

# Y Wiber Diflannu, The Vanishing Viper Priorities for adder conservation : a Wales view

Dr Liz Howe



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# Site Protection

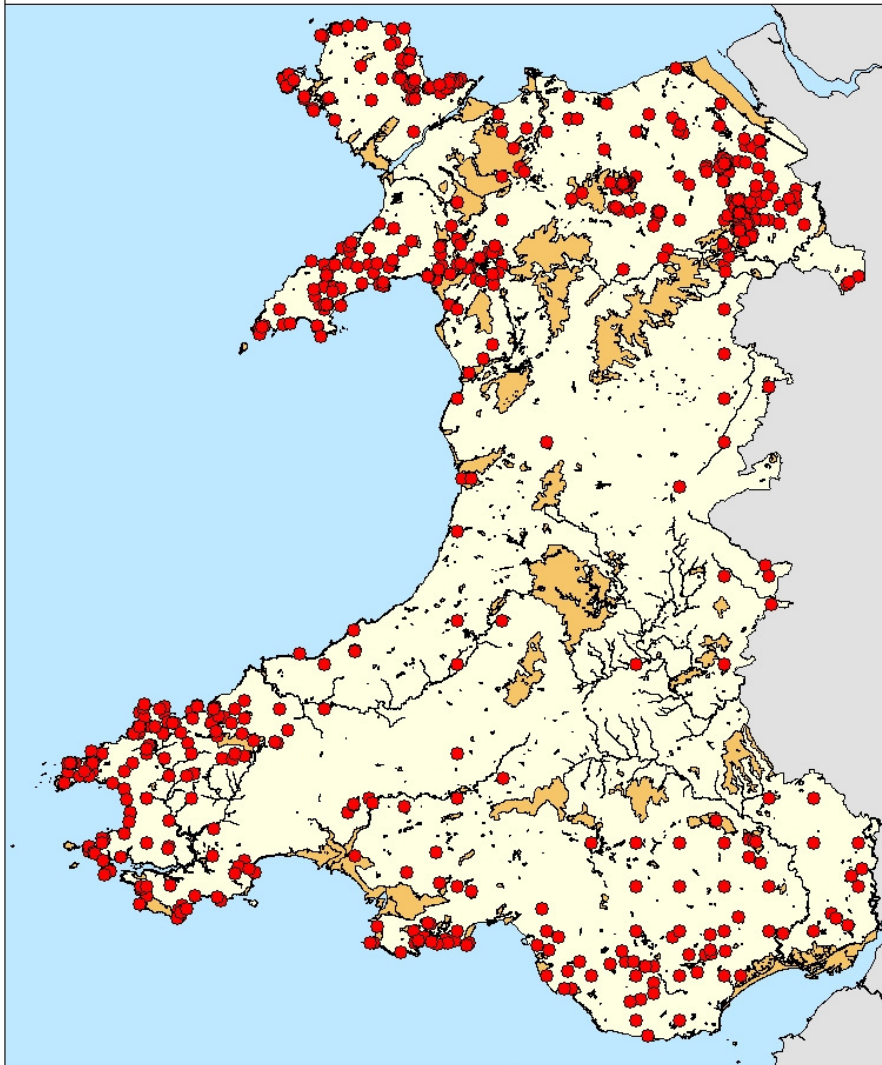
## SSSIs with Adder as a notified and qualifying feature:

Castlemartin Range SSSI - Pembrokeshire

Dyfi SSSI – Ceredigion

Both have adder as part of a reptile assemblage. Both sites have 52 other features including individual species, assemblages, habitats and geological features





**Legend**

- Adder Records in Wales (NBN)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Wales
- England

0 15 30  
Kilometers

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# Map of adder records from NBN with SSSI outlines

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# Regulation

As England but also:  
Environment (Wales) Act 2016:



## The enhanced duty, Section 6:

The Environment Act enhances the current NERC Act duty to require all public authorities, when carrying out their functions in Wales, to seek to “**maintain and enhance biodiversity**” where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. In doing so, public authorities must also seek to “**promote the resilience of ecosystems**”.

The new duty requires public authorities to report on the actions they have taken to Improve biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.

## The new list, Section 7:

The Welsh Ministers will publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitat in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales.

The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section, and encourage others to take such steps.

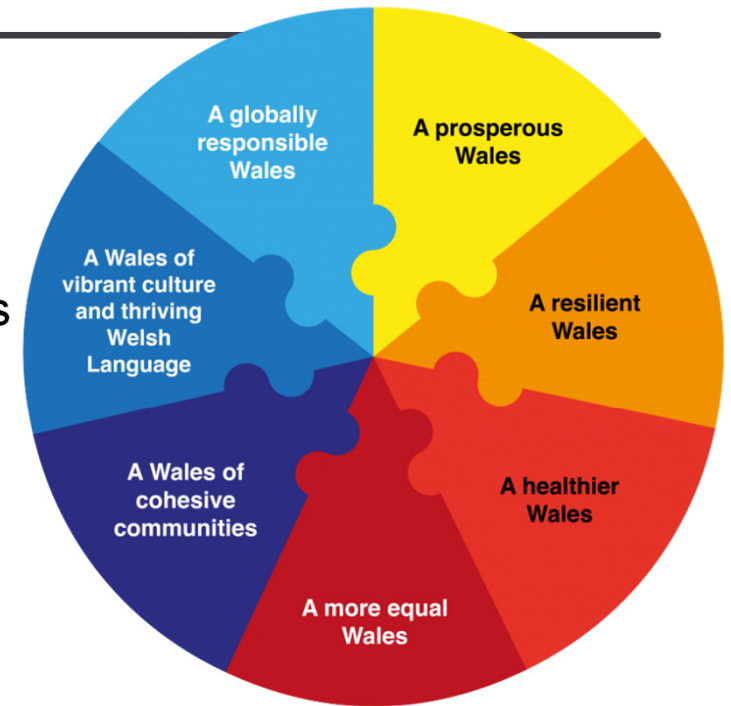
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# Policy Issues

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act Goals  
National Natural Resources Policy (NNRP)  
Sustainable Natural Resources Management  
Area Statements  
Resilience:

- Diversity
- Extent
- Condition
- Connectivity
- Adaptability

CAP post Brexit ??



The NNRP will set out the national priorities in relation to the sustainable management of natural resources as whole – our air, water, land and sea – and will be published in spring 2017 subject to the Environment (Wales) Bill receiving Royal Assent. It will build on this statement to apply across the Welsh Government and draw on a comprehensive statutory State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) to be published by NRW in autumn 2016. The NNRP will point to the Wales National Marine Plan as the means of sustainably managing our marine resources, reflecting the context of the ecosystem approach for Wales’ marine area.

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# Other issues

Reptile proofing habitat management

Resolving conflicts on sites- especially where there are EPS

Improving management for adders



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### **Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty**

(1) A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

(2) In complying with subsection (1), a public authority must take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects—

- (a) diversity between and within ecosystems;
- (b) the connections between and within ecosystems;
- (c) the scale of ecosystems;
- (d) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
- (e) the adaptability of ecosystems.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to—

- (a) the exercise of a function by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, or
- (b) the exercise of a judicial function of a court or tribunal.

(4) In complying with subsection (1)—

- (a) the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister for Wales, the Counsel General to the Welsh Government, a Minister of the Crown and a government department must have regard to the United Nations Environmental Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, and
- (b) any other public authority must have regard to any guidance given to it by the Welsh Ministers.

(5) In complying with subsection (1), a public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must have regard to—

- (a) the list published under section 7;
- (b) the state of natural resources report published under section 8;
- (c) any area statement published under section 11 for an area that includes all or part of an area in relation to which the authority exercises functions.

(6) A public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with subsection (1).

(7) A public authority must, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what it has done to comply with subsection (1).

(8) A public authority that has published a plan under subsection (6)—

- (a) must review the plan in the light of each report that it publishes under subsection (7), and
- (b) may revise the plan at any time.



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## Links to legislation and explanations



<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?lang=en>

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160429-explanatory-memorandum-en.pdf>

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Environment-Wales-Bill>

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150914-natural-resources-policy-statement-en.pdf>

Diolch yn fawr