



Sands of LIFE Final Conference

**Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th May 2024
Caernarfon, Gwynedd, North Wales**

Join us for:

- Findings and highlights from Sands of LIFE's 5-years of action for biodiversity.
- Informative presentations from local and international speakers, on the latest developments in sand dune conservation and management.
- Networking, collaborating and sharing of best practice between leading sand dune managers from across the UK and Northern Europe.
- Site visits to world class sand dunes at Newborough on Anglesey.
- The unique culture, landscapes and language of beautiful North Wales.



SoLIFE: LIFE 17 NAT/UK/000023

The Twyni Byw-Sands of LIFE project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union
Part funded by the Welsh Government

Programme

(Subject to change)

Sessions on Day 1 and Day 3 will be available 'live' online
and as recordings after the event.

Day 1: Wednesday

11:15 - 12:00	Registration	
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch (cold buffet)	
13:00 -13:30	Session 1: Opening of Conference	
	Welcome and introduction	Nick Thomas, Strategic Project Manager, Natural Resources Wales
	Opening speech from Natural Resources Wales Chief Executive	Clare Pillman, CEO Natural Resources Wales
13:30 - 14:25	Session 2: Sands of LIFE – Five years of action (55 mins)	
	A roundup of project achievements	Kathryn Hewitt, Sands of LIFE Project Manager
	A generation of change - sand dune vegetation monitoring	Steven Heathcote, JBA Consulting, Principal Ecologist
	Jewels of the dunes – impact of conservation measures on Welsh dune invertebrates	Mike Howe, Natural Resources Wales, Invertebrate ecologist
	Questions and discussion	
14:25 – 14:45	Break and networking	
14:45 – 15:40	Session 3: Forestry on dunes	
	Landscape transformations and logistical challenges in Wales	Laura Davies, SoLIFE Project and Monitoring Officer and Kathryn Hewitt
	What works best – A trial of interventions following conifer removal	Mark van Til, Nature Management Advisor, Waternet, Netherlands
	Past and future conifer removal on Ainsdale Sand Dunes NNR	Dave Mercer, Manager at Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve, Natural England
	Questions and discussion	
15:40 – 16:00	Break and networking	
16:00 – 17:10	Session 4: Radical responses	
	Over 15 years of European bison in the dunes of Zuid-Kennemerland	Esther Rodriguez, PWN, Netherlands
	Implementing the SNAP approach (managing nitrogen air pollution)	Siobhan Murphy, Monitoring Officer Dynamic Dunescapes
	We did not expect that! Our first experience translocating rabbits	Luc Geelan, Nature Management Advisor, Waternet Netherlands
	Recreating dunes on agricultural land	Jeppe Pilgaard, Biologist & Project Manager, Thy National Park, Denmark
	Questions and discussion	
17.10 – 17:20	Closure of Day 1	Nick Thomas
17:30 – 18:00	Room check in for residential guests/Free time	
18:00 – 19:00	Networking reception. Introduction to Sand Dune & Shingle Network	Hot drinks available
19:00 – 20:30	Dinner	
20:30 – 21:00	Discover the historic town of Caernarfon: Walk along waterfront to castle	
21:00 +	Join us for drinks in a historic pub in town	

Day 2: Thursday

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast for residential delegates	
08.15 – 08.45	Registration for day delegates	Refreshments available
09:00 – 09:15	Opening of Day 2	Nick Thomas, Strategic Project Manager, Natural Resources Wales
	Session 5: Site visit introduction	
09:15 – 09:45	Newborough Forest and Warren – A unique sand dune system	Graham Williams, Senior Land Management Officer, Natural Resources Wales /SoLIFE team
09:45 – 10:00	Collect packed lunch (provided) and meet in front of hotel	
	Session 6: Site visit	
10.00 – 10.45	Minibus journey to Newborough	
10:45 – 13:00	Morning site visit	Newborough Warren or Newborough Forest
13:00 – 13:45	Lunch	
13.45 - 16.15	Afternoon site visit	Newborough Warren or Newborough Forest
16:15 – 16:30	Congregate for return trip	
16:45 – 17:30	Minibus journey to hotel	
17:30 – 18:00	Tea and coffee in the hotel bar	
18:00 – 19:00	Free time	
19:00 – 20:30	Dinner	
20:30 +	Join us in the bar for networking and live music	

Day 3: Friday

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast for residential delegates	
08.15 – 08.45	Registration for day delegates	Refreshments available
09:00 – 09:10	Opening of Day 3	Nick Thomas, Strategic Project Manager, Natural Resources Wales
09:10 – 10:10	Session 7: Tackling challenges	
	Controlling invasive alien species – lessons learnt from the LIFE DUNIAS project	Reinhardt Strubbe, LIFE DUNIAS Project Manager, Belgium
	Going out with a bang – coping with unexploded ordnance	Lucy Smith, SoLIFE Project and Monitoring Officer
	Valuing dunes – socio - economic benefits	Kate Linck, SoLIFE Finance and Admin Officer
	Question and discussion	
10:10 – 10:30	Break and networking	
10:30 – 11:40	Session 8: Facing the future	
	Around the UK – future plans, ambitions and strategies	
	Scotland	Stewart Angus, NatureScot
	England	Marina Pugh, Coastal Habitats Senior Specialist Advisor, Natural England
	Wales – including the Welsh Sand Dune Strategy	Julie Creer, Coastal Habitats Lead Specialist Advisor, Natural Resources Wales
	UK Sand Dune and Shingle network relaunch	Paul Rooney, Senior Lecturer, Liverpool Hope University & Ben McCarthy, Head of Nature Conservation National Trust

	Questions and discussion	
11:40 – 12:00	Conference closure remarks and discussion	Nick Thomas
12:10 - 13:00	Lunch (cold buffet, takeaway boxes available)	

Fringe events

The following informal events are planned subject to interest. The exact timing will be determined by participants. Transport will be by car sharing. Please contact SoLIFE@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk if you are interested in any of these events.

Tuesday evening

Approx. 19:00/20:00	Evening meal at local pub
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Friday afternoon and evening

Approx. 16:00	Site visit to Tywyn Aberffraw dunes on Anglesey. Sea swim or beach sauna may be an option.	40 minute journey
Approx. 20:00	Evening meal	

Saturday

From around 09:30	Site visit to Morfa Dyffryn and (if time) SoLIFE works at Morfa Harlech	1 hour journey
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Posters, displays and publications

You are welcome to bring posters, displays or publications, however please contact the organisers in advance.