



GRŴP POLISI CYMRU

CYMDEITHAS ECOLEGOL PRYDAIN

Welsh Policy Group

Newsletter

Issue 3 – March 2023

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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). Information on our other groups and policy work can be found on the [BES website](#).

Policy Training - Devil's Bridge 26th April

The Welsh Policy Group (WPG) and [Vincent Wildlife Trust \(VWT\)](#) are hosting a joint in-person policy training on 26 April in Devil's Bridge. In the morning we will cover the basics of Welsh environmental policy, followed by the policies that cover species conservation and translocations, and the importance of stakeholder engagement. In the afternoon, experts from the VWT will lead an outdoor pine marten tracking and spoor identification exercise.

[Find out more and register!](#)

BES-NRW Policy Fellowship

[Applications for the BES Policy Fellowship which will be hosted by NRW have re-opened.](#)

The BES-NRW Policy Fellowship offers an ecologist the chance to complete a placement embedded within the statutory adviser to the Welsh Government on the natural environment, applying their scientific expertise to a practical policy challenge. The Fellowship will provide a prestigious opportunity for BES members to gain first-hand experience, improving their policy knowledge and awareness, developing their science communication skills, and building their professional networks at an exciting and crucial time for environmental policy.

We have made a few changes for this round of applications. The topic that the Fellow will work on is not pre-defined, applicants should state an area of environmental policy they would be particularly interested in, and they know is relevant in Wales, on their application. Also, applicants do not have to be affiliated with the institution when they submit their application.

Please find more information on the [BES website](#).

Caffi Ecology: Net Benefits for Biodiversity

Our inaugural Caffi Ecology event on 2 March was a great success!

Caffi Ecology events are opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange that bring together experts from across the research, consultancy, policy and practitioner communities, who may not often have the chance to connect. For the first instalment in this event series, 35 people, including research and consultant ecologists, public agency and government staff, and students, discussed the advantages and potential drawbacks of the approach to Net Benefits for Biodiversity in Wales, and how it compares to the English Biodiversity Net Gain framework.

We have published a [report](#) and a [blog](#) summarising the talks and the discussions.

Future work

Keep an eye out for our Policy Guide and Horizon Scan which will both be published soon!