



BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SERVICE
 FOR POWYS AND BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK
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RECORDERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 – MAY 2008

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Powys and Brecon Beacons National Park recorders newsletter. A particular thanks to all the contributors, with articles that reflect wildlife recording throughout our area. These include information on how to get involved with recording this summer, such as the national Dragonfly Atlas and Powys roadside verges. It is good to see a lot of identification training being offered too, and I have highlighted this in boxes throughout the newsletter, rather than having one long list at the end. I have also included details of the BIS recording days, which I hope many of you will be able to attend.

This newsletter is a good way for us to keep you all up to date with what is happening at BIS and I feel I could have said a lot more. However, we soon shall have an easily edited website that will enable us to update more quickly news items from BIS and the recording community.

I do really enjoy working on the newsletter but feel that possibly a volunteer may be able to devote more time in sourcing news and articles for both the website and the newsletter. I therefore include an item below in the hope there is such an enthusiastic person who would be interested in getting involved with this project.

After this wet, cold and windy Spring I hope that the weather will improve and you all enjoy a productive recording season.

Janet Imlach – Editor

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BIS update

Staff

It is all change at BIS in May as Sarah, Angharad and Rhian are all moving onto pastures new. Sarah, our Biodiversity Data Officer, has been working part-time since March and will be leaving at the end of May to work on her family small holding for a year, and is also involved in setting up an ecological consultancy with her university friends. Angharad was working on the BIS/ CCW data contract in Abergavenny but will move to a permanent post as 'Review of Consents Officer' with CCW in the Cardiff office. Rhian will be leaving us in May and will be gaining experience surveying over the summer. Thanks to all these three who have been particularly helpful with the development of BIS and we wish them all the best for the future.

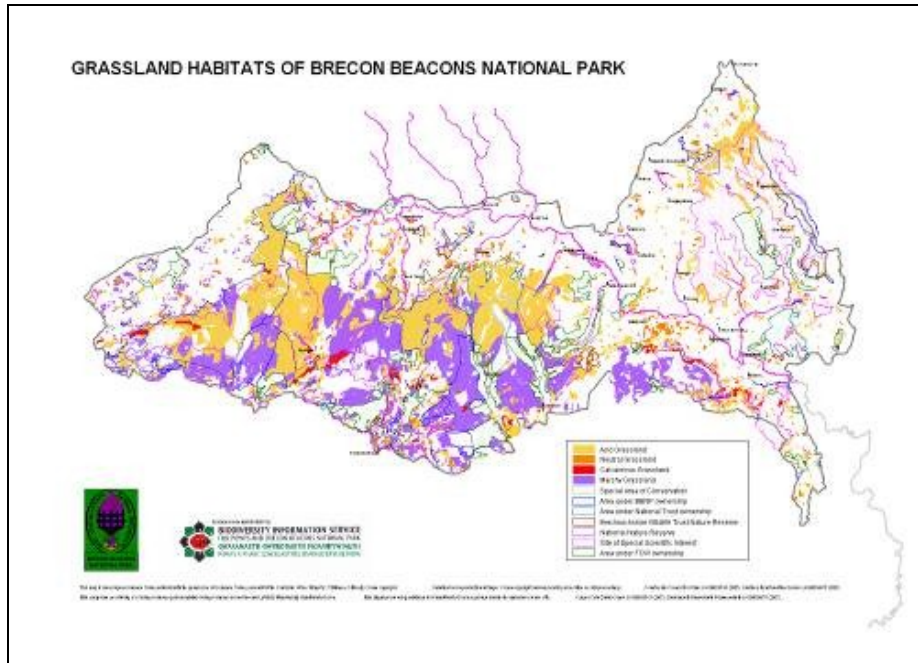
However we can all look forward to working with three new staff who I am sure will also contribute greatly to the further development of BIS. Phil Ward and Anna Georgiou will job-share the post of Biodiversity Data Officer. Phil is a semi-professional and enthusiastic entomologist and has been a wildlife professional for over 20 years. From 1992, he worked as a Countryside Ranger in the Elan Valley for 13 years, and the last 3 years as the Wildlife Trust Officer for Carmarthenshire and the Teifi Marshes Reserve where he managed 13 nature reserves. Phil has extensive survey experience in all invertebrate groups, is County Beetle Recorder for Radnorshire, and secretary of the Radnorshire Invertebrate Group. He also specialises in bird surveys, is a licensed bird ringer, and has a good knowledge of plants and many other groups. Anna gained a Masters degree in Conservation and Land Management from the University of Wales, Bangor. Shortly after, she became Reserve Warden for The Northmoor Trust in Oxfordshire before moving back to Wales as a ranger in the Elan Valley. She started work with The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales in 2005, as reserve manager at the Trust's headquarters reserve. After becoming a mum, she changed roles to become the Wildlife Advisory Officer. This involved carrying out contract surveys for the Trust's wildlife consultancy and giving wildlife advice to landowners and the public.

Julia Tilson will be taking on the CCW data contract, which runs until March 2009, to finish inputting data held at Abergavenny and Newtown offices. Julia has qualifications in Conservation Ecology and Habitat surveying. She has recently worked with the Forestry Commission on several projects including preparing Native Woodland Plans. Her passion is plants and botanising.

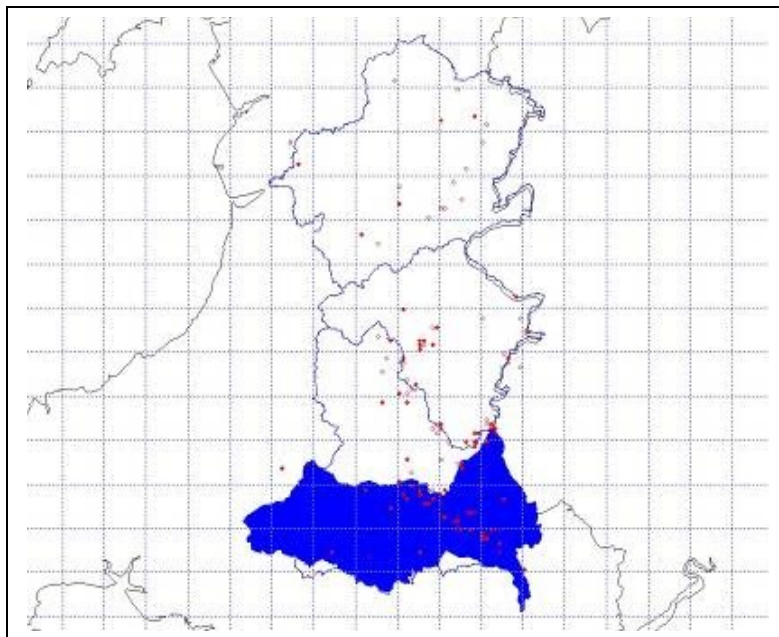
Data

We now hold just over 900,000 records in Recorder 6, with approximately 120,000 records entered at BIS over the last 6 months. These include large moth datasets from VC recorders for Brecknockshire and Radnorshire, Montgomeryshire Phase 1 Target notes and data held by SEWBReC in the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP). We have also imported the CCW Headquarter data including bats, Great-crested newts, Red Squirrels and the Threatened Welsh Lichens database.

This data has all been important in running audits for the BBNP and Powys LBAPs on the new Section 42 species lists (See article by BBNP LBAP officer p 5). Overleaf is an example of the habitat maps produced for BBNP. We were also able to calculate the total amount of each habitat in BBNP and in various land ownerships.



For the Powys LBAP audit we have produced a number of species record distribution maps for Section 42 species recorded in Powys. Below is a sample showing the distribution of the slow-worm records. Records are shown as 1km square dots within 10km in the 3 vice-counties. Solid red dots are records post-2000 and others are pre-2000. This is a very interesting exercise as it may show decline in slow-worms but also highlights the possible lack of recording effort or problems with data flow and the access of records by BIS. In this case a number of most recent records are seen in Brecknockshire which now has an active Reptile and Amphibian Group.



Data exchange

Recently the four Welsh Record Centre Managers attended the Wales Environmental Information Forum. This was a workshop run by the Welsh Assembly and CCW to look at how we can work together to improve access to environmental information to recorders and decision makers

The Welsh Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) has asked its members to:

- 'support and promote biological recording throughout Wales, encouraging voluntary recorders and their input to LRC's.'
- 'promote contributions to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) by feeding into the National Biodiversity Network (NBN)'
- 'assist and make the best use of LRCs data holdings'

This was a very interesting meeting with presentations from the Local Record Centres Wales, NBN and the Biological Recording Centre. Through various talking workshops it became apparent that the flow of data both across Wales and the UK is very confused in many cases. There needs to be some clear guidance as to how data is exchanged with recorders, National Societies, Local Record Centres and the NBN. For instance some Vice County recorders will exchange data with the appropriate National Society or Scheme and the data may be then available to LRCs through the NBN Gateway. It is also very important that VC recorders and the National Societies can easily access the data mobilised by the LRCs, for their recording needs and for verification purposes.

It was decided to set up a Steering Group including recorders, CCW and LRCs to continue looking at these issues and hopefully start resolving them. As a result of this workshop the LRCs are also going to meet with members of IEEM to look at how data gathered by ecological consultants can be made available through the LRCs.

Over the next few months I would like to review how the data flows in the BIS area and have therefore compiled a questionnaire, which we will send out to Vice-county recorders and other main providers of data to BIS. I have also updated the Data Exchange Agreement (DEA), which follows a standard set by SEWBRc and will clearly set out the data flow and exchange with individual recorders and organisations. I hope that many of the recorders will be agreeable to complete questionnaires and to go on and set up new DEA's with BIS to ensure their data is being used for the conservation of wildlife.

Janet Imlach (BIS)

BIS website

We are about to make version three of our website live. This process has progressed at a slower rate than we had hoped, but it has now evolved into a system where BIS staff and outside contributors can add content and comments themselves. Additionally, we will be able to host our own forums (fora?) and blogs. We hope this will foster an online community of recorders and ecologists.

Access of BIS data to the public, recorders and partner organisations has been asked for, so this new web site aims to fulfil that need. Web applications are being developed which slot into the web site to allow such things as distribution mapping, data statistics and searches. Once content has been finalised and the site tested, it is expected to go live in the next month. The web applications will be added thereafter.

As always we would like to respond to the needs of the recording community, so if there any features or services which you would like to see please let us know. I will be publishing a blog on the new site related to technical issues that confront recorders in their work, as well as running a support forum. I will be pleased to answer, and hopefully solve, recording issues which arise from the use of software and hardware.

Dave Cope, Biodiversity Informatics, BIS.

Volunteering at BIS

BIS is looking for a volunteer who would like to take over compiling and editing this Recorders newsletter, which is sent out twice a year, in Spring and Summer. They would be fully supported by BIS and be able to use its resources. It would enable more time to be devoted to collating articles etc and enable BIS staff to work on other projects.

BIS is also looking for a volunteer to help keep the BIS website up to date with news, events, links and articles about biological recording locally and nationally.

If you are interested please contact Janet Imlach by email janet@b-i-s.org or phone 01874 610881

Local Experts needed to help revise the Species List of the Brecon Beacons LBAP

The Brecon Beacons LBAP is now in its final stages of revision. A key item we were waiting for was the publication of the new list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Wales. This list is a legal instrument as it forms Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. While the list does not constitute “protected” species, the conservation of the habitats and species on the list must be considered by all public bodies working in Wales.

This list contains all of the UKBAP Priority habitats and species that are known to occur in Wales and a few extras that are important in a Welsh context if not in the context of the UK as a whole. It would not have been possible to produce this list without the constant and dedicated effort of you, the Recorders. This is an example that shows just how important it is that your data is transferred to the 4 Welsh Local Records Centres, so that it can be put to practical use in policies to protect our Welsh wildlife.

BIS has been able to take the S.42 list and draw out all those species that have been recorded within the National Park. A total of 201 of these species have been recorded here in over 12,000 records. However, some of these records date back to the ‘90’s, ‘80s and even further leaving it unclear whether the species is still present within the National Park.

So once again we are asking for your help! The list is available on the BBNPA’s website at:

<http://www.breconbeacons.org/content/environment>

And the species list has been colour coded. Green means the last record was after 1/1/2000, yellow for the last record between 1/1/1980 and 31/12/1999 and finally red for records before 1980. We are asking our local experts (yes, that means you!) to check through the list and answer 2 quick questions:

Do you have or know of a more recent record?

If not, do you think that the species is likely to still occur in the National Park, or do you think that it is no longer here?

We need to have a good idea of whether the species has disappeared, or if it’s just under-recorded. Please reply to Gareth Ellis, through the link from the web pages. If you don’t have access to the website please give me a call on the number below and I can send you the list through the post.

All of these S.42 Species that occur in the National Park will be part of the revised LBAP. This is to be consistent with Welsh policy and the UKBAP as the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will be able to deliver conservation of these species through the services we provide, such as planning. Obviously the Section 42 list doesn't cover everything that's important to us locally so we are also taking suggestions from recorders as to other species we should include in the LBAP as local priorities. Generally these species should;

- Have a confirmed record within the National Park in the last 20 years;
- Should have a restricted range (known from less than 10 sites in a Vice County)
- Should occur outside of protected sites (e.g. if the species only occurs on a National Nature Reserve it's conservation is already in hand)

So if you have any suggestions we'd like to hear about them, to ensure that we can conserve our special local wildlife as well as those that are nationally important.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Gareth Ellis – Biodiversity Officer Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
01874 620470 – email gareth.ellis@breconbeacons.org

Mammal Recording in Montgomeryshire

In the last BIS newsletter, I reported on the formation of the Montgomeryshire Mammal Group. Eight months have now passed since the inaugural meeting, so what has the group been up to? Frances Gillett, the group's coordinator, has now been joined by three others to form a Steering Group; they are Grace Crabb, Mike Green & Dave Hood. They can be contacted through the new email address: montymammals@aol.co.uk.

The group has had two get-togethers so far; both on Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust nature reserves. On 23rd September and despite the rain, ten brave souls met for a mammal walk at Dolydd Hafren. Most of the time was spent huddled in one or other of the hides and I think the mammals were following our example, as nothing was spotted apart from some footprints, holes, molehills and the imaginary wildebeest! Regardless of this though, fun was had by all and at least the sun came out in time for our visit to the local tavern!



The 16th March saw six even braver souls heading out despite the appalling weather forecast and numerous localised floods. The weather was actually very kind, which was good given that we were intending to have an al-fresco lunch. The theme of the day was Badgers, so at Roundton Hill (see photo above) we searched for their signs and found plenty. First we found areas which the badgers had scratched away in search of food and by following some tracks

we found a couple of latrines. Finally and when had given up hope, we found a badger sett. All these signs told us that there must be at least two setts in use at Roundton. Signs were also spotted for the following species; Grey Squirrel, Rabbit and Mole. All these species are common, yes, but they are also rarely recorded, so every record helps to build up a clearer picture of their true Montgomeryshire distribution.

To encourage folks to focus their mammal recording effort, I have set up an adopt-a-square system. The idea is to adopt a 1km square and record as many mammal species as you can in that square. Since you only need to record each species once each year, this focuses effort. So, for example, if you saw a rabbit in your square tomorrow, you'd write that date on your form and then wouldn't record it again until next year. Quite a few Mammal Group members have already adopted a square, but there are still thousands left, so whether you're a member of the group or not, I would be delighted to help you choose the square that's right for you!

As always I can be contacted through the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Collot House, 20 Severn Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7AD, email: tammy@montwt.co.uk or phone 01938 555654.

Future Montgomeryshire Mammal Group events:

By the time this goes to press, the group will already have had the pleasure of a weekend of Mammal Detective Workshops at the Centre of Alternative Technology, courtesy of the Snowdonia Mammal Group.

Pine Martens: A Training Workshop for MMG

Date: 1st June

Place: Hafren forest

Cost: Free

Details: John Messenger from the Vincent Wildlife Trust will teach us to survey for Pine Martens as part of his scat survey of Hafren forest. There will be a short on-site training session before we begin, as well as a full briefing. This is an all day event.

MMG summer events

Species of the season: Bats (of all kinds!)... watch this space. Training walks and talks planned! Also coming up: Dormice, water voles and much more...

Tammy Stretton

The Polecat Survey of Britain 2004-2006 – Vincent Wildlife Trust

A new report just published by The Vincent Wildlife Trust confirms that the **polecat's** recovery in Britain is continuing; it is now widely re-established across Wales, the Midlands and central southern England. Over the 2004-2006 survey period, 1,273 records of polecats and polecat-ferrets were received. The report examines regional patterns in the occurrence of these two closely related forms, and defines 'Polecat Purity Zones' based on the proportion of verifiably true polecat records from each county. Predictably, the purest populations are in the polecat's historical Welsh stronghold, with an increasing frequency of polecat-ferrets in populations towards the periphery of the English range and in outlier populations. The main areas of recent polecat range expansion are all in England, based on the counties of Derby, Bucks, Berks, Wilts, Hants and Dorset. While 77% of records were road casualties, some reports were of live polecats visiting or even breeding in gardens. A new population estimate suggests that there are now 46,784 polecats in Britain. Copies of *The Polecat Survey of Britain 2004-2006: a report on the polecat's distribution, status and conservation* are available from www.vwt.org.uk

National Dragonfly Atlas

The National Dragonfly Atlas Project will be launched in April 2008. The aim of this project is to update the known distribution of British dragonfly and damselfly species over the next 5 years, culminating in the publication of a new national atlas in 2013.



A new national atlas is urgently required. Climate change is contributing to increasingly earlier spring emergence and change in the range of a number of our species. In addition, new species are becoming established in Britain. We are living through a dynamic change in our dragonfly fauna and need to record this information, thereby providing evidence for future assessment of the impact climate change and other environmental factors are having on our dragonfly fauna.

To succeed in this ambitious project **good national coverage is needed**. The more people that get involved, the more information on the status of our dragonfly and damselfly species can be gathered. This will not only allow the production of a high quality national atlas but also provide a good baseline of information that can be used for the future benefit of dragonfly conservation.

Some the details have yet to be finalised but recording needs lots of keen people, so please get in touch with the relevant vice county recorder/s now, to volunteer your time and enthusiasm and they will then be able to keep you informed. Please note the changes and new vice county recorder appointees. For more information please see

<http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk/nationalatlas.html> **British Dragonfly Society -**

Dragonfly Recording Network - Dragonfly Recorders for Welsh Vice -counties: -

Monmouthshire VC 35	Ian Smith, Larus, 1 Hook Close, Osbaston, Monmouth, Gwent, NP25 3BD. Tel: 01600 713561, E-mail: Welshdragonflies@aol.com
Glamorgan VC 41	Mike Powell, 87 Coed Glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5EL. Tel: 029 2076 2182 E-mail: mike.powell2@coorsbrewers.com
Breconshire VC 42	Gareth Ellis, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Plas Y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP Tel: 01874 620 470 E-mail: Gareth.Ellis@breconbeacons.org
Radnorshire VC 43	Bob Dennison Maes y Geidfa, Crossgates, LLandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6RP. Tel: 01597 851 702. E-mail: bob.dennison@care4free.net
Carmarthenshire VC 44	Stephen Coker, Mountain Grove, Clarbeston Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA63 4SG Tel: 01437 563 566 E-mail: stephenandanne.coker@virgin.net
Pembrokeshire VC 45	Stephen Coker – see Carmarthenshire
Cardiganshire VC 46	Lin Gander, Penwalk Llechryd, Cardigan Ceredigion, SA43 2PS. Tel: 01239 682405 E-mail: lingander@strandings.demon.co.uk

Montgomeryshire VC 47	Mark Walters, 3 Sunnymeade, Canal Road, Four Crosses, Llanymynech, Powys, SY22 6PW. Tel: 01691 830 207, E-mail: mark@sunnymeade.plus.com ; website: www.sunnymeade.plus.com/index.htm
North Wales VC's 48 - 52	Dr Allan Brandon, Bryn Heilyn, Rowen, Conwy LL32 8YT. Phone 01492 651 066, E-mail: Allan@rowenconwy.wanadoo.co.uk Covering vice counties of: Merionethshire; Caernarvonshire; Denbighshire ; Flintshire; Anglesey
WALES	Very many changes have occurred in the names and mapped borders of Welsh counties in recent years. If unsure of which vice county you have records for, please feel free to send to Ian Smith (Monmouthshire) who will then forward to the relevant recorder.

Ian Smith

In response to requests, Dragonfly Training Courses have been arranged for 2008 in venues across South Wales. The course content and sites visited are all varied, but each course will be relevant to people wishing to develop or extend survey, identification and recording skills.



Dragonfly Training Courses by Ian Smith

Thursday 29th May 2008; based at the Field Studies Council's Education Centre, in Margam Country Park, near Port Talbot. An intensive long one-day course aimed at people wanting a good grounding in survey, identification and recording skills. Using ponds and streams within the garden & parkland areas and farm & forestry. Full details of this course, are available as a PDF file, directly from Ian Smith at: welshdragonflies@aol.com



For the next two courses, details are on the [Gwent Wildlife Trust](http://www.gwentwildlifetrust.org.uk) website – on the [events page](#).

Weekend of 12th & 13th July 2008; based at the Gwent Wildlife Trust, Magor Marsh Reserve and Centre (between Newport and Chepstow). This is an intensive two-day course aimed at professionals and those wanting to extend existing knowledge and skills. Content will include surveying and identification of larvae, exuviae and adult stages as well as detailed background information, the current colonisations and changes in status and protective legislation. Based at this Fenland Reserve, visits will be made to other sites across the Gwent Levels SSSI.

Thursday 7th August 2008 starting at Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar and covering sites alongside the heads of the valleys road eastward to Brynmawr. This is a short one-day course to introduce people to dragonflies and damselflies and their identification, using a varied series of upland post – industrial wetland sites

Calling all plant lovers!

The Living Highways Project is looking for volunteers to help out with the monitoring of Road Verge Nature Reserves (RVNRs) this summer. Strange as it may seem, road verges are a high priority for nature conservation because of the special species and communities that they often support. Some sections of road verge within Powys have been designated as RVNRs and they are managed separately from the rest of the verge network. To make sure that the chosen management is working, monitoring of the species and communities present on these sites is very important. We have tried to make monitoring the RVNRs as painless as possible so you don't have to be a plant expert in order to get involved (if you want help, check out our event listed below).

If you would be interested in helping us out by volunteering to monitor one of these sites, please contact Liz Lewis-Reddy at liz@montwt.co.uk or 07902800382.

Is it Ryegrass?

Grass ID/wildlife site survey training day; date TBC

A training day for wildlife site and road verge nature reserve volunteers, focusing on wildlife site methodology and grass species ID. Location and date are dependant on the growing season. If interested contact the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust on 01938 555654 at the beginning of July for further details.

Liz Lewis-Reddy

Lower Plant Recording – Stanner Rocks, Radnorshire

Stanner Rocks, Radnorshire still continues to surprise. I'd been invited to help there with a census of the Radnor Lily. Its been a good year with plenty of flowers and almost a doubling in the number of its leaves (yes-they are counted every spring by the thousand but as the flowers never set seed and most plants consist of a single leaf there's not a lot else to count). You can't afford to be distracted and lose count. Unfortunately I get easily distracted and was by lots of squiffy little thalloid liverworts. These are also a speciality of Stanner. Not quite what you expect from a drought-stricken, south-facing cliff. So I had to go back and check out the *Riccias*. It was well worth doing as the nationally rare *R. nigrella* that appeared to be in dangerous decline in its well known quarry floor site, turned out to be more widespread than previously thought and might still be in favourable condition. The elm sap weep BAP lichen *Bacidia incompta* had been in decidedly unfavourable condition since its one and only known host wych elm tree died in 1981 from Dutch elm disease. That left just one other surviving population in Wales. Imagine my delight when on grasping a young elm tree to steady myself from yet another plummet down a scree slope I found myself embracing none other than *Bacidia incompta*-returned from "the dead". A trickle of sap from an old broken branch scar above had provided just the specialized conditions this lichen requires. So do we now mutilate lots of other regenerating elms here to create more sap weeps? Does anyone know how to create long-lasting sap weeps?

More treasures followed. Stanner is like some exotic lost city in the jungle. Piles of rocks appear out of dense scrub and scree and you are never quite sure where you are despite hundreds of visits. So it was that a "new" cliff line appeared out of the scrub. I was certain I must have been there before but perhaps from a different direction? Clambering up it was immediately apparent I had never been there before; nor had any other lower plant specialist as my eyes popped out at the sight of dozens of clumps of the upright apple moss, another Stanner speciality BAP and RDB plant not known from anywhere else on mainland Britain. These populations probably doubled its known quantity and eased our concerns over its dwindling population in two other parts of the NNR. Having guiltily left my laptop and the polishing of databases and strategies in the morning, it was after all a most profitable use of my time!

Ray Woods

News Snippets

Fairy Shrimp

2007 was a disappointing year for the continued search for new fairy shrimp (*Chirocephalus diaphanus*) records. Over 60 new ponds were visited on the Radnorshire Breconshire border in the vicinity of the two new records found in the 2006 survey. However no new sites were recorded, this was put down to the unusual seasonal weather conditions, with regular rain during the summer season not allowing pools to fully dry out. No sooner was this theory formulated than it was blown out of the water (every pun intended).

As a result of coming across the article about fairy shrimp in BIS Newsletter 2 on the internet Anna Bransden contacted us with four new records for Aberedw Hill and one on Hergest Ridge. Anna is a PhD student at Llysdinam Field Centre, University of Cardiff carrying out research into pond biodiversity. These new records reflect a distribution you would expect to find considering the ecology of *Chirocephalus*. Where you have suitable pools in close proximity you would expect *Chirocephalus* to occur in more than one pool. Unfortunately, the most regularly monitored site at Henllyn Mawr is refusing to conform to this distribution pattern. Throughout 2007 no fairy shrimp were found in Henllyn Mawr or its surrounding suitable pools.

Cliff Bradley

Brecknockshire Amphibian and Reptile Group

Refugia have been put out at Island Fields, Brecon to see what's about. To date no reptiles but it is early days. This site is a public open space owned by Powys CC and has a few issues. It also has a colony of sand martins in the river banks.

The Amphibian lovers have been continuing to support Dr David Sewell with his study on Mynydd Illtyd. This time last year all the ponds were drying up from now onwards whereas this year it's so cold we haven't seen much.

Stephanie Coates

Wild about Meadows

The manifesto for the Wild Meadows of Wales produced by *Flora locale* and the Grasslands Trust has just been released and is available to download from www.wildmeadows.org. It proposes a set of measures to protect and restore wildflower grasslands in Wales.

In the first newsletter 'Wild Meadows' it defines Wild Meadows as 'all sorts of grasslands full of wild flowers, with abundant insect life that provides a fundamental life - support system for birds and other wild animals.'

A Wild Meadow Restoration Grant is now available for the years 2008 and 2009 for deserving projects that will increase the wildflower diversity of grasslands. The grant is available to landowners towards the costs of seed harvesting, contractors and other operational costs.

Contact Ivy Berkshire, the Wild Meadows (Wales) Project Officer, The Court, Llansawel, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 7JG. Tel 07912 789003

Training Courses at Llysdimam Field Centre

Introduction to Crayfish: Cardiff University one-day environmental training course. Venue:

Llysdimam Field Centre, Date: **6th May 2008**, Time: 10am-4pm, Cost: £30. Contact Amy Tibble Email: tibbleal@cardiff.ac.uk, Phone: 02920879040

The course includes identification, ecology, conservation and survey techniques of the white-clawed crayfish, and is ideal for individuals working towards licences and skills in ecological surveying techniques with a unique opportunity for close contact with the white-clawed and signal crayfish species.

Introduction to Moths: Cardiff University one-day environmental training course. Venue: Llysdimam Field Centre, Date: **10th July 2008**, Time: 10am-4pm, Cost: £30. Contact Amy Tibble Email: tibbleal@cardiff.ac.uk, Phone: 02920879040

An introduction to British moths. The course includes identification, ecology, conservation and trapping techniques of nocturnal British moths, and is ideal for individuals working towards improving ecological surveying techniques and is a unique opportunity to identify a variety of mid Wales's species.

BIS Recorders Field Days

Saturday 17th May (10- 4pm)– @ Black Mixen near Kinnerton, Radnorshire

This remote site is part of the Radnor Forest SSSI and is adjacent to Mynydd Ffoesidoes RWT Reserve. It is on the highest point in Radnorshire at 2135 feet and habitats include dwarf-shrub heath communities. The aim of the day is to provide baseline data for RWT who would like to develop a management plan for the site.

Saturday 21st June (11- 4pm). Bryn Mawr, near Llanerfyl, Montgomeryshire

The 30 hectare land comprises of marsh & bog, willow carr, scattered trees & scrub, semi-improved and improved grassland, as well as the old buildings. The Small Pearl-bordered fritillary has been recorded there. It is home of the Bryn Mawr Heritage Project (<http://www.bmheritagetrust.co.uk/>) and is prospective Wildlife Site. The project is keen to have more survey work done there, as conservation is part of their objectives. It is only accessible by 4x4 so anybody who is able to bring one and help ferry people to the site would be particularly welcome.

Saturday 5th July (10 – 4pm) Cnewr, nr Crai, Brecknockshire

The Site is on the Cnewr estate a couple of miles south of Crai. It consists of some marshy pasture, disused railway track embankment, steep woodland, conifer plantation and pond. It is a potential Wildlife Site and aim is to get more baseline information of a number of taxonomic groups for the BWT.

We hope that many of the recorders will be interested in attending and providing the landowners and the Wildlife Trusts with records that will help with future management of these sites.

**Please contact Janet Imlach at BIS to book and get further details for the day.
Tel 01874 610881 or email janet@b-i-s.org.**

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Working in Partnership with:-

Countryside Council for Wales
Powys County Council
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Brecknockshire Wildlife Trust
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust
Forestry Commission for Wales
Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency

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