



**ALGAO: Cymru**  
**Countryside Committee**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**03 June 2025 @ 14:00**  
**MINUTES - DRAFT**

**In attendance**

Tomos Jones, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (Chair)  
Jenny Emmett, Heneb – Gwynedd Region  
Alice Thorne, Bannau Breicheiniog National Park Authority  
Jill Bullen, Natural Resources Wales  
Alex Powell, Heneb – Dyfed region  
Chris Tucker, Natural Resources Wales  
Ian Halfpenny, Cadw  
Abi McCullough, Heneb – Clwyd-Powys Region  
John Roberts, Eryri National Park Authority  
Rhiannon Tate, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

**Apologies**

Kathy Laws, National Trust  
Matt Williams, The Roud Society for the Protection of Birds  
Morgan Johnson, Welsh Government  
Claudine Gerrard, Heneb - Glamorgan-Gwent Region

**1. Minutes of previous meeting/Matters arising**

Minutes of previous meeting accepted. **Action: Tomos to submit final version for the ALGAO website via Ruth Buckley.**

Actions from previous meeting:

*Action: All to circulate any information about Farming in Protected Landscapes amongst committee members as and when available. UPDATE: PCNPA is hosting Ffermio Bro for PCNPA and Gower. Eryri is hosting for Eryri and Pen Llŷn. Ffermio Bro covers all protected landscapes in Wales. NEW ACTIONS: Jill to share briefing document and Tomos to circulate. Also, Tomos to obtain key contact list for Ffermio Bro staff and circulate.*

*Action: Chris Tucker to join Cadw/Heneb meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Ian Halfpenny requested if a Q&A could be held with Heneb. UPDATE: Meeting attended. Item closed.*

*Action: Regarding Historic England Landscape and Seascape Guidance Development Jenny to contact Neil Maylan, Cadw, Jill Bullen, NRW and John Briggs, NRW in due course. UPDATE: Resolved, item closed.*

*Action: Jenny to feedback comments internally about the 'Householder's guide to archaeology and planning in Wales' guidance and its continued use post-merger. UPDATE: The guidance will be added to Heneb website in due course.*

*Action: Any interested in attending the meeting with Heneb, Cadw and NRW (regarding report on planning application trends in RHLs) to contact Jill directly. UPDATE: The report has been completed, but Heneb and Cadw need to respond to the draft before this can be shared wider. The meeting for that initial feedback is on 24<sup>th</sup> June, but can potentially share the report wider at some point after this date, once feedback has been taken on board. The aim is to eventually include the Parks. Ongoing action for Jill.*

*Action: Ian to circulate copy (of Historic environment best practice for natural environment projects) with members of ALGAO: Cymru via Tomos. UPDATE: Ongoing, awaiting internal review. Forestry guidance document is also awaiting internal review.*

*Action: Tomos to pass on contact details for Swansea University to Ian. UPDATE: Completed, item closed.*

*Action: Chris to take forward training related to woodland and historical environment. UPDATE: Cadw, NRW and Heneb have been looking generally about useful potential training. 1 hour on HER, and Woodland training. NRW mindful that these could be opened out to Parks also. To be followed up in July. Training topic suggestions: water abstraction/aquifer, presentation on AI/GIS/DataMapWales. Ongoing. Work in progress. NEW ACTION: All to send any training area ideas to Ian.*

*Action: All to send one representative from respective organisations as a minimum. UPDATE: Resolved and item closed.*

## **2. Re-introduction of beavers (Morgan Johnson/Kathleen Carroll, Welsh Government).**

Morgan provided a written update on the beaver work, that they are currently considering consultation responses.

**Action: Morgan to attend the next meeting and provide an update and take questions.**

## **3. Strategic update (legislation, policy, guidance)**

*Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill:*

DFM Ministerial Statement - [Introduction of the Environment \(Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets\) \(Wales\) Bill \(2 June 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Bill - [pri-ld17199-en.pdf](#)

Explanatory Memo - [pri-ld17199-em-en.pdf](#)

*Priorities for culture:*

[Priorities for culture | GOV.WALES](#) [Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer diwylliant | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Priority 3: Culture is resilient and sustainable

Ambition 12 Culture and heritage bodies work with other sectors to explore ways to use the power of culture. We want to encourage our organisations to work together, to create new partnerships with other organisations working in areas such as health, education, tourism, and the environment. Culture could help deliver positive outcomes across these areas. They could share knowledge and develop creative ways of working.

Ambition 14: The culture sector has a long-term approach to gathering and sharing information. We want to collect more information about the culture sector. We will use this information and data to help us make decisions and we will share this information with others.

#### **4. Forestry/Woodland**

National Forest of Wales - <https://www.gov.wales/visit-national-forest-wales#168202>

Over 100 sites now. Mix of public estate, established privately owned woodlands and new woodlands.

Historic Planting areas – AI Mapping of historic woodland, based on first and second editions of OS County Series maps. Secondary labelling due to be launched soon, which will identify different types of woodland etc. Building on this, looking at using AI for LIDAR mapping features.

National Library of Scotland – text search of second edition OS Maps - [Help - OS 1900 text search / GB1900 gazetteer and dot distribution maps - Map Images - National Library of Scotland](#)

PCNPA still in talks with Swansea University over using AI for landscape mapping. Cadw suggest talking to Data Map Wales about this as there's lots of potential there.

AI Historical Tree Mapping Project - Some data is already public - [AI Predicted Historic Woodlands, Wales \(OS County Series – 1843-1893\) | DataMapWales](#)

NRW looking to update LandMap, identifying woodland that has been added since the last time the LandMap was added (approx. 8 years ago). Question over whether same AI model could be used for that purpose.

Eryri 100 Year Tree and Woodland Strategy has been published - <https://eryri.gov.wales/eryri-tree-and-woodland-strategy-2025-2125/>

#### **5. Historic Landscapes**

NRW have a desire to create one historic landscape layer for Wales – integrating all historic landscape information into LandMap.

There is also a need to monitor landscape change, and this could potentially integrate with the single layer. A draft report currently being consulted on by Cadw and Heneb, outlines capacity to monitor development trends, the number of applications coming in vs. those approved, showing the pressures in Registered Historical Landscapes, and looks at building capacity to do this in Heneb (because Heneb comment on planning apps in RHLs on NRW's behalf.)

At the moment the focus is on this, but more broadly looking to expand to include the National Parks in the long term.

#### **6. Peat**

Peat Guidance had been drafted by Cadw, shared with NRW and notes given, and Cadw are now due to revise.

English guidance: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/peatlands/>

Scottish guidance: <https://www.algao.org.uk/algao-peatland-restoration-and-historic-environment-guidance>

Of interest:

### [Natural Resources Wales / Can you help unlock the 'Language of Peat'?](#)

*NPAP is restoring previously afforested peatland in the Tywi forest - names and historical significance of the topography, as well as the availability of historic records about previous land use.*

*Language to help understand landscapes and people's diverse, shifting relationships with places over time. Pilot heritage project in Tywi forest, communities' historical links to their peatland and to respond to this creatively, found forgotten names of streams*

Eryri/Sheffield University put in joint phd funding bid for paleoenvironmental work. Taking cores and learning about peat sedimentarily. The student has now taken cores from all chosen locations, now starting analysis. One site found to have a depth of 12m.

**ACTION: John to send list of core locations to Jenny Emmett in case of consultations.**

**ACTION: John to circulate project funding proposal.**

#### **7. Wildlife/Nature Recovery**

Cadw - Historic Environment Best Practice Guidance has been written, currently awaiting internal review.

#### **8. Climate Change**

An update was circulated recently regarding the work that Alan Netherwood has been doing.

#### **9. Heritage Crime**

Gwent Police now leads on Heritage Crime for the four police services in Wales.

A Heritage Watch logo that covers all parts of Wales that has a Heritage Watch group. Creating a universal brand, similar to Neighbourhood Watch, makes it more recognisable and established as a brand.

Dyfed-Powys Heritage Watch now has a new Facebook page and Instagram account. The webpage has also been updated. Quarterly meetings, reporting, repair, attending events and patrols ongoing.

Discussion around recording fires for both environmental damage and historic environment damage.

National Parks basecamp discussion around recording fires and mapping. Peak District currently mapping their fires. Sheffield University doing a study on pollution from wildfires. Notably highlighted wildfire proximity to people's access points.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/may/30/moorland-fires-measuring-system-peak-district>

Between 21 March to 11 May there have been approximately 24 wildfires on or near land NRW own or manage.

Gorse fires go to a very high temperature and will shatter stones.

Cadw Data Manager is working with the Fire Service to get data of wildfires reported and extents, which could potentially be shared further afield.

*Relevant articles:*

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-blogs/news/indicators-that-rewetted-peatland-stalled-wildfire-spread/?lang=en>

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-blogs/blogs/the-devastating-consequences-of-wildfires-in-wales/?lang=en>

**ACTION: Rhiannon to send Alex a shapefile of the Preseli burn.**

John still the lead from the police in North Wales. Looking to get a location associated with all scheduled monument and listed building related crime. The police are launching a week to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Heritage Watch in North Wales still needs to be established. Someone from Heneb could potentially take the lead. Make sure to include Eryri and Clwydian and Dee Valley AONB when a group comes together.

**ACTION: Tomos to support as required.**

#### **10. Training/Conferences/Networks**

Good Practice Guide on planning for Dark Skies was recently presented. Now a follow up one hour webinar on lighting in Dark Skies, about understanding extent of light spill.

Dark skies - what makes a good external lighting plan? Webinar 17th June.

#### **11. Volunteering Opportunities**

PCNPA launched their Arfordir Penfro LIDAR portal in April. Some volunteers already working on the system with regular catchups scheduled. The high resolution lidar data covers norther areas of the National Park.

**ACTION: If anybody has volunteering opportunities that they would like to share, they can be passed on to CBA Wales who can promote them on their website.**

#### **12. AOB**

PCNPA have commissioned a paleoenvironmental study from Tudur Davies to compile data and identify gaps in research/knowledge. To be shared with Heneb – Dyfed Region HM Team and NRW when available.

New chair for ALGAO:Cymru Countryside Committee. If anybody would like to chair, contact Tomos.

**ACTION: Anyone who is interested to contact Tomos.**

#### **13. Date of next meeting**

03/12/2025 @ 14.00 via Teams.

## ACTION LOG

- Tomos to submit final version for the ALGAO website via Ruth Buckley.
- Jill to share Ffermio Bro briefing document and Tomos to circulate.
- Tomos to obtain key contact list for Ffermio Bro staff and circulate.
- Householder's guide to archaeology and planning in Wales guidance to be added to Heneb's website in due course. Jenny to provide status update.
- Any person interested in attending the meeting with Heneb, Cadw and NRW (regarding report on planning application trends in RHLs) to contact Jill directly. Jill to update.
- Ian to circulate copy (of Historic environment best practice for natural environment projects) with members of ALGAO: Cymru via Tomos. Ian to update.
- Cadw, NRW and Heneb looking at useful potential training. All to send training ideas. Cadw/NRW/Heneb to update on training provision.
- Morgan to attend the next meeting and provide an update and take questions on the re-introduction of beavers.
- John to send list of paleoenvironmental core locations to Jenny Emmett in case of consultations.
- John to circulate project funding proposal for Sheffield/Eryri PhD application.
- Rhiannon to send Alex (Heneb – Dyfed Region) a shapefile of the Preseli burn.
- Tomos to support establishment of North Wales Heritage Watch as required.
- All to share volunteering opportunities with CBA Wales for promotion on their website.
- Anyone interested in the role of ALGAO:Cymru Countryside Committee Chair to contact Tomos.