



Mamaliaid mewn
Amgylchedd Cynaliadwy
Mammals in a Sustainable
Environment

Current Dormouse Projects in Wales



Photos: Ceri Morris, MISE Project



SOUTHERN & EASTERN
Regional Assembly
Promoting Our Region



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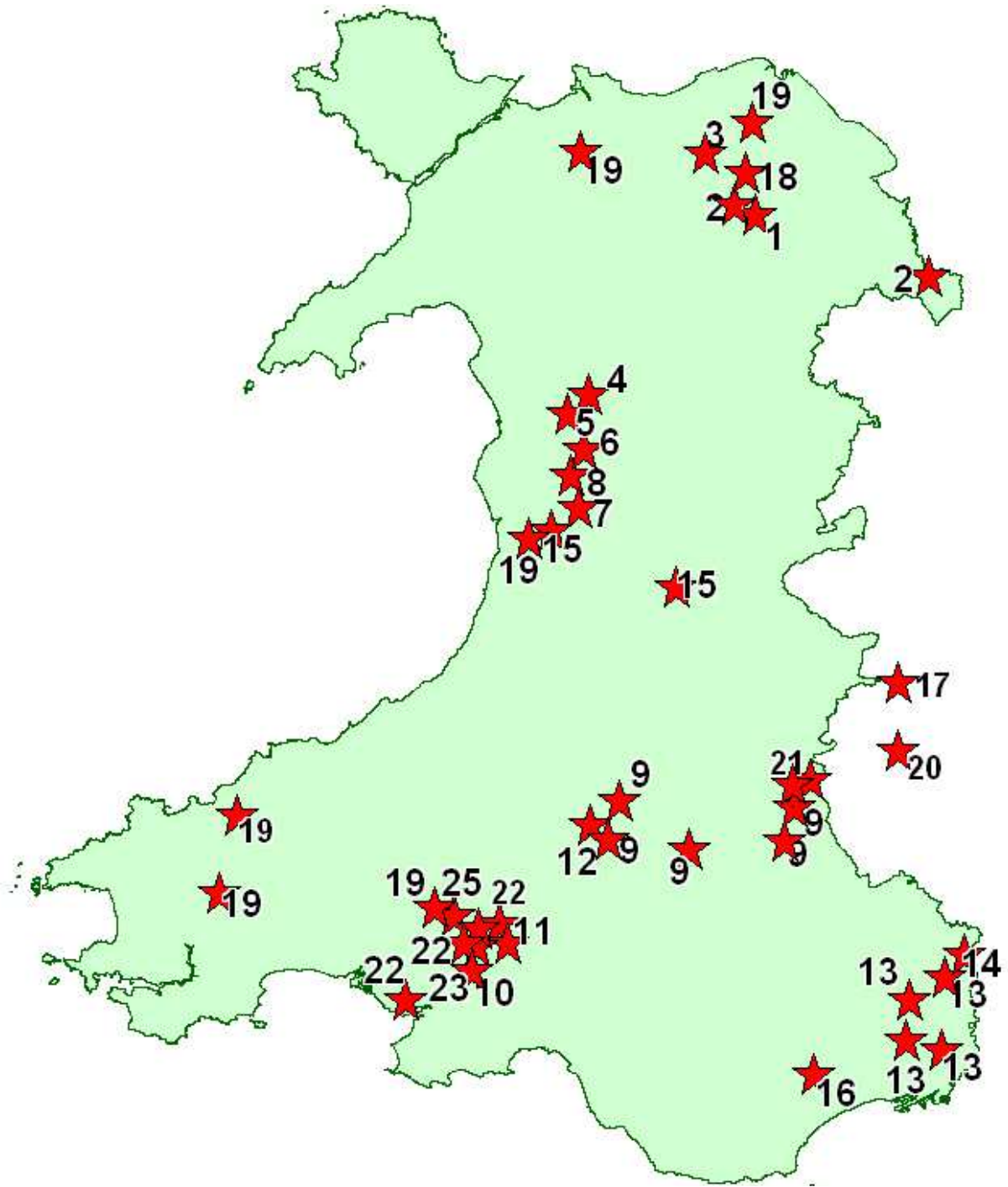


Figure 1. Map of current dormouse projects in Wales - Projects are numbered as they appear in this document.

1. North Wales Dormouse Project

Location: Various sites across North Wales

Partners involved: North West Dormouse Partnership

Monitoring of known dormouse sites across North Wales. Have a good team of volunteers already monitoring many sites, opportunities for some new volunteers to get involved. Need more volunteers to investigate new dormouse sites.

Contact: Rhian Hughes rhianhughes@wildlifetrustswales.org

2. North West Dormouse Partnership project

Location: North Wales and Cheshire

Partners involved: CCW, NE, FC Wales, NWWT, CWT, Chester Zoo, North East Wales Biodiversity Partnership

Mark and recapture monitoring of *Muscardinus avellanarius* at two sites, towards the north of the species UK range, has been carried out by the Northwest Dormouse Partnership since 2005. In the UK *M. avellanarius* has previously only been studied in detail in the south of England. Populations in the north of England and north Wales were thought to be small, scattered and fragile. The project aims to find out about the ecology of dormice in the area, and to inform woodland management for the species in the region. The study sites are:

Bontuchel, Denbighshire: where dormice were discovered in the 1990s

Wych Valley, Cheshire: where dormice were reintroduced in 1996 and 1997

With over 800 animals marked in 6 years, and 34 % recaptured, this is one of the largest studies of this type carried out with this species in the UK. The project started in 2005 and is ongoing until 2015.

We have a large number of volunteers helping with monitoring. We regularly provide training and experience for volunteers who are working towards their dormouse licenses. There is often a waiting list for people wanting to come and help on these sites.

Contact: Sarah Bird s.bird@chesterzoo.org

3. BASC Green Shoots North Wales

Location: Various sites, North Wales

Partners involved: BASC, MISE, NWWT, landowners

The Green Shoots project has been going since 2006 and will continue for at least 3 more years. A survey of BASC members in 2006 elicited 86 sites with dormice on them. Work with the North Wales Wildlife Trust confirmed that there are indeed dormice in North Wales (at Bontuchel near Ruthin, for example) and so nest boxes were installed on sites where

there had been sightings and possibilities of them being there. 150 boxes are currently out and dormice were found in one of the woods last year for the first time. It is hoped that more will be found this and in future years and that more members will want boxes/advice on woodland and hedgerow management and planting for dormice.

Contact: Audrey Watson, BASC, Marford Mill, Rossett, LL12 0HL
Audrey.Watson@basc.org.uk

4. Coed Isaf dormouse box scheme

Location: Coed Isaf, Brithdir, Dolgellau, Gwynedd

Partners involved: Forestry Commission Wales

50 new boxes were established in Spring 2011. No previous records of Dormice, and previous nut search revealed no record. Good connectivity to other known site to the west. Now confirmed as a new site by dormouse use of new boxes, and gnawed hazel nuts. We intend to monitor the boxes 2 - 4 times/year, as part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme.

Boxes used are designed by Mr Jack Grasse, using plastic drainage pipe, with wooden top and base, and have been shown to be of value to breeding dormice in this site. We are very grateful to Jack for kindly passing on this design.

Contact:

Mr Martin Gould, Conservation & Heritage Manager, FCW
martin.gould@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Ms Jan Baylis, established & now monitors these boxes jan@cadairidris.wanadoo.co.uk;
tel 07817 464853

5. Coed Drefgerrig dormouse box scheme

Location: Coed Drefgerrig, Tabor, Dolgellau, Gwynedd

Partners involved: Forestry Commission Wales

50 new boxes were established in Spring 2011. There were old records at this site, but now confirmed by use of new boxes, and gnawed hazel nuts. No specific dormouse work has been done previously. We intend to monitor the boxes 2-4 times/year, as part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme

Boxes used are designed by Mr Jack Grasse, using plastic drainage pipe, with wooden top and base, and have been shown to be of value to breeding dormice in this site. We are very grateful to Jack for kindly passing on this design.

Contact: As in Project 4 – Coed Isaf dormouse box scheme

6. Coed Maes Mawr (Dyfi)

Location: Between Corris and Aberllefenni, Gwynedd (around SH 775 089). Site connecting two areas of Coed Maes Mawr, Coed Caecennau a Cheunant Esgairneiriau SSSI.

Partners involved: Forestry Commission Wales

- *Are dormice known to be present in the area?* Yes. 50 boxes currently installed and being monitored, but not monthly. The site is not therefore currently part of the national monitoring scheme.
- *What work has been done in the area before?* – Some 16Ha of conifer trees felled and the area replanted with deciduous trees.
- *What are you hoping to achieve with your project?* – To link two areas of SSSI, create a better habitat for dormice, restore and enlarge an area of deciduous trees to promote long term growth of rare lichen
- *Are volunteers needed?* – No, not currently.
- *Project duration* – Ongoing.

Contact: Nick Young Nick.young@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 07899 734058

7. Tŷ Gwyn Forest School

Location: Tŷ Gwyn site, Forge, Machynlleth (around SN 764 985). Site used (partly) as a Forest School site.

Partners involved: Forestry Commission Wales, Coetiroedd DYFI Woodlands (Machynlleth)

- *Are dormice known to be present in the area?* – Yes. 50 boxes currently installed and being monitored at least twice a year, but not monthly. The site is not therefore currently part of the national monitoring scheme.
- *What work has been done in the area before?* – Site where deciduous trees are regrowing on a previously felled site (some conifers still standing). Part of the site is managed by Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands.
- *What are you hoping to achieve with your project?* – Create a better habitat for dormice, restore and enlarge an area of deciduous trees, continue to provide an area for outdoor education and develop 'field/forest management' skills in the community.
- *Are volunteers needed?* – any volunteers coming forward through contact with Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands.
- *Project duration* – Ongoing.

Contact: Nick Young Nick.young@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 07899 734058

8. Pantperthog Dormouse Project

Location: Dyfi Forest, Powys

Partners involved: Forestry Commission Wales & Jack Grasse

Dormice are present. Habitat improvement and nest box study has been going since 1993. Where possible, the initial area has been extended by clear felling conifers and planting with diverse broadleaf species – all locally sourced. The project was started in 1991 and is ongoing

Contact: Jack Grasse jackgrasse@gmail.com

9. Dormouse monitoring in Powys & Carmarthenshire

Location:

FCW Crychan & Halfway Forests (Powys & Carmarthenshire)

Brecknock Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves (Pwll y wrach, Glasbury, Ystrad fawr, Coed Dyrysiog)

Partners involved: FCW, Better woodland for Wales, CCW

Crychan & Halfway Project

- FC woodlands on the Powys/Carmarthenshire border. Mixed woodland some broadleaved, some plantation.
- As a result of a CCW/FC nut hunt survey, BWT were commissioned by FC to install dormice boxes in 2004/5 and monitor them for 10 years using trained and licensed volunteers.
- 300 boxes over 6 monitoring sites, 5 licensed dormice volunteers and various assistants. Two hundred and fifty boxes were installed in 2005/6 with a further site and fifty boxes added in 2010.
- All sites monitored every month April-October.
- 2010 & 2011 have been peak years for dormice numbers.
- Project reports are available from Bev Lewis, Brecknock Wildlife Trust
- Project duration - until 2014

BWT Nature Reserves

- Glasbury cutting Nature Reserve has been regularly monitored this year as it is a new site with new boxes. No dormice so far.
- Pwll y wrach Nature Reserve, regular monitoring. Very low irregular numbers
- Coed Dyrysiog Nature Reserve, tubes, ad hoc monitoring.
- Ystrad Fawr nature reserve, nest tube survey to test for presence.
- Project ongoing.

Contact: Bev Lewis, Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Lion House, Bethel Square, Brecon, LD3 7AJ. Tel: 01874 625708 E-mail: blewis@brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk

10. Dormouse monitoring for NDMP in Carmarthenshire

Location: Rhos Cefn Bryn – Bryndias Farm, Carmarthenshire

Partners involved: Wildlife Trust South and West Wales & Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership

- *Are dormice known to be present in the area?* Yes
- *What work has been done in the area before?* Sympathetic management, monitoring, nut hunt
- *What are you hoping to achieve with your project?* Monitor viable population and record population
- *Are volunteers needed?* Not at present, a small number of volunteers assist monitoring to keep disturbance of species minimal

Contact: Richard Pond rpond47@googlemail.com

11. Cross Hands Strategic Employment Site (Cross Hands East) (CHSES)

Location: Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire

Partners involved: Carmarthenshire County Council, Jacobs UK Ltd

In 2012 100 dormouse boxes were put up in an area between Black Lion Road and Meadows Road to monitor dormouse population before construction works began on the CHSES. Previous work by other consultants had found chewed nuts in the area but no dormice.

In September 2012 we had our first evidence of dormouse presence – a male dormouse and nest. The aim of the dormouse monitoring programme is to provide mitigation for a development site and ongoing monitoring to ensure the continued presence of dormouse in the immediate area. The project duration will be 2 years pre/during construction and 5 years post construction. No volunteers are currently required.

Contact: Laura Gore, Lucy Emery or Rhian Lewis. Jacobs, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff. CF10 2HH. 02920 353 200

Laura.gore@jacobs.com, Lucy.emery@jacobs.com, Rhian.Lewis@jacobs.com

12. Monitoring dormouse movements in three sites in Crychan forest

Location: Cefyn forest, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire

Partners involved: Currently FCW and CCW funders. Links with Brecknock Wildlife Trust who have 2 box schemes adjacent

- Dormice known to be present in some general parts of Crychan
- General monitoring done in the area before with 2 Brecknock WT monitoring sites adjacent to 2 of ours.
- Objective is to monitor movements [by means of micro chipping and radio tracking within vegetated areas & across forest roads and reinvasion ecology into previously clearfelled areas. 1 area may be clearfelled in the future. c. 350 boxes currently in operation on 3-4 sites
- Project duration 3-5 years
- Occasional assistants welcome, but the sites are physically challenging, being on clearfelled slopes with brash under regrowth. Usually takes 2 days.

Contact: Roger Trout rabbitwise@hotmail.co.uk

13. Dormouse Monitoring in Gwent

Location: Various sites in Gwent:

Croes Robert – nr Trellech GWT owned nature reserve

Wet Meadow – nr Trellech GWT owned nature reserve

Wyeswood / Pentwyn – Penallt GWT owned nature reserve

Livox / Prisk – near Penallt GWT part owned nature reserve

Blackcliff / Wyndcliff - near Chepstow

Gaer Wood – nr Trellech

Harpers Grove/Lords Grove - nr Monmouth

Cuhere Wood – nr Usk GWT managed nature reserve

MOD Caerwent - Caerwent

Springdale Farm – nr Usk GWT owned nature reserve

Partners involved: Gwent Wildlife Trust

All sites are part of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme

Contact: Gemma Bodé gbode@gwentwildlife.org

14. Corridors for Dormice in Gwent

Location: Monmouthshire, Gwent

Partners involved: PTES, Gwent Wildlife Trust

This is a personal project, inspired by the PTES 'Hedgerows for Dormice' project (in England), from which I obtained initial training in measurement methods and techniques. Corridor 1 won first prize (£1000) in the PTES competition associated with the HfD project, and thus has provided impetus and funding. Corridors 2 through 9 are surveying the hedgerows and woods involved in providing migration/expansion routes for hazel dormice

between the NDMP surveyed sites in Gwent, and into neighbouring counties, including crossing the Wye into England. It is hoped that this material will provide a basis for the establishment of an 'Usk to Wye' Landscape Area, which Gwent Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust, and Monmouth Greenweb, are pursuing. The project will run for 9 years (2012/13 will be year 6).

Contact: Keith Allen dormousenut@btinternet.com

15. Tŷ'n y Garth

Location: Cwm Einion, Furnace, North Ceredigion

Partners involved: Forestry Commission Wales

Dormice are found regularly in Tŷ'n y Garth woodland and are present over the wider area as well. A wide variety of conifer plantation and some recent felling within retained broadleaved woodland has created a quite diverse habitat and further felling is planned which should further improve the habitat for dormice. Mammal boxes and bird nesting boxes have been used by dormice over the past ca 20 years over a wide area of the woodland.

The project has been running 10 years and ongoing, and the purpose of the project is continued monitoring of the population, and to observe any effects of further woodland management. Volunteers are not required, but interested parties are welcome on box checks from April to November. 2012 was a poor year for dormice at Tŷ'n y Garth but late summer/autumn is usually best as regards numbers found.

Contact: Roy Bamford roybamford@felin-y-cwm.eclipse.co.uk

16. Ruperra Conservation Trust

Location: Coed Craig Ruperra woodland, near Draethen, 6 miles from Caerphilly

Partners involved: Ruperra Conservation Trust volunteers, led by Sue Price

The project has been ongoing since 2003. Dormice are locally common throughout this area; there are several woodlands known to have boxes erected and occupied. Up to 2003, no regular box survey was in place. Nestboxes were first erected on Coed Ruperra (a 150-acre PAWS) after the Trust, a small local charity, purchased the site and acquired a grant for a Woodland Manager to oversee the restoration project. As a license holder, the new manager was able to erect and check boxes; up to then, only dormouse-opened hazelnuts had been found to confirm presence. The new boxes proved successful and the numbers of boxes, dormice and licensed people have all increased.

We hope to achieve an ongoing record of the presence of the species on the woodland, plus a feed-in to the local BAP (Caerphilly). Also we train volunteers on other sites occasionally so that they can take on their own projects. We always seem to have plenty of volunteers!

Contact: ruperra@gmail.com

17. Evaluating the effectiveness of bridges for dormice

Location: UK wide

Partners involved: University of Greenwich

Bridges for dormice linking habitats that are fragmented by development, particularly of road schemes are installed as mitigation to offset the impact. Currently there has been little research into the effectiveness of these bridges and their use by dormice to cross gaps.

We want to compile a database of any structures that have been used to enable or encourage dormice to cross gaps. Please let us know if you are aware of any of these.

Contact: Either speak to Daniel Atter at the Wales Dormouse Worker's Day on 17th November 2012, or email Dr Debbie Bartlett d.bartlett@gre.ac.uk

18. Forestry Commission Wales Dormouse site register project 2012

Location: Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE) (managed by FCW)

Partners involved: Various initiatives and partnership projects throughout the estate.

This a preliminary overview of the dormouse information within WGWE which will be completed by the end of November. 54 woodland units have dormice within the WGWE totalling 5,540 ha within these woodlands, 24 currently have dormouse box projects.

In addition there are a further 56 woodlands (2,942 ha) that we consider to have dormice and are included within best practice guidance and licensing process. A further 6 large forest blocks also have records of dormice, which makes a total of 116 woodlands containing dormice within the WGWE.

Out of these woodlands 85 % are Ancient Woodlands or Planted Ancient Woodlands and are within the FCW programme for long term management through restoration to native woodlands which will enhance the habitat for dormice. Further analysis may be done in the future using the recently completed Ancient Woodland Baseline Survey, which has collated data on woodland attributes on all of the WGWE within the AWI 2011 and will allow spatial interpretation through GIS analysis.

Contact: Iolo Lloyd Iolo.Lloyd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

19. Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE)

Location: Various sites across Wales:

Cwm Clettwr, Tre'r ddol, Ceredigion
Tŷ Canol / Pentre Ifan, Pembrokeshire
Capel Dewi, Carmarthenshire
Mountain Meadows, Pembrokeshire
Dolgarrog, Conwy
Holywell, Flintshire

Partners involved: The Vincent Wildlife Trust; Countryside Council for Wales; Wildlife Trust South West Wales; Pembrokeshire National Park Authority; BASC, FCW, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Local council biodiversity officers, private landowners & Volunteers

The MISE project is funded for 3 years until 2014, after which we hope to handover the monitoring of dormouse sites to partners and volunteers

Dormouse is one of a number of focal mammal species for the MISE project. The aims are to increase local community and volunteer involvement in survey and monitoring projects. Specifically for dormouse, we are looking to find new sites with dormice present by group nut hunts and to increase the number of National Dormouse Monitoring Programme nestbox schemes in Wales.

Contact:

Jenny MacPherson (Mid-South Wales) jennymacpherson@vwt.org.uk
Ceri Morris (North Wales) c.morris@ccw.gov.uk

20. BSc dissertation: Review of dormouse survey techniques: does the height of artificial nest tubes affect survey results?

Location: Herefordshire

Partners involved: University of Worcestershire

- Artificial nest tubes have been placed at different heights in three different woods in Herefordshire.
- All woods are known to have dormice present from previous surveys.
- The project aims to compare numbers of dormice using tubes at different heights and to ascertain whether dormice numbers are being underestimated using standard survey techniques.
- No volunteers required as all data should be collected by end of October 2012 and the project will be in the analysis stage.
- Field work, May-October 2012. Project deadline May 2013

Contact: Dave Smith davetreesmith@aol.com

21. Dormouse Monitoring in Radnorshire

Location: Cilcenni Dingle (Woodland Trust) & Cwm Byddog (Radnorshire Wildlife Trust LNR), Clyro, Powys

Partners Involved: Woodland Trust & Radnorshire Wildlife Trust

Dormice are present at both sites, although this year Cilcenni Dingle was not checked as often as it should have been. Historically there are records of other sites within Radnorshire, which we hope to be able to survey for dormice signs.

Contact: info@rwtwales.org

22. Carmarthenshire Dormouse Project

Location: Various sites, Carmarthenshire

Partners involved: Carmarthenshire County Council, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (both as part of Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership).

The project aim is to improve the knowledge of dormice distribution within Carmarthenshire and the type of habitats they are using, get more people involved with their local wildlife and get more landowners involved who may have dormice to increase knowledge of good dormouse habitat management.

2010

Undertaken nut searches with volunteers in the area around Cross Hands, dormice were known to be present in the area and the area was chosen based on the development pressure within the locality. Dormouse opened nuts were found in a number of locations some of which were new sites and some of which were on the edges of the urban areas.

Also undertook an aerial habitat assessment of the area around Cross Hands to look at the potential dormouse habitat within the locality and possible habitat corridors through the area.

2011/2012

Dormouse opened nuts were found near to Llyn Lech Owain Country Park and Carmel National Nature Reserve. These sites were then chosen to set up two dormouse monitoring schemes with 50 boxes in Llyn Lech Owain and 50 boxes plus 50 tubes in Carmel. Trained wardens and volunteers during 2012 for their dormouse licence.

October 2012 undertook two nut hunts to engage volunteers, one at Llyn Lech Owain where dormouse opened nuts were found, the second at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park where a single dormouse opened nut was found, a new site for dormice in Carmarthenshire.

Boxes erected at farm near Pembrey where there have been previous records and registered with PTES dormouse monitoring scheme. Monitored by local volunteer. Dormouse found using box in summer of 2012.

Winter of 2012/2013

The project will move onto the Ammanford area which appears to have suitable habitat but to date no signs of dormice have been found. It will involve a series of nut searches and potentially nest searches in a number of sites around the Ammanford area some of which have been chosen for their potential to include local people, schools and colleges. Other sites have been chosen based on local knowledge of land owners.

Contact:

Jacqueline Hartley, Hartley Preserve, Tel: 0790 489 2273 email:

Jacqueline@hartleypreserve.co.uk

Isabel Macho, Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Officer, Tel: 01558 825 390 email:

IMacho@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Lizzie Wilberforce, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, email:

l.wilberforce@welshwildlife.org

23. Wooden and Drainpipe box comparison

Location: Rhos Cefn Bryn

Partners involved: Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Run from 2010-2012. The project aim is to compare Dormouse use of traditional wooden dormouse nest boxes with drainpipe nest boxes. Set up within the main dormouse monitoring area in Rhos Cefn Bryn. Next to each wooden box a drainpipe nest box was located, either above or below the wooden box. Data collected during normal monthly monitoring checks between April and October for three years to record use of dormouse in both type of nest boxes. Results are currently being analysed to statistically see if there is any significant difference between the use of the two types of nest boxes

If anybody wants to try this at their site it would be interesting to roll it out and get a bigger sample size.

Contact: Jacqueline & Paul Hartley, Hartley Preserve, Tel: 0790 4892273 email:

Jacqueline@hartleypreserve.co.uk

24. Carmarthenshire dormice Facebook page

Location: Carmarthenshire

Partner: Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Run from early 2012 ongoing. Carmarthenshire Dormice Facebook page open to anybody interested in dormice within the area although we've got likes from as far wide as Aberystwyth and Bridgend so far. Aim is to help get information about dormice out there, help with promoting what we are doing in Carmarthenshire, help connect people together especially those monitoring sites, help get people involved and reach people who perhaps you wouldn't normally see out on site.

Anybody is welcome to take a look at it, like it and contribute to it, it's open to the public but hence we do take care with the information we put on it.

Contact: Jacqueline & Paul Hartley, Hartley Preserve, Tel: 0790 4892273 email: Jacqueline@hartleypreserve.co.uk

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Carmarthenshire-Dormice/295750350474341?fref=ts>

25. National Botanic Garden of Wales Dormouse Monitoring

Location: National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne

Partners involved: National Botanic Garden of Wales

I have been monitoring boxes in woodland around the outskirts of the National Botanic Garden of Wales for 3 years. The boxes are split over three woodland areas and this year, after receiving a grant from the NDMP we have added boxes to a fourth area.

Monitoring began in 2008 when boxes were donated to the NBGW. An old record of a dormouse chewed nut prompted an interest in the area, and I have continued monitoring since then. Records are submitted to the NDMP every year. Volunteers have included university placement students based at the NBGW.

Dormouse chewed nuts were discovered in one area last autumn, and this spring (2012), we had the first live Dormouse to be recorded in the NBGW in a nest box.

My hope is that we will find more Dormice this year and continue to monitor them as long as possible.

Contact: Rhian Lewis – rhianlewis@hotmail.com