

Example Group Three Organisations and Actions

Actions taken to help biodiversity should be guided as far as possible by the 6 objectives of the [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\)](#) which have been identified to contribute to reversing the decline of biodiversity in Wales. Therefore, each example includes a reference to which objective/s they are aligned to. The 6 objectives are:

- **Objective 1:** Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- **Objective 2:** Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- **Objective 3:** Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- **Objective 4:** Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- **Objective 5:** Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- **Objective 6:** Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

More detailed information regarding each objective can be found [here](#)

<u>Public Authority</u>	<u>Biodiversity Action</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>	<u>NRAP objectives met by action</u>
<u>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council</u>	The Authority published a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan detailing their commitment to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. The plan included developing a Service Area Action Plan interview template. The document is used to highlight risks and opportunities for delivery of the section 6 duty across the Authority's service areas.	Examples include highlighting inappropriate land management and increasing the efficiency of council buildings	1, 5 & 6
<u>Denbighshire County Council</u>	The Little Tern was a named priority in the corporate plan 2017 – 2022, together with a few other key species, and work to conserve them is reported on every quarter.	The Local Authority manage the only colony of Little Terns in Wales, and they work with volunteers from the North Wales Little Tern Group (made up of local residents) to protect the	1, 3, 5 and 6

		<p>site, manage and encourage visitors, carry out scientific research, and feed data into the EU Life+ project to conserve the species in the UK. Under this management, the little terns at Gronant fledged almost one third of the total birds in the UK this year.</p> <p>This raised awareness of biodiversity and engaged the public within the Local Authority area, helped by the Authority producing a number of short films about the project.</p>	
<u>Tonyrefail and District Community Council</u>	<p>When undertaking grass cutting, the grass is collected and removed to ensure it does not negatively impact on biodiversity by preventing soils becoming too nutrient rich and smothering underlying plants.</p>		3
<u>Denbighshire County Council</u>	<p>Biodiversity was made a corporate priority in the Council's corporate plan 2017 - 2022 to raise awareness of its importance.</p> <p>The prominence of biodiversity in the plan led to the appointment of a full time biodiversity officer, together with funding of a service level agreement with Cofnod, the local environmental records centre, giving the Authority access to wildlife data for planning and project work. This has led to biodiversity issues now being taken into consideration for projects at an early stage, including site renovations and proposed active travel routes.</p>	<p>The new full time staff member has increased capacity to deliver against the section 6 duty, and corporate plan targets. Staff time has been able to be used as match funding for some recent grant funding applications.</p>	1, 5 & 6

<p><u>Goetre Fawr Community Council</u></p>	<p>Establishment of a new planning committee to include consideration of the environmental impact of applications.</p> <p>Prior to the summer of 2019 all planning applications were considered at full council meetings. Time limitations at these meetings meant that it was impossible to consider the wider environmental impact of any applications. Therefore a new planning committee was established which has enabled a much more detailed examination of planning proposals.</p>	<p>Issues that the Committee has highlighted have included:</p> <p>The prevention of the removal of hedgerows and trees (with any unavoidable damage caused by construction equipment etc made good)</p> <p>The impact of development on watercourses</p> <p>The potential for pollution from sewage or other 'noxious' run-off</p>	<p>6</p>
<p><u>Denbighshire County Council</u></p>	<p>Using alternative approaches to weed control. First local authority in Wales to purchase a Foamstream M600 which uses an organic foam mix and hot water to kill weeds. It is non-toxic, and can be used on sensitive sites and near water, reducing potential impacts on people, wildlife and the environment.</p>	<p>This technology is said to be safe in sensitive environments such as near watercourses and cost effective (as it reduces the number of weed control applications per year). The use of new techniques helps to raise awareness and engage the public within the Local Authority area on biodiversity and associated issues.</p> <p>Costs incurred in purchasing new equipment but comparable costs when in use.</p>	<p>1, 2, 3 and 4</p>
<p><u>Dŵr Cymru</u></p>	<p>Welsh Government has funded the Company's pan-Wales PestSmart Project which encourages people to consider 'smarter' ways of weed, pest and disease control that do not impact on people, water or wildlife.</p>	<p>One initiative is the <u>2020 Pesticide Disposal Scheme</u>. This is a free and confidential disposal scheme for farmers, growers, gamekeepers, foresters and land managers to safely dispose of any unwanted, out of date or unlicensed pesticides and herbicides which are difficult or expensive to dispose of.</p>	<p>4 & 6</p>

<p><u>Natural Resources Wales (NRW)</u></p>	<p>NRW integrated the actions it will take to comply with the section 6 duty into its Corporate Plan (2017-22). This has been facilitated by the production of Vital Nature which is a statement of the organisation's priorities, direction of travel and ways of working to help steer, prioritise and deliver biodiversity action.</p>	<p>Vital Nature identifies 6 priority areas one of which is <i>Investing in the knowledge and skills of our staff</i>. This includes utilising this specialist expertise to support landowners, business leaders and community groups. For example, they have rented a lowland grassland SSSI that was in a poor condition to a local Scout group. Through setting up a management plan with them the site is now actively managed which provided funding for the clearing of scrub, mowing rank grassland and the control of Himalayan Balsam. The agreement is delivering biodiversity benefits, in terms of improving the condition of the SSSI features and provides the Scouts with a site where they can camp, play outdoor games and pursue environmental projects which deliver health and well-being benefits for local groups.</p>	<p>1, 3, 4 & 6</p>
<p><u>Carmarthen-shire County Council</u></p>	<p>The Planning Division will develop a consistent approach to ensure that ecosystem resilience is promoted as part of the planning system and also within its Conservation, Minerals Forward Planning and Building Control activities.</p>	<p>For example, planning applications are assessed by CCC's planning ecologist to ensure that approvals demonstrate that it is discharging its section 6 duty. For example, the Ecological Mitigation Plan for the Bury Port Harbour Developments addressed the demolition of a pipistrelle bat roost under NRW licence, reptile (slow worm and common lizard) translocation, working outside of the bird-nesting season, and off site compensation for the loss of open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, by way of a financial contribution to the cost of managing Morfa Berwig Local Nature Reserve</p>	

		over 25 years in order to provide this habitat in perpetuity.	
<u>Dŵr Cymru</u>	The company has trialled the role of Biodiversity Champions in its wastewater business.	Twelve biodiversity champions volunteered. Their efforts have included planting native trees, bulbs and seeds; segregation of land allocated for 'wild growth' within operational sites and construction of habitats to encourage nesting and breeding of birds, insects and other wildlife. Some have worked with local schools and others have involved bodies such as RSPB, Bug Life and the Woodland Trust.	1, 3 and 6
<u>Rhondda Cynon Taff</u>	The Council identified biodiversity as one of the areas requiring greater emphasis when mapping their Corporate Plan.	This resulted in biodiversity being included in the annual Corporate Performance Reports. A biodiversity question was also included in the Service Self Evaluation that each Council Service completed in 2017 which has provided a baseline to enable the Authority to judge its performance in future years. This will also assist them when preparing their section 6 compliance report.	1, 5 & 6
<u>Natural Resources Wales (NRW)</u>	Natural Resources Wales has created a new, permanent position through their organisational design process, employing a senior invasive non-native species (INNS) project officer.	This work will help ensure the management and impacts of INNS are considered at all levels across the organisation. It has raised the profile of INNS and biosecurity issues internally and increased the capacity of NRW to influence outside organisations. The work will help to make NRW an exemplar in biosecurity, improve coordination of actions and prioritise resources.	1, 3, 4 and 6

<u>Carmarthen-shire County Council</u>	The Council implemented a planting design for a roundabout that would be sustainable and both low cost and low maintenance.	Design included replacing annual bedding plants with pollinator friendly perennials which resulted in lower annual labour costs.	3
<u>Denbighshire County Council</u>	In 2019 the Authority worked with volunteers to restore 2 ponds for Natterjack toads. They also introduced grazing to the area around the ponds to control the vegetation and create suitable habitat. In 2019, 10 spawn strings were counted.		2 & 3
<u>Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council</u>	The Council is designated Bee Friendly. The Caru Gwenyn/Bee Friendly scheme is a Wales wide initiative and encourages communities and organisations to take positive action for pollinators.	The Council use pollinator friendly flowers in their hanging baskets.	3
<u>Natural Resources Wales (NRW)</u>	<p>NRW management of Clocaenog Forest encourages the conservation of Red Squirrel and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly.</p> <p>Clocaenog is one of the three focal areas in Wales for red squirrel conservation. NRW manages the forest, in partnership with others, to support the ongoing conservation of red squirrels, for example by leaving stands of Norway spruce un-thinned and maintaining connective corridors. A population reinforcement project is currently being undertaken through the release of captive bred red squirrels.</p>	Targeted forest management practices also help support a significant population of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly which breeds and moves between the small patches of wet grassland and bog throughout the forest where the larval food plants (Marsh Violet) occur.	2 & 3
<u>Denbighshire County Council</u>	The Authority became a " Bee Friendly " local authority, with accreditation from Welsh Government. The Biodiversity Officer ran a " Bee Friendly Denbighshire " logo design contest, which was open to all schools in the county. Four winning schools were selected from hundreds of entries and	This raised awareness of pollinator decline, their bee friendly accreditation, and engaged with the hundreds of school children involved in the project.	1, 2 & 3

	<p>the Authority is now running sessions at these schools, which will focus on creating “Bee Friendly” areas within their grounds and using wildflower plants grown as part of their “Life on the Verge” project.</p>	<p>The authority now have a “Bee Friendly Denbighshire” logo, which will be used on all sites managed for pollinators in the county and the logo also helps publicise the initiative.</p>	
<p><u>Natural Resources Wales</u></p>	<p>At their offices in Maes y ffynnon they have stopped cutting the grass through the Spring and Summer in order to encourage biodiversity.</p>	<p>This has resulted in flowers and orchids, including some rare varieties, growing around the office, which in turn have attracted many insects including different species of butterflies and bumblebees. It requires little management and has had a positive impact on costs through much reduced mowing. It also has wellbeing benefits through providing a pleasant environment for staff to work or take a break in.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><u>Denbighshire County Council</u></p>	<p>Managing road verges for wildlife. Current projects include updating verge cutting policy to reduce the frequency of cuts.</p> <p>This policy now comprises a single cut each year, with approximately 1,820km (78%) of the road verge network cut after the 1st August, in order to benefit pollinating insects and allow wildflowers to set seed.</p>	<p>Produced a cost effective, safe, and biodiverse road verge network. Possible costs saving from switching from two cuts, to a single cut.</p>	<p>2 and 3</p>
<p><u>Pontyclun Community Council</u></p>	<p>The Council supports and works closely with the volunteers of Pontyclun Environment Group</p>	<p>Activities of the Group have included working with Llais y Goedwig (a community woodlands organisation) to optimise the health of woodland areas on land leased from the Council. They have also taken action to manage Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam along the River Ely and organised walks with the county ecologist so that residents can better understand and</p>	<p>1, 3 and 4</p>

		appreciate the diversity of the area.	
<u>Denbighshire County Council</u>	<p>The Local Authority have signed a service level agreement with Cofnod, the local environmental records centre, who now supply environmental records which are used when assessing planning applications.</p> <p>With the availability of high quality data and planning searches based on records of local Taxa (including section 7 species¹) provided by the Local Environmental Records Centre, this has encouraged the streamlining of processes, embedding the consideration of biodiversity in the Local Authority's functions and saving money where non-consideration of the existence of protected species may have resulted in prosecution.</p>	Cost to procure but potential saving as the Local Authority is able to provide improved advice on internal projects, and to residents who are in the process of applying for planning permission.	1, 2 and 5
<u>Torfaen County Borough Council</u>	Under their section 6 duty plan the Authority are improving data management so that GIS and all data regarding biodiversity, flood risk, wildlife corridors etc, is together and accessible for all teams	The increased availability of data at the planning stage will lead to an improved understanding of the environmental impact/benefit of projects which will have a positive impact on both strategic and day to day decisions.	1 and 5
<u>Neath and Port Talbot Borough Council</u>	The Authority has a programme which identifies sites that qualify as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Each site will be assessed against national guidelines and will be reviewed within 10 years.	The data collected will be used to update the QGIS layer and this information will be shared with South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre.	5
<u>Carmarthen-shire County Council</u>	The Biodiversity Officer met with teachers at a local primary school to discuss management of their school grounds to enhance the site for biodiversity.	This led to more diverse grassland areas with more species able to flower for longer within the school's grounds, greater ecological connectivity and ecological resilience and opportunities created for teaching about ecosystems	1 & 3

<u>Welsh Government</u>	The Welsh Government contracted the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) to create a Wales specific invasive non-native species (INNS) portal on the online NBN Atlas Wales.	The Portal provides a unique facility to view and search for INNS of interest to Wales. The INNS Portal includes over 300 terrestrial, freshwater and marine species of interest to Wales and allows species occurrences and distribution to be searched for and downloaded individually or collectively by list . The data is freely available for non-commercial use and stakeholders are invited to help keep records up to date through the iRecord App or the LERC Wales App .	5
<u>Cardiff University</u>	Through the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan evidence will be embedded into biodiversity decision making through a number of actions. These include two-way sharing of data with the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre and using ecologically trained staff and students in a voluntary capacity to collect evidence on trends in biodiversity across the University's estate.		5
<u>Dŵr Cymru</u>	The company introduced a Biodiversity Funding Scheme to support not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects that aim to deliver biodiversity benefits within the company's operational boundary where there is some link to Dŵr Cymru's activities. The company also supports small scale biodiversity actions by local communities, through its Community Fund.	Examples of the schemes supported by the company include a couple of initiatives to encourage communities to support nature in their local watercourses; native bluebell planting in parts of Cardiff; improvements to protected wetlands in West Wales and projects to target invasive non-native species.	5
<u>National Grid</u>	The company have developed a Natural Capital tool that utilises third party data to provide indicative financial values associated with the	This has enabled them to make better and more sustainable decisions and identify new opportunities to increase the	5

	<p>provision of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, local air quality benefits, recreation and flood management.</p>	<p>provision of these services through proactive management, collaboration and community engagement.</p>	
<p><u>Carmarthenshire County Council</u></p>	<p>The Local Authority has produced guidance for Town and Community Councils (TCCs) to help them comply with their section 6 duty.</p> <p>This will support TCCs to deliver on their section 6 duty as well as local authority grounds maintenance teams with the intention that more land will be managed for biodiversity and costs might be reduced due to more sustainable cutting and planting regimes.</p>	<p>They also collaborated with the National Botanic Garden of Wales through their Growing the Future Project , to run a 1-day workshop with contributions from elsewhere in the UK with delegates from Carmarthenshire and neighbouring authorities. The aim was to inspire and provide examples to local TCCs on managing their green space for public enjoyment, biodiversity and pollinators.</p>	<p>3 and 6</p>