 sites.

From the list of new measures, participants were then asked to select two or three to consider further by identifying the benefits and constraints associated with the measure.

Given that management mechanisms and funding mechanisms are often interrelated, delegates were asked to consider both at the same time. There was no attempt to separate these in the workshop discussions. However, delegates were advised that 'conservation management techniques' were beyond the scope of the study.

Around 172 organisations were invited. One or more representatives from the following organisations attended, as shown below.

Type	Organisation
Utilities	Dwr Cymru
Local authorities	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
	Gwynedd Council
Local planning authority	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Agriculture and fishing sector	Welsh Fisherman's Association
Marine Relevant Authority Groups and SAC Officers	Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC Officer
	Cardigan Bay SAC Officer
	Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer
	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC Officer
Conservation Non-Governmental Organisations	Butterfly Conservation Wales
	Canals and Rivers Trust
	Commons Vision
	Cynnal Cymru
	Marine Conservation Society
	National Trust England
	North Wales Wildlife Trust
	RSPB
	Severn Rivers Trust
Government funded bodies	Environment Agency
	Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs
	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
	Natural Resources Wales
	Natural England
	Welsh Local Government Association
Welsh Government	National Assembly for Wales:
	Land, Nature and Forestry Division
	Biodiversity and Nature Conversation
Other	Milford Haven Port Authority
	Astrale
	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
	GHK Consultancy
	Habitat Matters Ltd
	Menter Mon
	Burren Project
WWF Germany	

2. Literature Review and Other Sources of Data

A literature and internet search was undertaken to identify novel mechanisms and approaches not currently widely used in Wales, but which have been trialed or adopted elsewhere in the world for conservation benefit, and which could have the potential to be utilised in Wales to address issues affecting Natura 2000.

Some of the newly identified mechanisms were considered in more depth in the form of case studies of real examples of how a mechanism has been utilised successfully in the delivery of conservation benefit.

A small number of new mechanisms identified in earlier research undertaken by the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme were also included. Data was derived from a series of workshops held in June 2013 which focused issues and risks to Natura 2000 features and an appraisal of existing management mechanisms. Full details are described in Challenges Facing Natura 2000 in Wales, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, Report 2 and Addressing the Challenges on Natura 2000 sites in Wales, LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales, Report 3.

The findings from the stakeholder workshops, interviews and literature searches were compiled into Inventory 1. Measures which were essentially the same or very similar were grouped under one title, and the number of times they were cited was logged.