

Wales

Jake Stephen (rspb-images.com)



The South Stack Lighthouse, viewable from the visitor centre, was built in 1809 to warn ships of the dangerous rocks below.

We harnessed the surge in interest in nature during lockdowns with our social media channels, online educational activities and when possible, we welcomed new audiences to our nature reserves. We reflected this love for nature to our politicians urging a step-change in the response to the climate and nature emergency and a green recovery from Covid-19.

Katie-jo Luxton
Director, RSPB Cymru

RSPB Cymru

South Stack's visitor centre with spectacular views to the Irish Sea.

Opening new visitor facilities at South Stack

A new visitor centre was completed at South Stack in spring 2021, after more than a year of redevelopment.

Improved visitor facilities include a new café seating area which opens onto decking with spectacular views of the Irish Sea. We've also made the site greener, with new roof and wall insulation, double-glazed windows, and the addition of an air-source heat pump and solar panels. A natural water treatment system will also harness the power of nature to clean waste water.

In addition, we have installed beautiful wooden sculptures celebrating the wildlife of South Stack, created by Anglesey sculptor Duncan Kitson, and funded by the Gaynor Cemlyn-Jones Trust. Artwork by pupils from Ysgol Cybi is also on display.

Since 1977, when RSPB Cymru first took the lease for South Stack from Isle of Anglesey County Council,

we have managed this amazing coastal habitat for wildlife and visitors alike. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us. It is your generosity and belief in our mission that enables us to continue our work protecting wildlife.

The restoration project was made possible with support from RSPB members, as well as the Welsh Government Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014-20, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Welsh Government.

Choughs, rare members of the crow family, are seen at South Stack.



Green Recovery Wales festival

RSPB Cymru met the challenge of Covid-19 restrictions head-on in July 2020, with the creation of a new online festival.

Green Recovery Wales was a first for the RSPB. It brought together nine environmental organisations for a four-day event featuring live discussions, webinars, wellbeing sessions and family activities.

The festival considered how Wales can champion a green recovery from Covid-19 whilst leading the way in nature-friendly land management, creating sustainable food systems, and restoring wildlife.

Over 60 discussions and activities were held involving politicians, decision makers and innovators across

the environment and farming sectors. First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, launched the festival live in a discussion with RSPB Cymru Director, Katie-jo Luxton, and Director of National Trust Wales, Justin Albert. Other highlights included messages of support from wildlife broadcaster Iolo Williams, a cookery demonstration by BBC chefs Sam and Shauna, storytime with S4C's children's programme Cyw, and a youth panel discussion.

A small team pulled together Green Recovery Wales at short notice, and it was a showcase for agility and innovation in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Over 5,700 people attended from Wales and around the world. The recorded sessions are still available online. You can view them here: www.greenrecovery.wales