
Natural Resource Management in Wales:



*A fresh approach to policy, legislation
and delivery*

Russell De' ath
Natural Resource Management Adviser



Shaping a more Prosperous and Resilient Future



www.cymru.gov.uk

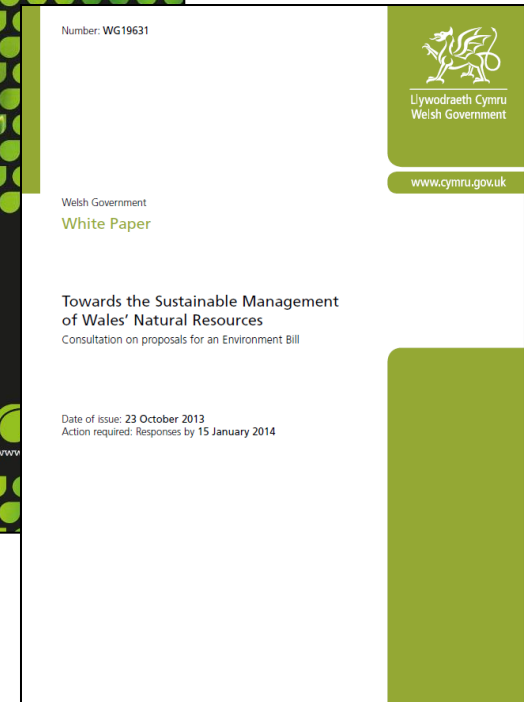
Department for Natural Resources
and Food

Autumn 2013

“...the key challenges we face
– from economic climate,
climate change, poverty and
decreasing biodiversity –
demand a generational
approach.”

“...our emphasis must be on
proactive, joined-up, informed
decision-making on the best
available evidence and
directed at achieving the
maximum possible long-term
benefit”

Natural Resource Management



“...strong support for proposals for establishing an integrated framework for integrated natural resource management.”
2014 White Paper

“...enabling a new joined up approach to natural resource management that ensures maximum benefit for Wales' current and future wellbeing
2011 Programme for Government

“...broad support for a fresh approach to the planning and management of natural resources in Wales”
2012 Sustaining a Living Wales

Main Aims of the Bill

- Modern legal framework to manage our natural resources in a joined-up way
- Lasting economic and social benefits as well as environmental ones
- Help to reduce complexity, simplify processes and to help recognise the value and opportunities provided by our natural resources.

How will the Bill deliver these aims?

**Join-up existing
legal frameworks**

**Ensure NRW has
the tools to enable
it to deliver joined-
up approach**

**New measures to
ensure resources
are used to best
effect and reduce
waste**

**Simplify, streamline
and clarify the law
for existing
environmental
regulatory regimes**

Package 1: Natural Resource Management proposals

The White Paper proposes to establish a **statutory framework** for the **sustainable management of natural resources**.

Key elements:

- **State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)**
- **National Natural Resource Policy (NNRP)**
- **Area-based Approach (ABA)**
- **Area Statements**

State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)

- NRW to lead on reporting on the status of Wales' natural resources
- To be published in line with Assembly elections
- Public bodies to support process by providing information to help NRW compile the report
- This evidence base will inform other key documents, such as NNRP and Area Statements

National Natural Resource Policy (NNRP)



- Following SoNaRR, Welsh Ministers will confirm strategic policy and commitments for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales
- To include opportunities, challenges and priorities to optimise national environmental, social and economic benefits
- NNRP to be reviewed and refreshed every Assembly term

Well-being goals and Welsh Ministers Well-being objectives may inform the NNRP

Area-based Approach (ABA)

- NRW to lead an area-based approach to the planning of Wales' natural resources
- NRW will develop a programme of activity for the areas at which they intend to prepare and implement area statements
- Public bodies will be required to share information and evidence to contribute to this approach
- **Provides opportunity to rationalise current activity**

Area Statements

- NRW to set out the priorities, challenges and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources at a local level
 - Statements to further the policy priorities set out in NNRP
 - Statements to be used an evidence base to support and inform other delivery and planning processes
- **Statements will contribute to or inform delivery of the Well-being objectives and Well-being plans.**
 - **This will also enable the management of natural resources to feed into the preparation of local development plans**

Future Generations Bill (FG)

- The FG Bill will set national Well-being goals and a duty on public bodies, to maximise their contribution to these goals
- Public bodies will set Well-being objectives to deliver these goals, to be taken forward through the Well-being plans
- The sustainable management of our natural resources is the key contribution by NRW to the delivery of the Well-being goals, objectives and plans

The emerging policy landscape in Wales

Long-Term National Goals

State of Natural Resources Report

Cymru
Natural Resources
Wales

Marine Spatial Plan

National Natural Resources Policy

National Development Framework

Area Based Natural Resource Planning
(Area based approach, and Area Statements)

Integrated Coastal Zone management

RBMP

SAC plans

Forest DPs

Flood Strategy

RDP

Glastir

Single Delivery Plans

Local Development Plans

National Park & AONB Management Plans

Marine Licensing

Permitting, Licensing, Regulation

Town & Country Planning Development Management

NRW: Single Voice, integrated planning & regulation

Package 2: NRW Powers: Opportunities for enhanced delivery

Aim:

- To provide NRW with the tools for better ways of working which will promote wider economic and social benefits as well as environmental ones.

How?

- **Management agreements**
- **Payment for ecosystem services**
- **Experimental powers for NRW to test innovative approaches**

Package 3: Resource Efficiency

Aim:

- To help drive resource efficiency and maximise opportunities realised by the move towards a greener economy
- Improvements to carrier bag charging scheme
- Improvements to Waste separation, collection and recycling in Wales

Package 4: Enabling smarter management

Aim:

- To promote simplification, streamline and clarify the law

How?

- Marine licensing
- Shellfisheries management
- Flood and Water Management
- Land drainage management

Integrated natural resource management...



... will require talking to more people, earlier on, in whatever we are trying to deliver.

... is about building connections, supporting and enabling the delivery of other good things.

... needs to be innovative and challenge the norm, and to be open minded about the possibilities.

NRW's Response:



- Establishing three area trials (Rhondda, Tawe & Dyfi)
- Reviewing our approach to plans and programmes
- Looking for new opportunities on our managed estate
- Applying the approach in practice at project level
- Developing a workforce that is confident and competent in delivering in more integrated ways.

What this could look like:

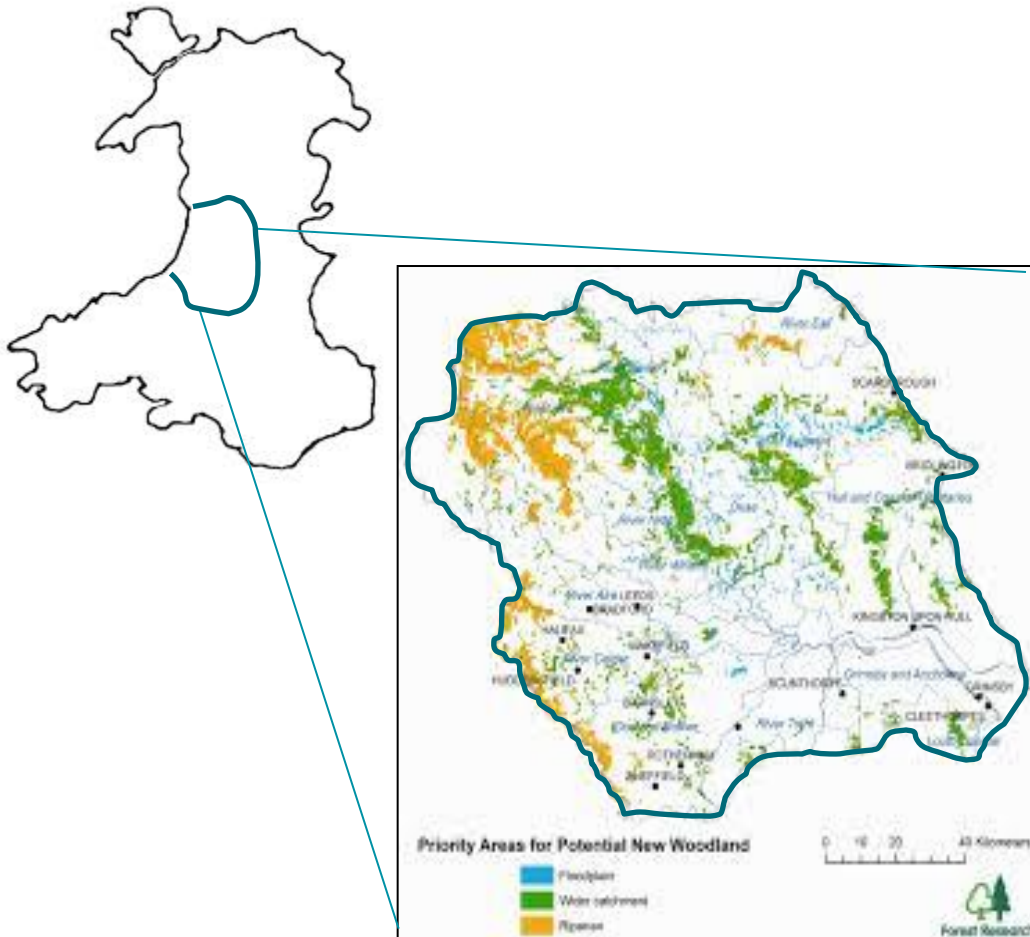


National Policy – Woodland Creation; Agro-forestry?; Carbon and Water Storage priorities, etc;

Supporting Infrastructure and interventions;

Informed by **Evidence**

What this could look like:



Area Partnerships

agree on
opportunity areas
– where optimal
benefits for
business,
environment,
communities?

What this could look like:

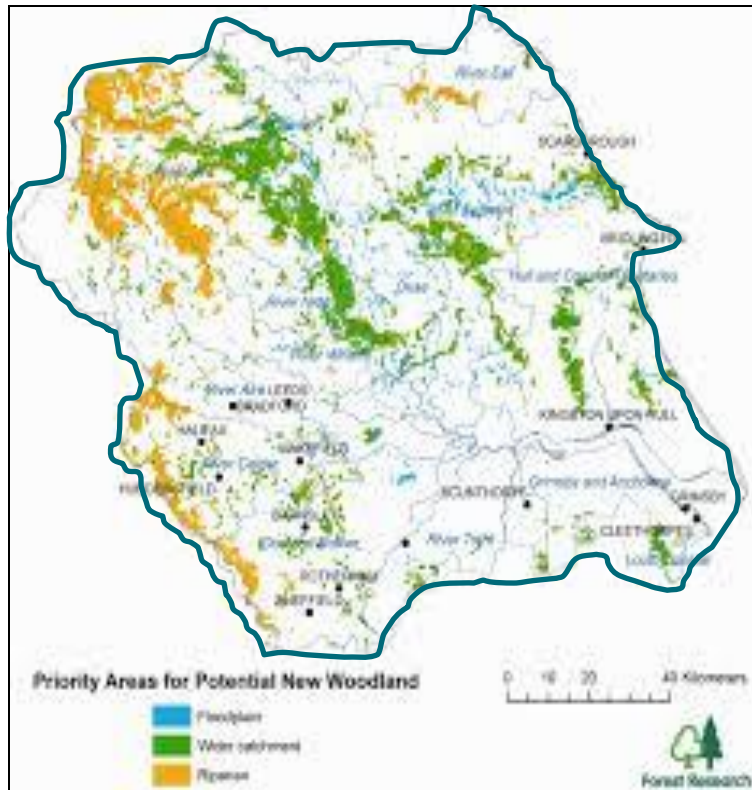


NRW confirm in an Area Statement

- Sets out our response
- How we will work with others
- How we deploy our tools
- Must be collaborative

NRW promote Area Statement to Public Service Boards – to provide evidence to support wider public sector delivery

What this could look like:



Delivery plans align

- Forest Resource Plans
- Rural Development Plan
- Actions on water quality
- Action on flood risk
- Development plans
- Community plans
- Funding and incentives

Multiple Benefits. Targeted Interventions.

Implications on Forestry Sector in Wales?

- Forestry is **far more** than just the production of Timber
- We need to **unlock the potential** of Wales for the Forestry Sector,

AND (whilst)
- ...unlocking the **benefits** of Woodlands for people, and the economy
- ...**valuing** those services to society, and facilitating rewards for their management

Diolch yn Fawr

Thank You

Russell.De'ath@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

