



ERAMMP Newsletter – Autumn 2021

Welcome to the autumn 2021 Newsletter from the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP). In this edition, we share news about progress of the National Field Survey in 2021, and look ahead at our plans for 2022.

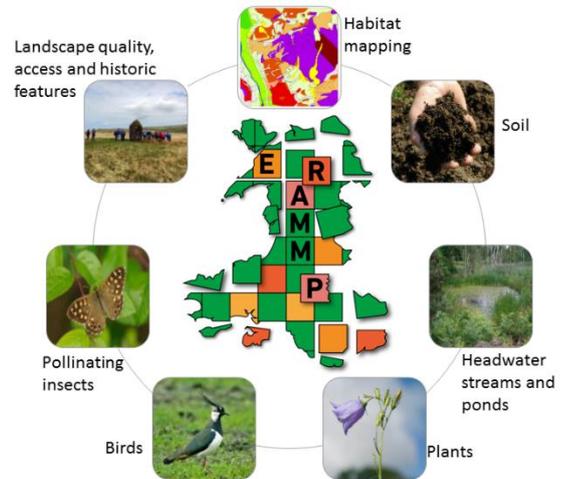
ERAMMP National Field Survey 2021

The ERAMMP National Field Survey season 2021 is finished. THANK YOU to all who took part. This year our 27 field-surveyors visited over 400 farms and landholdings across Wales. We could not have done this without the help and cooperation of so many farmers, landowners and managers who allowed access to their land and assisted our survey teams.

What is the National Field Survey?

ERAMMP carries out a National Field Survey, managed by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), to assess the effects of the Glastir sustainable farm scheme and report on national trends. Surveying land inside and outside of Glastir is critical to assess the impact of the scheme.

The ERAMMP National Field Survey records and assesses the condition of habitats, woodlands, hedges, soils, plants, streams, ponds, historic features & public rights of way. It also records the numbers and species of individual birds and pollinating insects. During 2021 and 2022, it will survey 130 preselected 1km squares. Building on the Glastir Monitoring & Evaluation Programme (GMEP) survey, conducted 2013-2016, and other national monitoring schemes such as [Countryside Survey](#) and the [Breeding Bird Survey](#), we can see what impact the Glastir Scheme is having on the countryside.



Survey Teams	Month	Survey Year	Time of Day
Botanical	May – Sep.	2021-22	8am - 6pm
Woodland and Historic Features	May – Oct.	2021-22	8am - 6pm
Birds	Apr. – May	2022	Early morning
Pollinators	Jul.-Aug.	2021	9am - 6pm
Freshwater	Jun.-Aug.	2021	8am-6pm

The National Field Survey has several individual specialist surveys, which record data at the same location. This enables an understanding of the links and interactions between natural resources such as plant biodiversity, bird and pollinator numbers, soil and water. The specialist surveys take place at different times, e.g. in the warmer months pollinating insects are surveyed. The table gives a breakdown of the individual surveys and timings

Note: The National Field Survey is not related in any way to compliance or the inspection process for the Basic Payment Scheme or Glastir and will not affect your current payments.

Training, walking, counting & sampling: the 2021 National Field Survey season

A vast amount of expertise, time and resilience goes into making the National Field Survey successful.

A huge amount of planning and effort goes into ensuring our scientific surveys are accurate. Weeks of training and detailed handbooks prepared the teams of surveyors ready to go once Welsh Government lockdown restrictions eased to alert level 3. In May, six teams of two botanists began the survey. Three woodland surveyors and one freshwater surveyor followed in June, and 11 pollinator surveyors started their survey in July.

The **botanical survey teams** visited 74 1km squares. The data collected will help us assess the condition of both of common habitats, and priority habitats such as Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture. We can also assess change since we last surveyed (2013-2016) based on the presence or absence of certain plant species.

The **woodland survey teams** averaged 15,000 steps a day as they walked across 100 1km squares mapping woodland, linear features (e.g. hedges), trees, and other landscape features. They recorded 1,185 veteran trees, of which 28% were Oak, 16% Ash, 5% hawthorn, and sycamore and willow had a 4% abundance each. In total 52 species were recorded.



The botanical and woodland survey teams shared the task of soil sampling, taking a 15cm deep soil core from five locations in each 1km square. This winter these soil cores will be analysed by UKCEH for pH, alkalinity, organic matter, carbon, and nitrogen and phosphorus. We will use these new data to measure changes in soil health.

The **pollinator survey teams** recorded bees, hoverflies and butterflies in July and August. The surveyors covered 240 km reporting 29,673 individual insects, including 4,213 bumblebees.

The **freshwater survey team** sampled 38 ponds and 55 streams, while assessing the condition along the length of 27.5 km of streams. Water samples will be analysed to identify macro-invertebrates and diatoms to give an indication of water quality.

A **Quality Control (QC) team** has also identified any potential quality issues by re-surveying 10% of the survey to measure consistency and reliability of the work done. This ensures we have confidence in the results of the survey.

Now our data analysts are gathering all the data together, quality checking and combining with previous GMEP data to evaluate the success of the Glastir scheme.

We will share further insights in our next newsletter and via publicly available reports on the ERAMMP website, www.erammp.wales.



In summary, the aims of Glastir are to combat climate change, improve water quality and reduce flood risks, contribute to economic sustainability, protect landscapes and the historic environment, improve access to the countryside, help reverse the decline of Wales' native biodiversity and support woodland creation and management.

Looking ahead to the National Field Survey 2022

Here we go again!

Our teams are already preparing for the 2022 survey season starting with the bird survey in April. We will be in contact with farmers and landowners in December with more information and to ask for survey site access permission. No specific locations of survey sites will be included in the report delivered to Welsh Government in 2023.

Also in ERAMMP...

The other core elements of ERAMMP are modelling and evidence provision.

Specialist computer programmes **Model** possible changes to the Welsh natural environment over time based on different actions we might take now. ERAMMP scientists and software developers are creating a system that takes the results of many different specialised computer models and links them together to explore the effects of different scenarios. This '[Integrated Modelling Platform](#)' supports the development of the Welsh Government's new Sustainable Farm Scheme.

Evidence provision to the Welsh Government is undertaken through a series of scientific reviews and analyses focussed on addressing key policy challenges. Recent evidence reports include the [National Forest Evidence Review](#), [SFS \(Sustainable Farm Scheme\) Evidence Pack](#), [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) review](#) and an evaluation of the [Natura 2000 \(N2K\) restoration award](#).

All these evidence reports and many more documents produced as part of ERAMMP (including the field survey methods) are publicly available on the ERAMMP website www.erammp.wales.

Further information

Search for 'GMEP' data in the EIDC
catalogue.ceh.ac.uk/eidc/documents

ERAMMP website
erammp.wales/en

Countryside Survey uk-scape.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/countryside-survey

UKCEH and the Welsh Government fund ERAMMP.