

British Ecological Society Conservation Ecology Group, in association with the Centre for Integrated Research in the Rural Environment, University of Wales Aberystwyth; The Wildland Network and Ecology Matters Ltd.

## **Conference.**

**Gregynog Hall, Montgomeryshire. July 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 11.00am – 6pm.**

Field visits on July 13<sup>th</sup> 9.00 am – 4.00pm

To address the one of the top 100 ecological questions of high policy relevance in the UK

### **What are the ecological consequences of ‘wildling’ as a long term conservation strategy?**

Wildling – the conservation of sites using only, or largely, natural processes – has moved onto the conservation agenda in recent times. However, while there have been discussions of possibilities for large area conservation, re-introductions and so on, there has been little attempt to discuss the actual ecological implications of this approach. (See [www.wildland-network.org.uk](http://www.wildland-network.org.uk) for examples) Will ecosystems recover to a previous, richer state, move forward to a new state or simply stagnate and lose some current features? How ‘wild’ can ‘wildling’ be, or will there need to be intervention in systems, at least in establishment phases?

Gregynog Hall is the University of Wales conference centre, near Newtown in mid – Wales. It is set in landscaped grounds and close to potential ‘wild’ areas for the field trips.

**Outline agenda:** (Final agenda and talk titles to be confirmed)

Each presentation will be around 30 minutes, with plenty of time for questions and discussions.

Introduction – what is ‘wildling’ and questions to be addressed.

Large scale and network approaches to conservation – Frans Vera, Netherlands.

Reintroducing a large carnivore – how much land do we need? David Hetherington, Caringorms National Park. .

Natural grazing as a management tool – Peter Dennis CIRRE, IRS, Aberystwyth.

Size and connectivity – modelling ecological needs – Chris Thomas. CIRRE, IRS, Aberystwyth

Re-instating ecological processes. – Sarah Dalrymple, Aberdeen .

Plenary Discussion – have we got anywhere near answering the question? What further work is needed and other questions raised?

Discussions will continue over Dinner and in the bar!

## BOOKING DETAILS

### Costs

**Resident (includes conference fee, lunch, dinner, teas and coffees, b&b overnight on the night of 12<sup>th</sup> July and field trip including packed lunch) £130**

**Day – (includes conference fee, lunch, teas and coffees on 12<sup>th</sup> July) £60**

Details of accommodation and directions to the venue can be found on [www.wales.ac.uk/gregynog](http://www.wales.ac.uk/gregynog).

Details of alternative accommodation in the area is available at [www.newtownwales.co.uk](http://www.newtownwales.co.uk)

Transport can be arranged from Newtown railway station by prior arrangement.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Resident @ £130 Yes / No</b> <b>Day attendance @ £60 Yes / No</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Please makes cheques payable to 'The Wildland Network – Wales'</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<b>Dietary requirements?</b>
<b>Telephone Mobile</b>	
<b>Transport required from station? Yes / No: Time (if known):</b>	
<b>Any other needs?</b>	

Please note some rooms at Gregynog are twin rooms – please let us know if you wish to share with anybody specific.

Please return form with payment to: **Wilding conference, Bridge House, Tre'r Ddol, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 8PN.**

Email: [Info@ecologymatters.co.uk](mailto:Info@ecologymatters.co.uk)

Please note that to secure accommodation at Gregynog bookings and payment must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Conference booking only by 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Any queries – [info@ecologymatters.co.uk](mailto:info@ecologymatters.co.uk) or 01970 832491