

Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS)*

The **Sustainable Management Scheme** is delivering nature-based solutions and sustainable land management to enhance biodiversity, tackle climate change and improve health & wellbeing.

The SMS scheme has committed **£23m** of RDP funding to date with a total of **50 PROJECTS**.



Sustainable Management Scheme



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

SMS projects are undertaking actions at landscape and catchment scale to:

Adapt to climate change



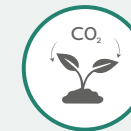
Support ecosystem resilience



Improve soil health & water quality



Manage & plant woodland



Reduce flood risk



Enhance biodiversity



Support health & wellbeing



Develop skills capacity & expertise



Encourage community cohesion & locally led development



Support rural skills, culture & heritage



Habitat & peatland restoration

- Nearly **2500 hectares** of peatland re-wetted and restored
- **3380 hectares** of habitat restored and managed
- **50km** of hedgerows planted and restored

Woodland management & planting

- Over **40,000 trees** planted so far with over **2000 hectares** of woodland managed

Volunteer programmes & community engagement

- Over **600 volunteers** involved
- Over **500 days** of activities with over **2000 people** engaged

Building collaborations & partnerships

- Over **300 farmers** engaged and benefitting
- Nearly **5000 stakeholders** engaged across all projects
- **Several multi-agency groups** created including the Fire Service, local rural police teams, local authorities and landowners; tackling fly tipping, rural crime and managing the landscape for the benefit of everyone

Soil health, water quality, reducing agricultural pollution & natural flood risk management

- Catchment scale projects in **8 rivers** implemented **35** leaky debris dams, **several hectares** of riparian zones planted
- **1000s of metres** of fencing to remove livestock from water courses
- **Nearly 200 farm resilience plans** to improve water quality, soil structure and health across farms

Educational programmes

- Over **40 schools** across Wales involved
- **Residential forest camps** for secondary school pupils
- **14,000 students** engaged in online learning
- Over **3000 young people** involved in educational activities

Rural skills, training & job creation

- **1800 people** involved in over **240 training days** with **72 individuals** gaining a qualification
- **35 jobs** created and **21 jobs** safeguarded

Increased access to outdoor spaces

- **Over 60Km of access paths** created or upgraded with improved signage
- **Several guided walks** for different abilities and needs

* The Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) is delivered by the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund.