

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 *The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty*

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council:	Whitland Town Council
<u>Group:</u>	

Introduction and Context

Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, sets out the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty under which, all local authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in in the exercise of its functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

Whitland Town Council recognises its duty under Section 6 of the Environment Act 2006, to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

The Council seeks to integrate biodiversity considerations into its decision-making processes and the management of any land or assets under its control. Where appropriate and proportionate, the Council will take steps to protect and enhance wildlife and habitats, including through land management practices, support for local initiatives, and consideration of biodiversity impacts when commenting on planning matters.

The duty also aligns with the Town Council's wider responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, contributing to a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment, and strong, cohesive communities across Wales.

The Council will keep its biodiversity actions under review and work with partners and the community where possible to support local nature recovery.

Action Report 2023 - 2025			
NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...		Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	-Biodiversity considered in reports relating to: • Grounds maintenance • Land management • Community projects • Biodiversity implications noted in minutes where relevant • Planning responses consider impacts on wildlife and habitats	Clerk
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	- Review of BAP on Agenda's - Publish BAP on Councils Website	Clerk
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	-Avoidance of works during nesting seasons where possible - Planning comments reflect impacts on habitats and protected species - Referral to ecological advice where needed - Installation of bird or insect boxes	Clerk
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	- Manage hedgerows sensitively (cut less frequently, outside nesting season) - Retain dead wood where safe to do so - Establish wildflower areas using native seed mixes - Encourage planting that connects parks, Land and open spaces - Manage footpath verges as wildlife corridors - Include biodiversity requirements in maintenance contracts - Support community biodiversity projects -Introduction of the Planting programme funded by Carmarthenshire County Council, to commence January 2026 -A new grant from Carmarthenshire County Council has enabled the installation of new planters in Whitland town to support planting and enhancing biodiversity	Clerk



4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	- Encourage responsible waste management and litter reduction - Minimise use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilisers - Use wildflower planting to support pollinators - Avoid planting known invasive species -Manage invasive species on council-owned land where feasible -Ensure contractors follow biosecurity good practice -Report significant invasive species to the appropriate authority	Clerk
5	-use improve and share evidence	-Review BAP Annually and publish on Councils website	Clerk
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	-Support community biodiversity or environmental projects -Share information about local nature initiatives - Raise councillor and staff awareness of biodiversity duties - Keep informed of local biodiversity strategies and guidance	Clerk



Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025

What has worked well?	-The newly 5000 planted crocuses plus wild flowers on the roundabouts in Whitland has attracted pollinators and has helped strengthen local ecological networks. - The inclusion of a Biodiversity Action Plan has increased the Council's awareness of the local nature network and enhanced understanding of local biodiversity -The community shed has worked well, with dedicated volunteers supporting planting, maintenance and other biodiversity enhancing activities
What have the barriers been?	- The main barriers have been limited resources and capacity, including time, funding, and access to specialist expertise. As a town council, actions must be proportionate and balanced against other statutory responsibilities.
What will you change?	- The Council will build on existing good practice by taking a more structured and consistent approach to biodiversity, embedding it more clearly into decision-making, land management, and partnership working. - Clear instructions to LA at start of season and use of 'It's for them' signage to indicative areas of no mow
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	The Section 6 duty will be monitored through the Council's routine decision-making, land management activities, and review of actions set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan. Progress will be considered and reviewed through Council meetings on an annual basis, with updates reported to Members as appropriate. The Biodiversity Action Plan will be reviewed and updated as required, or at least every three years, to ensure it remains proportionate and relevant.



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Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	- that own or occupy an office building only and - whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	- that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, - whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or - that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity 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



Adrodd ar Adran 6

Cynghorau Tref a Chynghorau Cymuned

Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 Rhan 1 – Adran 6
Y Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau

Adroddiad 2025	
Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau	
Enw y Cyngor Tref neu Gymuned:	
<u>Grŵp:</u>	
Cyflwyniad a'r Cyd-destun <i>Disgrifiad byr o'r Cyngor, ei swyddogaethau a'r cyd-destun o ran</i> <i>sut y gallai helpu bioamrywiaeth (trwy ei swyddogaethau rheoli tir, cyllid grant, gweithgareddau addysgol e.e.)</i> <i>graddfa ofodol a lle (e.e. faint o dir mae'n ei gynnwys, poblogaeth, praesept?)</i> <i>cyflawni gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd (e.e. a yw'n destun Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol?)</i>	



Adroddiad Gweithredu 2023 - 2025

Amcan NRAP	Camau gweithredu i...		Wedi eu monitro gan:
1	-cynnwys bioamrywiaeth o fewn llunio penderfyniadau a chaffael		
	-codi ymwybyddiaeth o fioamrywiaeth a'i bwysigrwydd		
2	-diogelu prif rywogaethau a chynefinoedd		
3	-adfer & chreu cynefinoedd a rhwydweithiau ecolegol cydnerth		
4	-mynd i'r afael ag elfennau negyddol: lleihau llygredd e.e. defnyddio atebion yn seiliedig ar natur, mynd i'r afael â rhywogaethau goresgynnol		
5	-defnyddio gwella a rhannu tystiolaeth		
6	-cefnogi capasiti ac/neu sefydliadau eraill		



Arolwg o ddyletswydd Adran 6 2023 - 2025

Beth sydd wedi gweithio'n dda?	
Beth fu'r rhwystrau?	
Beth fyddwch yn ei newid?	
Sut a phryd fydd y ddyletswydd Adran 6 yn cael ei monitro a'r cynllun Adran 6 wedi'i adolygu?	



Grŵp	Disgrifiad o sefydliad mewn perthynas â bioamrywiaeth Sefydliadau:	Camau Gweithredu Sylfaenol	Enghreifftiau	Amcanion NRAP ar gyfer Adrodd ar gamau Gweithredu (Gweler Templedi)
1	- sy'n berchen neu'n meddiannu adeilad swyddfa yn unig - ac nad yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig yn uniongyrchol â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir.	Camau sy'n gysylltiedig a rheoli adeiladau, caffael, cynaliadwyedd, codi ymwybyddiaeth, hyfforddiant, neu mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau eraill.	Comisynau, DVLA	Amcanion NRAP: 1, 4, a 6
2	- sy'n berchen yn meddiannu neu'n rheoli eu adeiladau a'u tir eu hunain, - y mae eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig a bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir, neu - sy'n gallu dylanwadu ar y rhai sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir.	Fel Grŵp 1 uchod A rheoli tir, rhedru meini prawf cyllido, darparu addysg a hyfforddiant	Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru, Prifysgolion, Chwaraeon Cymru	Amcanion NRAP: 1, 4, a 6 <i>fel uchod +</i> Amcanion NRAP: 2, 3, a 5 <i>yn ymwneud â thir y sefydliad</i>
3	sy'n berchen ar dir neu'n rheoli tir y tu hwnt i'w tir eu hunain, waeth a yw eu swyddogaethau'n gysylltiedig â bioamrywiaeth a/neu reoli tir ai peidio.	Fel Grŵpiau 1 a 2 uchod A rheoli tir er mwyn cynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth, a hyrwyddo cydnheredd ecosystemau.	Dŵr Cymru, Awdurdodau Lleol, CNC, Llywodraeth Cymru	Holl amcanion NRAP: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 a 6

Mae **Cyllun Gweithredu Adfer Natur Cymru (NRAP)** yn gosod chwe amcan ar gyfer gwrthdroi dirywiad bioamrywiaeth a dylid eu defnyddio i helpu i ddatblygu ac arwain gweithredoedd i gydymffurfio â dyletswydd adran 6:

Y **6 amcan** i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth yw:

- Amcan 1:** Ymgysylltu a chynorthwyo cyfranogi a dealltwriaeth er mwyn gwreiddio bioamrywiaeth ledled y penderfyniadau a wneir ar bob lefel
- Amcan 2:** Diogelu'r rhywogaethau a'r cynefinoedd pwysicaf, a gwella'r modd y'u rheolir
- Amcan 3:** Cynyddu cydnheredd ein hamgylchedd naturiol trwy adfer cynefinoedd a ddiraddiwyd, a chreu cynefinoedd
- Amcan 4:** Mynd i'r afael â'r pwysau allweddol sydd ar rywogaethau a chynefinoedd
- Amcan 5:** Gwella ein tystiolaeth, ein dealltwriaeth a'n systemau monitro
- Amcan 6:** Sefydlu fframwaith llywodraethu a chymorth ar gyfer cyflenwi