Land and Nature Strategy

NT response to State of Nature Report
Strategy Objectives

Objective 1: **Better**: Improve condition of our A/SSSIs and existing Priority Habitats

Objective 2: **Bigger and More**: Restoring/creating 25000 ha of Priority habitat by 2025

Objective 3: Ensure all our land achieves a high nature status – with the milestone of 50% of let land, and all in-hand land by 2025

Objective 4: Ensure all our land above minimum standard
Obj 1 - Better
Making existing isolated habitats ‘Bigger’ is particularly valuable because larger populations are inherently more resilient, it buffers them and it can join them up to other patches of habitat.

New habitat that doesn’t adjoin existing (i.e. ‘More’) can fill gaps in the landscape, and create habitats that are sorely missing. In the right locations they can also make a significant contribution to how permeable and ‘Joined up’ the landscape is.
High Nature Status: we would love all our land to be managed in a way that is ‘nature-friendly’. This means looking after the areas of Priority Habitats, but also farming the land in between in ways that benefits nature rather than being hostile to it.
We will make sure all our land is managed in a responsible way, and no serious harm is being done to nature. We will set a threshold for what we believe is the minimum acceptable, and steadily remove any ‘no-go’ areas for wildlife in our landscapes.
Major changes at Porth Gwylan – test bed for success
3 PfO trial areas – TBC but focus on making significant gains in terms of Bigger/Better/More and Joined Up
In Hand Land – Must reach Cat 2 on Land Condition Assessment
Continued improvement in nature value and condition of designated sites – grazing/boundaries etc.
Smaller yet collectively significant improvements across NT land and adjoining landholdings – bracken spraying/grazing
Opportunities
Porth Gwylan – trialling opportunities
Porth Gwynan - How to achieve HNS

Land Choices Porth Gwynan - desired land cover establishment
Using PfO as a way of delivering L&N Goals

- One of Two PfO Trials currently being run by National Trust
- Offers opportunities to test future ways of ensuring success - address issues highlighted by State of Nature Report
- The future of Post Brexit Agri Environment Payments?
- Can it provide a vehicle for more?
What is the focus?

- Whole Farm improvements – marginal gains = big difference
- Habitat gain in all areas – priority habitats key, but just as important are improved fields, soil health etc
- Evaluating current farm business and offering opportunities for enhancement
- Breaking the cycle of “well that’s what we’ve always done”
Better Environment = Community Economic Enhancement?

- PES but not the normal carbon capture and flood prevention ideas?
  Farmers and wider community able to take advantage of an area becoming synonymous with HNV
- Diversification – green tourism
- Diversification – high value produce
What do the public perceive ‘good’ to look like?

Probably the biggest challenge
Potential for More
Diolch yn Fawr