

Cydweithio i gael y gorau o'r ystad gyhoeddus  
Working together to make the best use of the public estate



Edition 7  
**Welcome to your  
Summer Newsletter 2022**



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# Chair's Introduction



## Welcome to issue 7 of the Ystadau Cymru newsletter

As I write this introduction to issue 7 of the newsletter, the “back to school” promotions have started in shop marking the start of school summer holidays. With the urgent demands on our time in our working life- it is important we take time out and time off to relax and recharge. On this theme, and in this issue, Clare and Amanda visit Caerphilly Castle to see how Cadw are addressing the challenges of decarbonisation and biodiversity.

While no-one could possibly begrudge foreign travel, visiting our own local tourist attractions retains money into our economy.

Taking time out will allow us all to best face the challenges ahead of us in the Welsh public and third sectors.

Challenges such as:

- Reshaping our town and city centres to better reflect hybrid working patterns;
- Baselineing the carbon emissions of our workplaces and of our commutes and then reducing them;
- Rethinking how we use buildings to deliver services to our citizens.

In addition, we have the continuing challenges of meeting our responsibilities as a nation of sanctuary in housing Ukrainian refugees.

Reflecting on some of the challenges includes the heatwave in Wales in which I am writing this. It is causing measures of concern to health, disruption to working and home life and for some, enjoyment- if they take adequate precautions. It reflects the changes to the climate which will cause future generations so much disruption if we do not act effectively now.

It is also a wake up call for all of us in public service to better think the design and delivery of our infrastructure to be more robust during periods of extremely hot and extremely cold weather which are likely to become more frequent over the coming decades.

We need to collectively think and deliver creative collaborative ways of working together- I hope the opportunities to find funding through our ACPW3 grant scheme and of course the Ystadau Cymru Awards will inspire. And, of course, taking some time out, means that we will return refreshed and hopefully looking at our workload in a different light. Perhaps with some inspiration on how to renew our purpose, make new connections and move forward to deliver better.

One of my sources of inspiration is the hard working Ystadau Cymru Secretariat. Reading their columns is such a joy- Amanda's personal learning journey; Clare's experiences of decarbonising and biodiversity; and Richard providing his report backs. Richard has a decade's experience of working with Ystadau Cymru and its predecessor body. A good deal of Ystadau Cymru's achievements is due to the high standards he sets with the help of the Secretariat and the Board.

I hope this issue continues to inspire you in your important work.

## Announcements

# Annual Ystadau Cymru Awards 2022

Following the launch of our annual Ystadau Cymru Awards 2022, we would love to see your collaborative projects from across the Welsh Public Sector. We welcome all types of Public Sector colleagues to apply and encourage all types of projects, no matter how big or small!

**The categories for 2022 nominations are:**

- **Creating Economic Growth** -
- **Demonstrating Environmental Sustainability** -
- **Delivering Social Value** -
- **Delivering Innovation** -

Submit your application by 5pm on 16th September 2022.

Take a look at our Ystadau Cymru Awards Webpage to find out more.

**Ystadau Cymru Awards 2022 | GOV.WALES**

We look forward to seeing your nominations!

# Assets Collaboration Programme Wales Grant Scheme (ACPW3)

## Our ACPW3 grant scheme launched in June this year!

The ACPW3 grant is aimed at supporting collaboration between Welsh Public Sector organisations. Projects must involve public sector land or property assets, with the key priorities being:

- improving sustainability of the Welsh public estate, by supporting skills development and a strategic approach to decarbonisation;
- overcoming barriers to collaboration.

All projects must be collaborative with at least one other public sector body (with the third sector as collaborative partners only).

Priority will be given to projects that contribute to:

- **decarbonisation of buildings and other public assets;**
- **improving biodiversity using public assets;**
- **improving environmental sustainability using public assets;**
- **generating or supporting economic growth or resilience using public assets;**
- **creating social value using public assets;**
- **innovation using public assets.**



## Want to find out more?

If so please visit our Ystadau Cymru ACPW3 grant page and view our Guidance for Applicants **Assets Collaboration Programme Wales Phase 3 (ACPW3): guidance for applicants | GOV.WALES**



## We need you!

We are looking for great examples of Community Asset Transfers or excellent projects for Case Studies from across the Welsh Public Sector.

**If you have any interesting projects, we would love to hear from you!**

Please contact the Ystadau Cymru mailbox  
**YstadauCymru@gov.wales**



# Feature story



## Caerphilly Castle: An Oasis in the Heart of the Town

As the imposing but beautiful beacon of a 30-acre site, Caerphilly Castle is **Wales' largest and the second largest castle in Britain** behind Windsor. The impressive grounds offer budding historians and nature lovers alike a little oasis of calm where they can visit the beautiful grand hall, take in the views, and for those Game of Thrones fans out there, meet a dragon!



This medieval fortress was predominately built between 1268 and 1271 and is striking testament to the **Anglo-Norman domination of the area**. From 1928 until the onset of the Second World War, the Marquess of Bute restored all the parts of the castle that had collapsed since the Middle Ages and the legacy of the **restoration project continues**.

Following a submission to Caerphilly Council in December 2021, planning permission was granted in June 2022 for a **£5m enhancement project at the castle**. Project works have been compiled into one document, the **Future Improvement Works Programme Masterplan (FIWPM)** and aim to strengthen the castles position as a world-class heritage attraction. One of the main elements of the masterplan is to build upon work already undertaken to create an **ecologically resilient space where visitors can enjoy and interact with nature** whilst exploring the historical location.

An extended **Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Assessment** was completed in 2019 and provides a baseline for ecological conditions at site. Further survey requirements have been identified which focus on both **opportunities and ecological risks posed during the design & build of new areas** and during **maintenance or refurbishment works in existing areas**.

The surveys have informed a **Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan (HEMP)** which sets out the proposed **habitat creation, enhancement and management measures** with **objectives** and a **monitoring programme** to assess progress. The HEMP is a working document that covers a period of **five years** and as progress is assessed, successful measures will inform site management in the **long-term**.

**The plan includes a wide variety of actions which include:**

- Preserve and correctly manage hedgerows, grassland, woodland, and scrub.
- Create new ecologically valuable habitats within the Site including the planting of pollinator strips, native trees, and species rich grassland.
- Maintain and enhance habitats for locally important species to include the reduction of mowing at site, installation of bat & bird boxes, restricting public access to dedicated wildlife areas, creating dark areas by minimising light pollution and installing floating rafts of vegetation.
- Reverse negative ecological trends by destroying Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan balsam, controlling Canadian Waterweed, reducing littering, and implementing control measures for preventing blue-green algal bloom.
- Monitor the establishment and condition of habitats and wildlife installations.

The HEMP has only been in place a short time, but the changes are already obvious – beautiful wildflowers can be seen across the site which not only enhance the area visually but provide much needed food for local pollinators. One major success has been the installation of Coir Rolls which provide immediate erosion control to the moat edges. The rolls have been planted with native flora and fauna to help establish wildlife habitats and help to improve site biodiversity.



The project manager for Cadw, Stephen Jones, has been incredibly happy with the actions taken so far and states:

**‘This project has been challenging and at the same time, exciting to deliver’.**

The end result is an array of colour and plants which will encourage the bee, butterfly population around the castle and surrounding area to flourish for now and the future.

For further information on Caerphilly Castle visit **Caerphilly Castle | Cadw (gov.wales)**

If you would like a copy of the HEMP please email [ystadaucymru@gov.wales](mailto:ystadaucymru@gov.wales)

# Richard's Report Back



**Richard Baker, Deputy Director of Land Division in the Welsh Government and responsible officer for Ystadau Cymru gives his personal views in the first of a new regular column for the Ystadau Cymru newsletter.**

Ystadau Cymru's remit is wide and our vehicles for delivery are more than just the national board. Along with our Chair, Beverly Owen and Dr Claire Bloomfield, I am working to re-establish the regional boards for Ystadau Cymru outside North Wales. I am pleased to report that significant progress is being made. The regional boards will help ensure that our work is represented across the whole of Wales as well across the different sectors represented at the national board.

With the Board agreeing the new business and delivery plans at our spring meeting, we are well placed to progress our shared vision for the new Welsh public estate needed. Our collaboration is at the heart of our vision of a Welsh public sector delivering in a net zero future.

Ystadau Cymru has a number of sub-groups taking forward specific tasks. One such sub-group, chaired by myself, is taking forward work on the issue of asbestos in the public estate. The Workforce Partnership Committee – the tripartite arrangement involving the Welsh Government, the trade union movement and employers commissioned us to baseline the scale of asbestos in the Welsh public estate, research on what good and poor practice is out there and consider the need for revised guidance and training.

We have been undertaking survey work with the NHS Wales, local government, town and community council sector and other public sector bodies. Our response rates to date have been a little variable, but over this summer, we will be contacting bodies again for information. We have, however, begun to analyse the existing data and started some

thinking on possible solutions. This is subject to further review once we have the further information that we are requesting. This will allow us to report back both to the Workforce Partnership Committee and to Ystadau Cymru national board in October with some recommendations for improvement.

I have to say chairing the sub-group has been refreshing, showing the true benefits of a core Ystadau Cymru value- collaboration. Working closely with our trade union partners, the town and community council sector and local government and other Welsh public bodies representatives is enabling us to produce more focussed work to meet the needs of the Welsh public estate.

I remain grateful to the support given by our hard working secretariat throughout the year who are driving our agenda forward. In this light, I wish Ria who is leaving us this summer all the very best in her new role. I am particularly taken by her work setting up the ACPW 3 grant funding scheme. I would be neglecting my duties if I failed to mention that the scheme is waiting for your creative collaborative bids. Lack of funding is no longer a reason thanks to Ystadau Cymru's sponsoring minister, Rebecca Evans MS – Minister for Finance and Local Government, showing her support for our important work and securing funding.



## Clare's Corner

### Growing a Sustainable Organisation: Environmental Sustainability

Following on from the last edition of Clare's Corner, this section will look at environmental sustainability in more detail.

**Environmental sustainability** is about creating a balance between the human way of life and the living world. We can review our environmental impact as an organisation by focussing on key aspects such as:

1. **Emissions to air**
2. **Emissions to water**
3. **Use of natural resource raw materials**
4. **Land Contamination**
5. **Energy usage**
6. **Waste generated**
7. **Use of space**

Put simply, **Aspects** are all those elements that **interact with the environment** through your activities, products, or services. Creating an **aspect register** as part of an over-arching **Environmental Management System (EMS)** or as a standalone document is a useful way of understanding those activities that are most significant. A register can give you the opportunity to consider your key activities, products, or services in terms of not only environmental aspects but impacts also.



**Cultural  
Sustainability**

**Social  
Sustainability**

**Environmental  
Sustainability**

**Economic  
Sustainability**

An **environmental impact** is the **change (actual or potential) to the environment** as a result of an aspect. Some aspects have a much bigger impact than others and it is important to **prioritise those that have the potential to do the most damage** to the natural environment. An example would be:

- **Type (activity/product/service):** Activity
- **Activity Description:** Office support
- **Aspect:** Waste generation & disposal (landfill)
- **Impact:** Land degradation, air pollution (methane), inappropriate land use.

By breaking down an activity in such a way, you can see **why** reducing the amount of waste generated and sent to landfill could **benefit the environment**. The full impact of an activity is not always clear and many organisations are starting to undertake a life cycle analysis. A **life cycle analysis** is the act of measuring the impact of a product or service **throughout its life cycle**, from the resources used to **create** it, across its use by the **user**, to its **end destination**.

Following on from the creation of an aspect register, the next step would be investigating ways to reduce your impacts by creating **clear objectives** and **actions** to help you achieve your goal. **For example:**

- **Objective:** Reduce the amount of waste generated by 10% annually.
- **Action 1:** Exchange paper copies of mail received for online/electronic versions and so on.



An **annual environmental action plan** can help you clearly define your objectives and actions and is a manageable way of reducing your environmental impact. Environmental action plan templates can cover **strategic areas** of the business or can be **small and action orientated**. It is often the smaller but more **precise action** plans that help reduce environmental impacts the most.

Following an **EMS** standard such as **ISO14001** can be the best way to create an environmentally sustainable organisation. For those who do not wish to gain such accreditation, following the basic principles, particularly when it comes to documentation, can be worthwhile. Key documents can include but are not limited to:

- Environmental policy.
- Register of environmental aspects and impacts.
- Legislation register or directory.
- Risk register that includes emergency preparedness and response (pollution prevention, flood risk etc.).
- Annual action plan that sets out key objectives and targets and how they will be achieved.
- Annual report that provides key data and a summary of achievements.

Managing environmental aspects successfully can not only **reduce the risk of ecological damage** and help us to **protect nature** it can also enhance **organisational reputation**, **improve public health** and **reduce waste** which in turn can **save us money**.

If you wish to know more about Environmental Management System's or would like a template or working example one of the documents mentioned in this article, please email [ystadaucymru@gov.wales](mailto:ystadaucymru@gov.wales) FAO Clare Phillips.

For inspiration and ideas on how to make changes visit **The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' pages on 'A Resilient Wales'**.

# Something that may be of interest!



## Greening the Government Estate – Civil Service Live, Cardiff City Hall

This annual conference and learning event recently took place in City Hall, Cardiff on 21 June 2022 and the session was organised by the Government Property Function. The annual event is for all those in the Civil Service and wider Public Service.

### Here's an overview of the 2022 event:

The 2022 session opened with the overall UK Greening Government Commitments 2021–2025, these are:

- **reduce water consumption by 8%**
- **reduce waste by 15%**
- **developing Climate Change Adaption strategies**
- **develop and deliver Nature Recovery Plans**
- **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**
- **buy sustainable products & services.**

### The event highlighted some interesting approaches and projects:

The Government Property Agency has been leading the way and established the Net Zero Programme. In 2021–22 there have been £560k in utility savings and 43 projects completed. The Whitehall Boiler System was completed to replace lagging on 2,000 meters of pipework making energy savings and in Titchfield, Segensworth Road energy use from lighting is forecast to be reduced by 75% and has supported local jobs with all packaging returned to the supplier for reuse for the next batch of lights.

### Greening Government Commitments 2021 to 2025 – GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Ministry of Justice have adopted a **natural capital approach** to manage their diverse range of heritage and historic estate assets that includes courts, prisons, probation facilities. This highlights water, air, soil and nature as environmental assets to be promoted and considered at every stage of decision making. The Green Book from HM Treasury is used alongside this approach to appraise decision making and has specific parts on both environment and social value, see link below.

### The Green Book ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))

See also projects that have been undertaken in social and community action and biodiversity in the ecology update below.

### The Ministry of Justice biennial ecology update 2016–18 ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))



The Environment Agency has been working with the Department of Education to address water issues in schools as thousands have been at flood risk, one occurring at a school two miles from water and also with large amounts water leakage overnight.



Another project with Environment Agency and partners is the Carlisle Flood scheme and valuable Knowledge Hub, see details below.

### About Us | The Flood Hub

We hope to see you at the Civil Service Live conference and learning event next year!

# Training and Interesting Links

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## Civil Service Environment Network

Building environmental knowledge across the Civil Service, the key areas of work are:

- Climate Change
- Natural Resources
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Sustainable Development

A range of topic specific events and podcasts are available:

[Civil Service Environment Network | CSEN Online](#)

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## Wrexham University

Low Carbon energy, Efficiency and Sustainability program

[Low Carbon Energy, Efficiency and Sustainability \(Degree Apprenticeship\) – Wrexham Glyndwr University](#)

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## Natural Resources Wales

Making our Woodlands more resilient – Natural Resources Wales – resilience, diversification and how we can help

[Natural Resources Wales / Making woodlands more resilient](#)

[Natural Resources Wales / Planning for the future](#)

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## Hydro power

[Natural Resources Wales / Hydropower](#)

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## Carbon Trust

Route to Net Zero

[Climate Action Plans & Business Sustainability | The Carbon Trust](#)

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## National Trust

Green Energy – harnessing the power of nature

[Green Energy & Energy Conservation | National Trust](#)

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If you would like to subscribe to our Newsletter, have any suggested topics for our next edition or would like to be considered as a feature story please contact [YstadauCymru@gov.wales](mailto:YstadauCymru@gov.wales)