

***Wildland in Wales – Issues, opportunities and examples
Machynlleth, 7th and 8th April 2006***

The Wildland Network has the pleasure of hosting two days of wildland meetings at Machynlleth, in Mid Wales.

Friday 7th April: A one day conference at Plas Dolguog, Machynlleth will look at the issues and opportunities for wildland in Wales:

- Examples of wildland or habitat restoration projects in Wales.
- Natural processes in nature conservation and the potential for species reintroductions.
- The wide ranging benefits of wildland.

Full programme below.

Fees, payable to “Wildland Network – Wales”: £15 individuals, £25 charities and NGOs, £50 public, private and academic bodies.
Includes lunch and refreshments.

Saturday 8th April: A day of site visits in the Machynlleth area will look at areas with wildland qualities and examples of restoration of natural habitats. The itinerary will take us to the protected estuary areas, a project in a tributary valley, and the large upland wilderness of the Cambrian Mountains.

Machynlleth is served by train (from Birmingham) and bus (from Bangor and Cardiff), lifts from Machynlleth Station to Plas Dolguog by arrangement.
List of local accommodation can be sent on request.

Email bookings: cymru@wildland-network.org.uk

Postal bookings: Wildland Network, Plas Einion, Furnace, Machynlleth, SY20 8PG

Telephone: 01970 832625

Wildland Network website: www.wildland-network.org.uk

Directions for Plas Dolguog

From Machynlleth, 1.5 miles from clock tower on A489 direction Newtown.
Turn left turn into lane - signpost to hotel.

Programme

Friday 7th April

A one day conference at Plas Dolguog, Machynlleth

Wildland in Wales: issues, opportunities and examples

Agenda

09.30 Registration and coffee

Photo exhibition from Cambrian Mountains Society

Wildland maps from Leeds University

Chair: Mick Green

10.15 Welcome, introduction and scene setting: emerging ideas and opportunities for wildland in Wales (Stanley Owen)

10.30 Potential for species reintroductions in Wales and the role of wild mammals in natural processes (Derek Gow)

11.00 Questions and discussion

11.15 Coffee break

11.45 Examples of habitat restoration projects and activities in Wales:

- 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes questions each
- Nantgwynant, Snowdon (Keith Jones, National Trust)
- Vyrnwy Estate (Richard Farmer, RSPB)
- Dyfi Forest (Julian Bray, EA & David Farmery, FC)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Mapping wildland (Dr Steve Carver, Leeds University)

14.15 Economic regeneration and wildland - Cambrian Mountains (Jeremy Wright, Powys County Council)

- 14.30 Workshops on benefits of wildland (facilitated by Rick Minter)
Groups on:
- Ecology and biodiversity.
 - Nature's services – flood control, carbon storage, etc.
 - Spiritual dimensions.
 - Recreation, adventure and challenge.
 - Therapeutic and education opportunities.
 - Economic opportunities and new livelihoods.
 - Game, fishing and food from wildland.
 - Making wildland pay for private landowners: eg. providing services for visitors, providing public benefits for public funds.
- 15.30 Tea break
- 16.00 Report back from workshops and collective discussion on key issues.
- 16.45 Reflections on key messages
(Peter Taylor, Author *Beyond Conservation, A Wildland Strategy*)
- 16.55 Close

Saturday 8th April 2006

Site visits to areas with wildland qualities and examples of restoration of natural habitats.

- 10.00 Meet in Machynlleth
- 10.15 Cors Dyfi (Nature Reserve, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust)
Example of spruce plantation restored to wetland habitat on estuary
- 11.00 Cors Fochno (Dyfi National Nature Reserve, CCW)
Lowland raised bog and tidal marsh
- 12.30 Lunch (bring sandwiches or buy at Clettwr Café, Tre'r Ddol)
- 14.00 Pemprys (John Muir Trust)
Cambrian Mountains valley up from SAC oakwoods of Cwm Einion. Landowner working in partnership with JMT on potential for rewilding. Landowner or JMT representative on hand to talk about progress and problems.
- 15.00 Forestry Commission woodlands and moorland on Pumlumon plateau (FC, To be confirmed).
Good views, large wild area, role and potential of FC land, some areas recently cleared of spruce for restoration to native habitats.
- 17.00 Finish: return to Machynlleth by 18.00