

## Exploring options for managing Newborough's changing environment



NRW has started a new conversation with people in Newborough about a way forward for managing the site.

We will listen to local views along every step of the way.

Last December, we presented options for managing the site at a public drop-in. Anyone who missed that event can find these options on our website - <https://naturalresources.wales/planningfornewborough>

The presentation considers the issues that may impact on the site and suggests management options.

This is a key step towards making the site more resilient to future changes so that it continues to benefit wildlife, people and the local economy.

Sian Williams, NRW Head of Operations said: "People value Newborough for all sorts of reasons - it means different things to different people.

It's a great place to enjoy amazing wildlife and scenery with all the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time outdoors.

"There is an exciting opportunity here, to work together to develop a natural resource plan for Newborough that reflects all aspects of the site and its surroundings."

Send us your thoughts by emailing [Niwbwrch@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Niwbwrch@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

## Our day to day work..

### The boardwalk

Due to coastal erosion and encroaching sand, we have shortened the boardwalk. People of all abilities can still enjoy the viewing area.

### Passing places

These have been added to the main road near the toll booth to ease traffic pressure. We will monitor to see if they help and will assess the need for more.

### New welcome panels and leaflets

You can buy our new booklet on site for £1. New dog restriction panels have also been installed to give a clearer message on where you can walk your dog during the summer season.

### Events

We are planning to host Park Run events at Newborough forest. The 5k run through the forest will become regular events, starting and finishing in the main car park. More information to follow when the initiative starts later this year.

### Next three months

Over the coming months our work will involve regular maintenance of paths, signs, waymarks, gates and access structures. We will also be repairing boundary walls, monitoring wildlife, managing invasive species and mowing grasslands and rides.



# Wildlife column



As we feel the warmth of the sun on our backs, wildlife bursts into life.

This transformation of the natural world is one of the highlights of the year, awakening a cacophony of colour, smell and sound.

Among our best loved insects, butterflies are found on a wide range of natural habitats across the country. In common with other pollinating insects, they play a key role in maintaining the semi natural and farmed landscapes of Wales.

Newborough has a wide diversity of butterflies which depend on the open dune grassland and woodland edge habitats.

The orange tip butterfly is one of the first species to emerge in spring. The males and females of this species are very different with the colourful orange tipped males giving the species its name. Females resemble a green veined or small white butterfly with a distinctive black spot on the upper forewing. Females lay a single egg on cuckoo flower, a common plant which grows in the damp dune slacks and woodland glades.

The extensive dune and meadow grasslands on Newborough warren support the greatest diversity of

butterflies such as the meadow brown, small copper, common blue and small pearl bordered fritillary.

The moth-like dingy skipper, holding on at the coast, can be seen regularly in Newborough as is the grayling butterfly, well camouflaged but conspicuous by its habit of tilting its wings towards the sun to regulate its temperature.



One of the most commonly seen butterflies in the forest is the speckled wood.

Moths and butterflies also provide a crucial glut of caterpillars for the chicks of nesting birds, such as meadow pipits, skylarks, stonechats and blackcaps.

In Newborough, we are working hard to manage habitats for butterflies and other pollinating insects. Extensive grazing on dune habitats maintains a rich sward of diverse caterpillar food plants, tussocky grasses and nectar sources.

Glades and rides are an integral part of any woodland or forest and are the richest habitats in the woodland for insects, wild flowers and ground nesting birds.

## Future proofing our dunes

What impact will climate change have on Newborough's sand dune ecosystems in the future? That's the question Lisanne van Willegen aims to answer in her PhD Project at Bangor University.



And there will be an opportunity for anyone interested in the study to come for a site visit to discuss it with us in the Autumn.

During the next few years, Lisanne's research will help NRW develop sustainable management for Newborough. Monitoring, modelling and experimental management will all be part of the project.

Planning this work will involve working with key partners and the public. We will ensure as little disruption as possible for wildlife, walkers, horse riders and event organisers.

The project will include clear felling a four-hectare area of trees at the warren boundary this winter, as shown in the Forest Management Plan, to improve our knowledge of the effect of the trees, during various phases, and inform our management of the hydrological needs of dune wetlands.

The area has been chosen as it will have minimal impact on surrounding trees.

After the felling, the area will be fenced off, and grazed until the end of the project, before it returns to forest.

This work was agreed by the Welsh Government science review.

According to Lisanne: "Newborough has some of Wales' best dune wetland habitat which is likely to be affected by changing rain patterns and summer droughts.

"To safeguard the dunes' biodiversity, we need to better understand the pressures of climate change on the hydrology and plantlife of the site."

## Remembering Enid

We send our belated sympathy to the family of Enid Mummery, who passed away in March this year. Enid was a stalwart of the local community. As one of the governors of the PJ Institute, NRW staff always appreciated her welcome and help.



Enid Mummery demonstrating the craft of marram grass weaving