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CYMDEITHAS ECOLEGOL PRYDAIN

Welsh Policy Group

Newsletter

Issue 2 – November 2022

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BES Policy Groups exist to promote the use of ecological knowledge and support the involvement of ecologists in all levels of policymaking in each of the nations of the UK. They bring together BES members and people working in Welsh environmental policy to highlight and promote how knowledge can aid policymakers with decision-making.

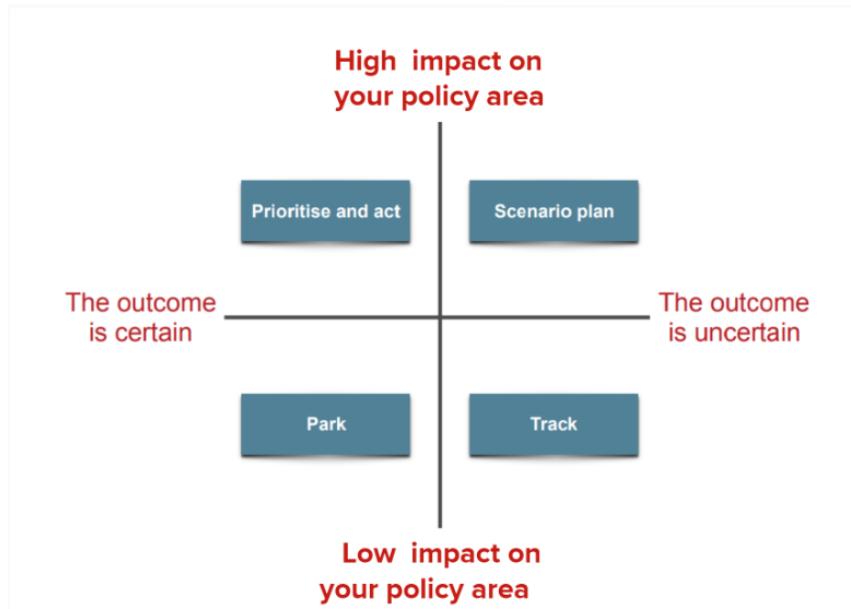
This is the newsletter of the Welsh Policy Group (WPG). Profiles on the members of our committee as well as our Vision and Strategy can be found on the [BES website](#).

This newsletter is a bit late, because Nick Harvey Sky, BES Wales Policy Officer, was on jury duty for the whole of October. This also meant that we had to push our first events back to early 2023.

Horizon Scan

The WPG is conducting a horizon scan for drivers that **may shape the future of Wales' ecology over the next 10 years**. This has proceeded through several stages:

- We began with a STEEPLE exercise, where the WPG and members of the Welsh ecological community were invited to submit suggestions of Social, Technological, Environmental, Economic, Political, Legal and Ethical drivers for ecological change over the next 10 years.
- Next the WPG used an impact-uncertainty matrix to categorise these drivers into four categories:



- We then used the Delphi technique to choose our top three priorities from the 'Prioritise and Act' category. These will form the basis for our main themes of work going forwards.

A full report of methods and results will be published soon.

Policy Guide

Part of the WPG's work is to produce materials that help ecologists and others engage with the policy-making process in Wales independently. As part of this, we have drafted a policy guide that provides an introduction to how policy and legislation is

made in Wales, who is involved and highlights the parts of the process where ecological evidence is utilised. We hope that this can act as an instruction manual on how to get started for researchers, consultants and other people with ecological expertise who want to engage with policy but don't know where to start.

The policy guide will be published in early 2023.

Events

Our policy training event in collaboration with the Vincent Wildlife Trust has been pushed back to March 2023.

Our Caffi Ecology (Pie and a Pint) event has been pushed back until February 2023, and will take place in Cardiff. These events provide an opportunity to bring together ecological researchers, academics, consultants and policy makers to discuss a policy-relevant topic and network. This event will focus on Biodiversity Net Gain and its application in Wales. There will be three expert speakers and time for discussion in groups. All discussions are run using Chatham House rules.

We will be announcing the opening registration for these events early in the new year and they will be fantastic opportunities for learning about environmental policy in Wales, and networking with other people with expertise and interest in the field.

The 2022 BES Annual Meeting is happening in Edinburgh 18-21 December. There are no WPG events but there will be a joint policy groups social on the Monday evening, where WPG members will mix with people from the English, Scottish and Irish Ecological Association Policy Groups.

NRW fellowship

The 2022 BES Policy Fellowship was planned to be hosted by Natural Resources Wales and focus on regenerative agriculture. Applications were open in October, but unfortunately we could not fill the position. This Fellowship will now take place in 2023 and we will reopen applications in November, with a deadline in January.

[Further information can be found on our website.](#) If you are interested, or know anyone who could be, then please keep an eye out for applications reopening.