



Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales



# Supporting the bees that support us

A Memorandum of Understanding between Natural Resources Wales  
and the Welsh Beekeepers' Association



Noddir gan  
Lywodraeth Cymru  
Sponsored by  
Welsh Government




**Natural Resources Wales manages 120,000 hectares of woodland and forestry on behalf of the Welsh Government and manages 56 National Nature Reserves either directly or through partnership arrangements.**

**Established in 1943, Cymdeithas Gwenynwyr Cymru - The Welsh Beekeepers' Association - is a registered charity representing around 1,650 beekeepers through nineteen affiliated local associations. Its aims are to develop co-operation amongst all beekeepers throughout Wales, improve beekeeping standards, encourage community participation and promote an appreciation of the value of honey bees to the environment.**


Working together to increase healthy and sustainable populations of honey bees, whilst respecting the woodland and nature reserve environment and the needs of other users, we will

 Facilitate and encourage beekeeping opportunities within forests and selected nature reserves

 Use our networks and influence to encourage better mutual understanding of the needs of beekeepers and all woodland and nature reserve users

 Work to encourage links between beekeeping associations affiliated to the Welsh Beekeepers' Association and the woods and reserves on their door step


 Ensure that beekeepers feel welcome in the public forest estate and on selected reserves


 Promote understanding of the role that all species of bees play in pollination and environmental health.


 Respond positively to conflicting interests, ensuring that any restrictions on beekeeping activities are fair and necessary

 Maintain an ongoing dialogue to make the best of any opportunities to encourage beekeeping on the land managed by Natural Resources Wales

### **Natural Resources Wales will:**


 Issue guidance to our staff to ensure a consistent approach to managing access for beekeepers, reflecting the protected species element of some of the nature reserves


 Promote the Woodlands and You application process to beekeeping associations affiliated to the Welsh Beekeepers' Association in order to make them aware of opportunities to keep hives on land managed by Natural Resources Wales


 Only seek to restrict beekeeping in certain areas such as those with high public use, and when operational programmes are in progress




### **The Welsh Beekeepers' Association will:**

 Work with Natural Resources Wales to provide information to the public on the benefits of keeping honey bees on their land

 Promote beekeeping which accords with best practice and is sensitive to the environment and to other users of Natural Resources Wales land

 Support Natural Resources Wales' work to protect and increase insect pollinators

 Promote the opportunities to site hives on Natural Resources Wales land to its members

 Jointly develop management systems and guidance which will reduce the potential for conflict and ensure that any local issues are resolved quickly

**Signed in agreement at the Royal Welsh Show on 23 July 2014**

**Professor Peter Matthews**  
Chair  
Natural Resources Wales

**Jennifer Shaw**  
Chair  
The Welsh Beekeepers' Association