

Glossary of terms and acronyms



Acronyms and glossary

14-19 Learning Pathways	A commitment to transforming learning provision for all young people in Wales, it addresses the need for a flexible and balanced approach to the education of 14-19 year olds.
Adaptation	Measures reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, for example by increasing readiness for pests and winds, creating woodland networks, and using woodlands in flood management.
Ancient woodland	Sites that have been continuously wooded since before 1600AD.
Archaeological Trusts	The four Archaeological Trusts in Wales maintain regional Historic Environment Records, and are concerned with policies relevant to the preservation, recording, interpretation and presentation of the archaeology, historic landscapes and built heritage of Wales.
AGWE	Assembly Government Woodland Estate woodlands managed by Forestry Commission Wales which are owned by the Welsh Assembly Government. This amounts to 38% of the woodlands in Wales.
ASNW	Ancient semi-natural woodland is ancient woodland where the trees and shrubs are semi-natural. These are generally the most important woodlands for biodiversity.
BAP	A Biodiversity Action Plan is a plan for a key habitat or species, to establish the factors for its decline and the work necessary for its recovery. National BAPs are approved by Government and form part of the overall UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The original impetus for these plans derives from the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.
BARS	Biodiversity Action Reporting System is the reporting system for UK national, local and company BAPs, and for the Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans of all four UK countries.
Biodiversity	The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species.
BWW	Better Woodlands for Wales is the woodland grant scheme administered by Forestry Commission Wales.
Cadw	The historic environment service of the Welsh Assembly Government.
Carbon footprint	A representation of the effect that human activities have on the climate in terms of the net amount of greenhouse gases produced, usually measured as tonnes of carbon in the form of carbon dioxide equivalent.
CCFG	Continuous Cover Forestry Group promotes the transformation of even-aged plantations to structurally, visually and biologically diverse forests, in which sustainable production of quality timber is undertaken with the application of the principles of continuous cover management. CCFG is a member of ProSilva Europe, a federation of forestry organisations committed to advancing 'close to nature' silvicultural systems.
CCW	The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

CEH	The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is a leading UK body for research and monitoring in terrestrial and freshwater sciences.
CIPAG	Community Involvement Forest Policy Advice Group - ia group convened by Forestry Commission Wales, comprising 20 members, representing a cross section of the community and forestry sectors in Wales. It produced two reports: Community Involvement in the Management of Assembly Woodland, December 2005. and Community Involvement in Non-Assembly Woodland July 2006.
Climate change	Natural and human-induced changes in the 'average weather' of a region. (The term 'global warming' was previously used synonymously with 'climate change').
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Pollution - One of five environmental treaties negotiated by UNECE. The aim of the Convention is to endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution. Parties develop policies and strategies to combat the discharge of air pollutants through exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring.
Coed Cymru	An all Wales initiative to promote the management of broadleaf woodlands and the use of locally grown hardwood timber in Wales.
Coed Lleol	A partnership project hosted by the Smallwoods Association with a steering group of representatives from Forestry Commission Wales, Countryside Council for Wales, Woodland Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, Tir Coed, the Health Service in Wales, and representatives of community woodland groups and self-employed foresters. It aims to help more people enjoy and care for woodlands in Wales.
Community	A group of people holding something in common, such as a place or a common interest.
ConFor	Confederation of Forest Industries , an organisation established to help build the market for timber, timber products and forest services, and create a supportive policy environment for the forest industries.
CONSTRUCT	An Interreg IV C project being developed with the aim of increasing the amount of sustainable renewable timber that is used in the construction of low and zero carbon houses and buildings.
Continuous Cover Forestry	or Closer to Nature Forest Management - management of forests where a permanent growing stock is maintained and increment is removed in cyclical interventions.
CQFW	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales , a single unifying framework that merges the concept of volume of learning achievements (credit) with the concept of demands made on the learner by that learning (level) to create a system embracing all types and styles of learning, and all qualifications. Since 2003, all learning offered in Wales, including mainstream qualifications, is gradually being brought into the CQFW.
Critical load	Critical Load is the quantitative estimate of the level of exposure of natural systems to pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur.

Cyddoed	This was a £16 million project funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Union, through Objective One, engaging communities in local woodland in order to increase social, economic and environmental benefits locally
Deer Initiative in Wales	A broad partnership of statutory, voluntary and private interests dedicated to "ensuring the delivery of a sustainable, well-managed wild deer population in Wales".
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs , the UK government department responsible for policy and regulations on the environment, food and rural affairs.
Development Trusts Association Wales	An independent organisation promoting and supporting the community enterprise and regeneration work of the 40 development trusts in Wales.
EAW	Environment Agency Wales is an Assembly Sponsored Public Body responsible to the National Assembly for Wales (and an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England). The EAW plays a central role in delivering government environmental priorities in England and Wales.
ECOSSE	Estimating Carbon in Organic Soils - Sequestration and Emissions: A project undertaken to assess the amount of carbon contained in organic soils in Scotland and Wales. The data derived from the project has been used to develop a model for organic soils ECOSSE. The project was funded by the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales.
Ecosystem	The interaction of communities of plants and animals (including humans) with each other and with the non-living environment. Balanced ecosystems are stable when considered over the long term - hundreds of years in the case of woodlands.
Ecosystem services	Collective term for the multitude of resources and processes supplied by natural ecosystems, which benefit humankind. Ecosystem services are distinguished from other ecosystem products and functions because there is human demand for them, and many studies have attempted to quantify their economic value. Ecosystem services include provisioning services (food, water and timber); cultural services (recreational, health, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits); regulating services (protection of water and soil resources; provision of shelter, shade and cooling, locking up atmospheric carbon); and supporting services (soil formation and photosynthesis).
EHS	Environment and Heritage Service , the Northern Ireland government agency protecting and conserving the natural and built environment.
Farming Connect	A Welsh Assembly Government scheme providing subsidised one-to-one support, knowledge, expertise, training and advisory services to help develop farm businesses.
FCA	Forestry Contracting Association
FCGB	Forestry Commission of Great Britain , the government department responsible for the protection and expansion of Britain's forests and woodlands.

FCW	Forestry Commission Wales acts as the Welsh Assembly Government's Department of Forestry, responsible for managing the 38 per cent of Welsh woodlands on the Assembly Government Woodland Estate. On behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, FCW advises on the development of forestry policy and its implementation; encourages sustainable woodland management within the private sector; administers grants; and is responsible for regulatory work, including licensing felling and replanting.
FEI	Forest Education Initiative , a partnership of forestry and timber-processing sectors with environmentalists and educators. FEI aims to increase understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between the tree and everyday wood products. FEI works with young people through its national network of local cluster groups.
Firewood sales framework	the mechanism used by Forestry Commission Wales to sell firewood.
First Steps grant scheme	A capital grant scheme (under development) with a focus mainly on small-scale woodland creation, plus some limited opportunities to protect and enhance existing woodlands.
Fly-tipping Action Wales (Taelo Tipio Cymru)	A Welsh Assembly Government project, led by Environment Agency Wales, to deliver a long term reduction in fly-tipping, through business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement.
Forest School	An innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through regular positive outdoor experiences. Forest Schools in Britain have been developed and adapted from the original concept implemented in Sweden in the 1950s and developed throughout other Scandinavian and European countries.
Forests	Generally large areas of predominantly tree covered land.
FR	Forest Research , an agency of the Forestry Commission GB providing research, development and monitoring services to support UK forestry, the Forestry Commission and the policies of the UK Government and the devolved administrations.
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council , an international, non-governmental organisation which promotes the responsible management of forests. FSC runs a global forest certification scheme which allows consumers to identify, purchase and use timber and forest products produced.
FSW	Forest School Wales , a voluntary organisation supporting Forest School provision in Wales.
FUTUREforest	An INTERREG IV C European project which is looking at how trees and woodlands can adapt to the effects of climate change and provide opportunities for mitigation. It is a partnership of 7 European regions, including Wales, sharing experiences and ideas on water management, biodiversity, soil protection, natural risks, timber production and carbon management. FUTUREforest aims to identify the threats, weaknesses and strengths of Europe's forests as they face up to climate change; developing best management techniques to guide policy makers and stakeholders.

Glastir	A new Welsh Assembly Government environmental land management scheme, which in 2012 will replace five existing agri-environment schemes.
Global citizenship	The concept of citizenship at a global level, acknowledging one's responsibilities not only to other people but to the Earth itself. Global citizenship is about understanding the need to tackle injustice and inequality, and having the desire and ability to work actively to do so. It is about valuing the Earth as precious and unique, and safeguarding the future for those coming after us.
HOV	Heads of the Valleys programme , a 15-year regeneration strategy developed in partnership with five local authorities (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen) and other local stakeholders to tackle the root causes of economic inactivity and other key issues in the area, within the context of the Wales Spatial Plan.
HNC/HND	Higher National Certificate/Higher National Diploma - work related qualifications which focus on learning by doing.
HEG	Historic Environment Group was established in 2004 to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on action to benefit and promote the historic environment of Wales. It specifically identifies strategic issues and priorities for action. With CADW as chair and secretariat, members include the Civic Trust for Wales, CCW and the WLGA.
Institute for Rural Health	A UK-wide academic charity working to inform, develop and promote the health and well-being of rural people and their communities through research and projects, education and training, and policy analysis.
Intercalibration steering group	working with UKTAG the steering group is defining standards for the environmental conditions that will determine 'good status' for water as a measure for the Water Framework Directive.
Invasive species	Non-indigenous unwanted plants and animals that adversely affect habitats they invade (economically, environmentally or ecologically) often to the detriment of native species.
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee , JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation.
Lantra	The Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries works across the whole of the UK.
Llais y Goedwig	Formally launched in February 2009, Llais y Goedwig is an association supporting and representing community woodlands in Wales.
Local Access Forums	The 29 Local Access Forums in Wales have a statutory function under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to provide advice, and to discuss the improvement and management of public access. Recreational access of all types will be taken into consideration, including walking, horse riding, and cycling.
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe - Also known as FOREST EUROPE this is the pan-European policy process for the sustainable management of the continent's forests.
National Forest Inventory	A periodic national survey identifying woodland cover; woodland by ownership; and woodland by Interpreted Forest Type. A wide range of information is gathered, including tree species, age and stocking density.

Native species	A species that arrived in Wales without the assistance of humans during post-glacial colonisation.
Native woodland	Woods mainly or entirely composed of locally native species.
Open Habitat	A habitat where there is no (or limited) tree cover e.g. Bog, heath and grassland.
Priority 'at risk' Catchments	River catchments where there is a high risk of pollution.
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation a legally constituted organisation with no participation or representation in local or national government Generally groups and organisations whose primary goal is not commercial. Eg Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust.
NVQ	National Vocational Qualifications work-related, competence-based qualifications. They reflect the skills and knowledge needed to do a job effectively, and show that a candidate is competent in the area of work the NVQ framework represents.
obs	Overbark standing - the volume of wood including the bark before the tree is felled. Usually expressed in cubic metres.
OCN	Open College Network a partnership of many different organisations offering education and training from all sectors, including: local authorities; schools; further education colleges; universities; employers; private training providers; community and voluntary groups. OCN offers flexible credit based qualifications.
PAWS	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites are former Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands (ASNW) that have been more or less completely replanted with native or non-native species, degrading the ecological value of the site. The degree of loss of biodiversity varies markedly with species planted and subsequent management.
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification , an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which promotes sustainably-managed forests through independent, third party certification.
PSE	Personal and Social Education part of the school curriculum where the main focus is the individual school student and his/her personal development rather than a particular area of knowledge or subject discipline.
Plant!	Welsh Assembly Government initiative to plant a tree for every new baby and adopted child in Wales from 1 January 2008, helping to create a Welsh National Forest of native trees.
Play Wales	The national organisation for children's play in Wales, an independent charity funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. (Chwarae Cymru) The aim is to act as a champion for children's play, and to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of play in the health and well-being of children.
Priority open habitats	Habitats identified as threatened and subject to a UK BAP. These include upland heathland, blanket bog, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland meadows and lowland calcareous grassland.
Priority species and priority woodland species	Species identified as threatened, and subject to a UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Priority woodland species in Wales include the spotted flycatcher, wood warbler, black grouse, bullfinch, red squirrel, dormouse and several species of bat.

Priority woodland habitats and priority native woodland habitats	Woodland habitats identified as threatened, and subject to a UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The priority woodland habitats in Wales are upland oak woodland; upland mixed ash woodland; wet woodland; lowland beech and yew woodland; and lowland mixed broadleaf woodland.
Production forecast	Forecast of timber availability in the public and private sectors.
PSPFG	Private Sector Production Forecasting Group (FCGB) of representatives and woodland managers develops forecasts of timber availability for the private woodland sector.
Public Health Wales	A National Health Service Trust, established in 2009. Public Health Wales was established as an NHS Trust on 1 October 2009. It brings together the following organisations and services: Congenital Anomaly Register and Information Service (CARIS), National Public Health Service Wales (NPHS) , Screening Services Wales - Antenatal Screening Wales, Breast Test Wales (BTW), Bowel Screening Wales (BSW), Cervical Screening Wales (CSW), Newborn Hearing Screening Wales, Wales Centre for Health, Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (WCISU).
Regeneration Areas	Designated areas where resources are targeted to deliver integrated cross-cutting initiatives for economic development and regeneration particularly where there is high deprivation.
RDP	The Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 is the mechanism by which the Welsh Assembly Government will deliver activities which support the countryside and rural communities, thereby encouraging the sustainable management of agriculture and the environment.
Real World Learning Cymru	A partnership organisation that supports and promotes the delivery of out of classroom learning.
ROFI	Reclaiming Our Forgotten Inheritance - an Objective 1 project to restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to native woodland.
ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plans , which local highway authorities in Wales are required to produce (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). ROWIPs are intended to cover a 10-year period, providing a prioritised plan for the improvement of the local rights of way network for all users.
Section 42 list	Defined by the National Assembly for Wales under Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, this is the definitive list of habitats and species of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales.
Sector Skills Council	Employer-led organisation covering specific economic sectors.
Semi-natural woodland	Woodlands with current stands predominantly composed of trees and shrubs native to the site and not obviously planted (there are no truly 'natural' woods remaining in the UK), which appear to have arisen mainly from natural regeneration or from coppice/pollard growth from naturally-regenerated individuals.
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency Scotland's environmental regulator. SEPA is a non-departmental public body, accountable through Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliament. SEPA has been advising Scottish ministers, regulated businesses, industry and the public on environmental best practice for over a decade.

Silviculture	The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products.
SRF	Short Rotation Forestry , the cultivation of fast-growing trees for 8 – 20 years. The trees are often coppiced.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest , a conservation designation denoting an area in Britain protected for its wildlife or geology.
Strategic Regeneration Areas	Areas designated by the Welsh Assembly Government, where there is a focus on integrated, cross-cutting initiatives aimed at economic development and regeneration.
Substitution	The use of materials, such as woodland products, as a replacement for (in this instance) materials that are derived from fossil fuels or produced using fossil fuels.
Supply Chain	A system of organisations, people, technology, activities, information and resources involved in moving a product or service from supplier to customer.
Sustainability	In a general sense, the capacity to maintain a certain process or state indefinitely. The concept of sustainability applies to all aspects of life on Earth and is commonly defined within ecological, social and economic contexts.
Sustainable forest management	'The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems' (Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki; 1993).
Tir Coed	Tir Coed was established in 1999 by an alliance of countryside organisations to promote the benefits of woodlands throughout Wales. The organisation has evolved in tune with the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities of Health, Social Inclusion and Education. In 2006, Tir Coed became a Charity (Charity number 1115229).
Treeregeneration	An urban forestry pilot scheme, which ran from 2003 to 2008, jointly funded by FCW, CCW, Flintshire CC and Wrexham CBC. The partnership project sought to identify the requirements for successful urban tree planting throughout Wales. The main aims, in practical terms, were to promote the environmental benefits, versatility and cost effectiveness of trees and woodlands thereby increasing the use of trees and woodlands in urban areas. The final report can be accessed at: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/forestry/infid-6c3dfj
UKAWMN	United Kingdom Acid Water Monitoring Network - funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UKAWMN monitors the ecological impact of acid deposition in areas of the UK believed to be sensitive to acidification.
UKFS	UK Forestry Standard , the UK government's approach to sustainable forestry, sets out the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in the UK.
UKNWHAP	UK Native Woodland Habitat Action Plan

UKTAG	United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group , supports the implementation of the European Community (EC) Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It is a partnership of the UK environment and conservation agencies. It also includes partners from the Republic of Ireland.
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Standard , an independent certification standard of sustainable woodland management in the UK. UKWAS is currently the central component of the forest certification programme operated in the UK by the Forest Stewardship Council.
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - One of five regional commissions of the United Nations. Its major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. The UNECE also sets out norms, standards and conventions to facilitate international cooperation within and outside the region.
Veteran tree	A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, within the landscape or for wildlife.
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government . Departments include: DCELLS - Department for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills DE&T - Department for the Economy and Transport DESH - Department for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing DRA - Department for Rural Affairs
Wales Environment Research Hub	Co-ordinates environmental research in Wales, to strengthen the evidence base for the Wales Environment Strategy. The Hub promotes collaboration between research providers in universities and research institutes, and users of research (primarily government and its agencies).
Wales Spatial Plan	A 20-year plan for the sustainable development of Wales - produced by the Welsh Assembly Government.
Water Framework Directive	A substantial piece of EC legislation designed to prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems, promote the sustainable use of water and reduce water pollution. It will be the major driver for achieving sustainable management of water in the UK and other Member States.
WBP	Wales Biodiversity Partnership provides a leadership role and an expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales.
WCVA	Wales Council for Voluntary Action represents the voluntary sector in Wales.
WEL	Wales Environment Link , the umbrella body for environmental organisations, is the officially-designated intermediary body between the government and the environmental non-governmental sector in Wales. WEL is a network of environmental and countryside non-governmental organisations, mostly with an all-Wales remit.
Welsh National Forest	All woodlands in Wales, the total of all Welsh woodlands, publicly and privately owned, now and in the future.
Welsh Soil Action Plan	A component of the Welsh Assembly Government's Environment Strategy identifying actions to be taken to protect and improve soils, which is to be published in 2010.

WFBP	Wales Forest Business Partnership , a voluntary grouping of businesses and other organisations across the forestry sector established to meet the objective of developing world-class forest product industries. Its members believe that collaborative activities undertaken by WFBP will strengthen the competitiveness of their businesses and of the forestry sector as a whole.
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association , representing the interests of local authorities in Wales. The three fire and rescue authorities, four police authorities and three national park authorities are associate members.
Woodland	Land where the ecological condition is, or will be, strongly influenced by the tree canopy. In terms of land cover statistics (in the UK), woodland is currently defined as land with trees where the mature trees would cover more than 20 per cent by area. Large tracts are generally called forests, smaller units are described in a variety of terms such as woodlands, woods, copses and shelterbelts, but there is no minimum size for a woodland.
Woodlands for Learning Forum	A partnership organisation which helps to maximise the use of woodlands for learning by steering developments, ensuring that these are attuned to the learning community's needs and making most effective use of limited resources.
WT	Woodland Trust , the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.