The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)

SoNaRR2020 Register urban assessment of SMNR

Natural Resources Wales

Final Report

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

About Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales's purpose is to pursue sustainable management of natural resources. This means looking after air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil to improve Wales's well-being, and provide a better future for everyone.

Evidence at Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales is an evidence-informed organisation. We seek to ensure that our strategy, decisions, operations and advice to Welsh Government and others are underpinned by sound and quality-assured evidence. We recognise that it is critically important to have a good understanding of our changing environment.

We will realise this vision by:

- Maintaining and developing the technical specialist skills of our staff;
- Securing our data and information;
- Having a well resourced proactive programme of evidence work;
- Continuing to review and add to our evidence to ensure it is fit for the challenges facing us; and
- Communicating our evidence in an open and transparent way.

Title: **SoNaRR2020 Register urban assessment of SMNR**

Peer Reviews: Internal and external peer review

Restrictions: None

The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020) contents

This document is one of a group of products that make up the second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020). The full suite of products are:

Executive Summary. Foreword, Introduction, Summary and Conclusions. Published as a series of webpages in December 2020

The Natural Resource Registers. Drivers, Pressures, Impacts and Opportunities for Action for eight Broad Ecosystems. Published as a series of PDF documents and as an interactive infographic in December 2020

Assessments against the four Aims of SMNR. Published as a series of PDF documents in December 2020:

SoNaRR2020 Aim 1. Stocks of Natural Resources are Safeguarded and Enhanced

SoNaRR2020 Aim 2. Ecosystems are Resilient to Expected and Unforeseen Change

SoNaRR2020 Aim 3. Wales has Healthy Places for People, Protected from Environmental Risks

SoNaRR2020 Aim 4. Contributing to a Regenerative Economy, Achieving Sustainable Levels of Production and Consumption

The SoNaRR2020 Assessment of Biodiversity. Published in March 2021

Assessments by Broad Ecosystem. Published as a series of PDF documents in March 2021:

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Coastal Margins

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Enclosed Farmland

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Freshwater

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Marine

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Mountains, Moorlands and Heaths

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Woodlands

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Urban

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Semi-Natural Grassland

Assessments by Cross-cutting theme. Published as a series of PDF documents in March 2021:

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Air Quality

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Climate Change

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Energy Efficiency

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Invasive Non-native Species

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Land use and Soils

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Waste

Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR: Water Efficiency

Updated SoNaRR evidence needs. Published in March 2021

Acronyms and Glossary of terms. Published in December 2020 and updated in March 2021

Recommended citation for this section of the report:

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Urban
Natural Resource Register Assessment of SMNR

SoNaRR2020

Aim 1: Stocks of Natural Resources are safeguarded and enhanced

Aim 1: Progress towards meeting the aim

1.1   The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales has been adopted.

1.2   Waste generation has decreased for households, business and industry.
From Waste Chapter
Confidence Assessment: High

Aim 1: Obstacles remaining to meeting the aim

1.3   Insufficient urban trees from an ageing, species-poor population.
Confidence Assessment: High

1.4   Some urban bird populations have greatly declined since 1995.
Confidence Assessment: High

1.5   Lack of trend data for mammals and invertebrates in urban areas makes it difficult to tell if urban ecosystems are being managed effectively.

1.6   Limited data to monitor and assess trends in waste crime
From Waste Chapter

1.7   From Waste Chapter
Limited ability to monitor and ensure safe and proper recovery of waste that is exported.

1.8   From Waste Chapter
Limited evidence to fully assess the impacts of spreading waste derived organics to land

Aim 2: Resilient Ecosystems

Aim 2: Progress towards meeting the aim

2.1   Most new development must use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).
Confidence Assessment: High

2.2   More green spaces assessed for quality (Keep Wales Tidy direct report 2019).
       Confidence Assessment: High

Aim 2: Obstacles remaining to meeting Aim

2.3   Urban tree canopy very low in many coastal towns. Ageing urban tree population
       with fewer new trees being added. Low diversity of urban tree species makes them
       vulnerable to pests and diseases. (NRW, 2016).
       Confidence Assessment: High

2.4   Majority of existing development does not use SUDS

2.5   Quality of local green space largely unknown and un-measured (Keep Wales Tidy
       direct report 2019).
       Confidence Assessment: High

2.6   Quality of local green space threatened by declining resources (APSE 2019, HLF
       2016 Urban Green Spaces Taskforce 2002).
       Confidence Assessment: High

Aim 3: Healthy Places for People

Aim 3: Progress towards meeting the aim

3.1   Improved efficiency of the Welsh housing stock.
       Confidence Assessment: High

3.2   Reduced fuel poverty.
       Confidence Assessment: High

3.3   Most homes within 10km of green spaces of 500ha.
       Confidence Assessment: High

Aim 3: Obstacles remaining to meeting Aim

3.4   Existing housing stock requires further improvements to energy use and insulation.
       Confidence Assessment: High

3.5   Smaller gardens in new developments may impact child health and development
       (Thompson & Head, undated. Richardson et al 2017).
       Confidence Assessment: High

3.6   Most homes don't have accessible green space within easy walking distance.
       Confidence Assessment: High

3.7   Ambitious Fuel Poverty targets have yet to be met.
       From Waste Chapter
       Confidence Assessment: High

Aim 4: A Regenerative Economy

Aim 4: Progress towards meeting the aim

4.1   Decreasing energy consumption.
Confidence Assessment: High

4.2   Increasing energy generation from renewable sources.
Confidence Assessment: High

4.3   Decreasing use of coal in energy generation.
Confidence Assessment: High

4.4   Rail passenger journeys in Wales increased by 29.9% between 2008 and 2018
(Stats Wales 2020)

4.5   Good progress on reducing carbon emissions from energy used in buildings (Wales
low carbon delivery plan, 2019)

4.6   From Waste Chapter
World-class rates of household recycling.
Confidence Assessment: High

4.7   From Waste Chapter
A rapid decline of waste sent to landfill in Wales over the last 15 years.
Confidence Assessment: High

4.8   From Waste Chapter
A high percentage of biodegradable waste is recycled.
Confidence Assessment: High

Aim 4: Obstacles remaining to meeting the aim

4.9   Road transport makes up 92% of Welsh transport emissions.
Confidence Assessment: High

4.10   Passenger journeys on local buses in Wales have reduced by 20% since 2007-08
(Welsh Government 6. 2019).
Confidence Assessment: High

4.11   13% of products delivered to construction sites are sent directly to landfill without
being used (UKGBC 2019).
Confidence Assessment: High

4.12   Low take-up of domestic zero-carbon energy generation (Ramboll 2020).
Confidence Assessment: High

4.13   Current designed and constructed buildings use more energy, increasing the
demand on energy production (UKCCC 2019).
From Climate Change Chapter
Confidence Assessment: High