



Conwy County Borough Council

Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Delivery Plan

Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016
2023 - 2026

This plan identifies Conwy County Borough Council's commitment and the approach that will be taken by the Authority over the period of the plan in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and reversing its decline.

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

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Document Control

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Council Approval

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Responsibility for the Plan

The responsibility for the delivery of and updating of this plan are shown below

Council Officer	Responsible for
Strategic Environment Officer	Ensuring compliance with the plan and updating of the plan.

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2 Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to document the Council's commitment across its services in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and reversing its decline. The plan shows how the Council aims to meet its duties and documents the methods used to ensure that actions are being appropriately monitored and managed.

Background to the Plan - Biodiversity

Biodiversity relates to the diversity of life including all species of plants and animals, their abundance and genetic diversity. Without biodiversity, our planet cannot survive as nature forms our planet's life support system, making the human race both dependent upon and accountable for the survival and richness of biodiversity. The quality of our everyday lives depends upon ecosystem services which ecosystems provide in everyday life through our food, water, air, building materials, medicines and landscape.

Ecosystem services are the benefits that ecosystems provide and make human life both possible and worth living. These benefits are categorised as:

- **Provisioning Services** - Tangible products we receive from ecosystems including e.g. Food, Fibre, Genetic resources, biochemical, natural medicines and pharmaceuticals, ornamental resources
- **Regulating Services** - Climate regulation facilitated by ecosystem processes including, for example, air quality, carbon storage, climate regulation, water regulation, disease regulation, pest regulation, pollination, natural hazard regulation
- **Cultural Services** - Non-material benefits we gain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation and aesthetic experiences such as spiritual and religious values, health & well-being, knowledge systems, inspiration, aesthetic values, social relations, recreation and tourism, cultural heritage values.
- **Supporting Services** - All the services that are compulsory to allow ecosystems to function which are the foundation to provisioning, regulating and cultural services. These services include: soil formation, photosynthesis, nutrient cycling, water cycling

Unfortunately, humans as a species are causing biodiversity to decline as a direct result of human impacts, through habitat loss and degradation, over-exploitation, pollution, climate change and invasive non-native species. It is no surprise then that ecosystem degradation threatens our most basic necessity – **a healthy environment to live and thrive in.**

3 Legislation, Legal Frameworks & National Plans/ Policies

Welsh Government has recognised all the benefits that are provided by plants, animals, microorganisms and the places where they live, and aims to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales through legislative frameworks.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires that every public body in Wales must:

- Maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.
- In doing so, take account of the resilience of ecosystems.
- Prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the Section 6 duty
- Publish a report, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year thereafter, on what it has done to comply with the Section 6 duty.

This Section 6 duty plan forms part of a suite of national and local plans which together drive the implementation of the principles and obligations required by the Environment Act. While it focuses on Conwy County Borough Council's obligations regarding biodiversity maintenance and enhancement, it must be read in the context of this agenda across Wales, and other Conwy plans and policies regarding the environment, since these all affect its aspirations and successful outcomes.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 has been designed to complement the goals of the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by applying the principles of sustainable development to the management of Wales' natural resources. Biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems provide natural solutions that build resilience, which in turn help society create jobs, support livelihoods and human well-being, adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and contribute to sustainable development. For more details of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 please see Appendix 1.

The principal plans and policies are listed below:

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)

The Welsh Government published the national biodiversity strategy "The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 20-21" in December 2015 with the ambition to 'reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society'. It is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Wales. The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) builds on the new legislative framework and sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the UN convention on biological diversity, the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 20 associated Aichi targets which is a short term framework for action, as well as the EU biodiversity strategy to "halt the decline in our biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline".

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The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales focuses on 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales. Actions to reverse the decline of biodiversity are set out under each objective.

- 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

The actions are allocated to specific partners including public bodies and local nature partnerships who are considered key partners for delivery. Welsh Government guidance states that public bodies should consider basing their Section 6 duty plan on the NRAP. Welsh Government's latest Section 6 Duty Plan was published online 20 December 2022.

Natural Resources Wales conducted a recent questionnaire 6-21st July 2023 to understand views surrounding the current Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales 21-22 to help learn lessons and enable development of a strategy to meet the global requirements and Biodiversity Deep Dive recommendations through a Team Wales approach.

Welsh Government S6 Duty Plan 30x30 Target: Wales Biodiversity Deep Dive

During 2022 Welsh Government with a group of key experts and practitioners undertook a Biodiversity Deep Dive to develop a set of collective actions we can take in Wales to support nature's recovery. The 30x30 target was chosen as a strategic focus for the purpose of the deep dive to consider where and how action could be accelerated. 30x30 refers to protecting and effectively managing at least 30% of our land freshwater and sea for nature by 2030. It is one of a number of targets which form part of the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) agreed at UN Biodiversity Conference 2022 (COP15).

The group identified key themes and recommendations for specific actions with the recommendations comprising of a mixture of new actions to be taken immediately, scaling up and acceleration of existing schemes, and longer-term actions that will deliver benefits throughout this Senedd term and beyond. During the Biodiversity Deep Dive, the Minister for Climate Change agreed to revise the Natural Resources Policy and our National Biodiversity Strategy (currently the Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales 20-21) to reflect Deep Dive recommendations and post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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Key themes and recommendations:

- i. Transform our protected sites series so that it is better, bigger, and more effectively connected
- ii. Marine (Acceleration of action to complete an ecologically coherent Marine Protected Area)
- iii. Create a framework to recognise Nature Recovery Exemplar Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) that deliver biodiversity outcomes
- iv. Unlock the potential of designated landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to deliver more for nature
- v. Continue to reform land and marine management and planning (including spatial) to deliver more for both protected sites and wider land / seascapes
- vi. Build a strong foundation for future delivery through capacity building, behaviour change, awareness raising and skills development
- vii. Unlock private investment to deliver for nature at far greater scale and pace.
- viii. Develop and adapt monitoring and evidence frameworks to measure progress towards the 30 by 30 target and guide prioritisation of action
- ix. Strategic leadership

Kumming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

A new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was agreed at UN Biodiversity Conference 2022 (COP15) in December 2022. All parties, which includes the UK, are required to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy to outline their approach to meeting the four long term goals and 23 targets set out in the new framework to be achieved by 2030. The framework's four long-term goals are outlined below:

Goal A

- The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050;
- Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold, and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;
- The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

Goal B

- Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development, for the benefit of

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present and future generations by 2050.

Goal C

- The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

Goal D

- Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework are secured and equitably accessible to all parties, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

Given the imperative, the time for Conwy County Borough Council to act is now ...

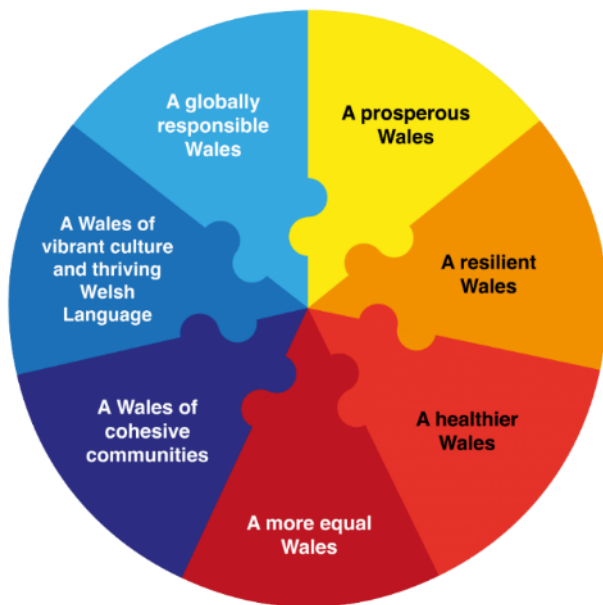
- Wales needs to deliver a decade of action if we are to become nature positive.
- Recommended actions, associated guidance and policy is likely to be forthcoming from Welsh Government and NRW through NRAP Wales revision and Biodiversity Deep Dive recommendations throughout the term of this S6 plan which will likely influence appropriate action over and above that agreed here.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a duty on the public bodies listed in the Act to carry out sustainable development to achieve the seven well-being goals. In doing so, they must demonstrate new ways of working which show that they have applied the sustainable development principle.

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The table below demonstrates how our natural resources support the seven well-being goals:

<i>A prosperous Wales</i>	Natural resources provide opportunities for employment and economic activity. For example, wildlife and outdoor activity tourism to Wales provides around 206,000 jobs and is estimated to be worth £6.2 billion. In 2013, over 3.5 million visitors to our coastline brought £602 million to the economy, with growth predicted at 10%. Wales' three National Parks attract 12 million visitors every year who spend £1 billion on goods and services.
<i>A resilient Wales</i>	A resilient Wales has been defined as a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
<i>A healthier Wales</i>	Nature makes a significant contribution to the physical health and mental well-being of people in Wales. For example, trees help to absorb pollutants and improve air quality, which if poor can impact on people's health. Access to nature and greenspace has positive impacts on physical and mental health.
<i>A more equal Wales</i>	Equal access to nature and natural resources contributes to equality in Wales. At present, access is not equally distributed (for example, not everyone lives close to greenspace, and some people live in areas with better air quality than others.)
<i>A Wales of cohesive communities</i>	Involving communities in the management of their local parks and woodlands has been shown to improve community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour.
<i>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</i>	Landscapes have played a significant role in the development of distinct cultural practices, such as local building techniques relying on local materials, along with locally specific art and literature.
<i>A globally responsible Wales</i>	The environment supplies all our material resources but we must ensure that as a country we use only our fair share.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act thus recognises the importance of nature and biodiversity, and

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working towards the well-being goals, particularly the goal of a resilient Wales, will help with nature recovery objectives in Wales.

Relevant Council Plans and Documents

This plan is part of a suite of documents that support the Council's approach to managing nature and services. These include: Tree Policy, Aash Dieback Action Plan, Feral Goat Management Plan and biodiversity management plans. Other key plans that link directly into this plan are summarised below.

Conwy Corporate Plan 2017-2022

The Vision in the Corporate Plan is 'Conwy- a progressive County creating opportunity'. To deliver this vision, the Cabinet will strive for Conwy to be a prosperous, connected fair and sustainable County where wellbeing, equality, concern for the environment and our culture underpin decision-making and improve lives. The Corporate plan lists eight citizen outcomes including 'People in Conwy are healthy and active' and 'People in Conwy value and look after the environment'. The need to work sustainably is also recognised as a cross-cutting theme: 'Across all areas of work we will ensure that we aim to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations. We will endeavour to make the best decisions we can in the light of the financial restraints we face.' These, and the other citizen outcomes, are aligned to the well-being of future generations goals listed above.

The Corporate Plan is supported by a large number of more detailed plans and this Section 6 Duty Plan once adopted will be one of these supporting plans, contributing in particular to the cross-cutting theme of working sustainably and the citizen outcomes of people living healthy lives and valuing and looking after the environment.

Conwy County Borough Council Environmental Policy

This policy document details the actions which the Council will undertake to ensure that it is working sustainably. It lists a number of environmental commitments, some of which relate directly to delivery of the Section 6 duty:

- Identify and comply with all relevant environmental legislation;
- Conserve and enhance the County's biodiversity and habitats;
- Minimise pollution of air, water and land from the Council's own activities and seek to minimise pollution from other sources;
- Continuously raise awareness and understanding of environmental issues amongst staff, members, suppliers, partners and the wider community, promoting the benefits of being more environmentally responsible and behaving more sustainably;

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- Continuously improve our environmental performance, implementing objectives and targets to measure this.

Conwy County Borough Council Impacts on Biodiversity: Review and Improvement Plan

In 2011 the Council undertook a biodiversity improvement project to review which council activities could be having impacts on biodiversity, what steps could be taken to improve performance in this area, and what opportunities existed to undertake positive action. The project was undertaken in consultation with representatives of all council services. The outcome was a Biodiversity Review and Improvement Plan (BRIP) which was agreed by the project board and the identified actions allotted to the relevant service areas to implement.

The outcomes and actions from the Biodiversity Review and Improvement Plan (BRIP) address the requirements of the Section 6 duty with which the Council now has to comply. They have however been reviewed and updated for this plan in the context of new and updated plans and policy developments and new Council structures and ways of working. The actions have additionally been cross referenced with the objectives from the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP).

It is recognised that some of the aspirational recommendations of the Biodiversity Review and Improvement Plan may require additional resources and cannot be progressed until appropriate funding is secured.

Scope

This plan has been written in response to Conwy County Borough Council's legal duty, as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. This duty is referred to in the Act as the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty and is commonly referred to as the section 6 duty or the biodiversity duty.

The Council is required to prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the duty. There is a further requirement under the Act that, before the end of 2019, and before the end of every third year after 2019, all public authorities must publish a report on what they have done to comply with the S6 duty. This plan combines the two requirements and incorporates a report on existing action as well as proposals for future action.

4 Conwy's Biodiversity

Conwy has a wealth of wildlife living in a wide diversity of habitats. The variety of rocks and soils, landform, aspect and elevation supports an equal variety of semi-natural habitats, from alpine scree to grasslands, woodlands, freshwater lakes, streams and rivers, tidal estuaries and coastal habitats, as well as the more modified habitats of permanent pasture and planted conifer forest.



Eight of the 14 highest mountains of Wales – those over 3000 feet - are found in Conwy, while the Afon Conwy, from which the Council gets its name, flows from an upland moorland plateau to the sands of Conwy Bay, just 20 miles (33km) due north. The river flows through the acid soils of the heather moorland, through the dramatic Conwy falls before reaching the flat and fertile valley floodplain north of Betws-y-Coed, and becoming tidal just north of Llanrwst. Other notable landscape features which add to the richness of Conwy's biodiversity are: the belt of limestone outcrops stretching along the coast from near the Denbighshire border at Abergele and culminating in the spectacular and wildlife rich headland of the Great Orme; the flat grazing marsh of Morfa Rhuddlan; and the rolling farmland of much of the County Borough with its permanent pasture, network of hedges and ancient valley woodlands and the rivers Elwy, Aled and Alwen.



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Each of the above habitats is utilised by specific animals such as the salmon and sea trout on the Afon Conwy; the rare silver studded blue butterfly of the Great Orme; the wood warblers and pied flycatchers of ancient oak woodland; the hen harriers which breed on high moorland; and the wintering curlew and oystercatcher which gather to feed on the mudflats of Traeth Lafan.



On the coast, in the intertidal areas and shallow waters beyond lies a parallel richness of habitats and wildlife. Close to shore lie intertidal sands and mudflats, the latter supporting significant numbers of wading birds on passage and in winter while rockier shores give home to other specialist dwellers. Below the reach of the tides lie sublittoral sands and gravels which are exploited by bristle worms and bivalve molluscs, these in turn providing food for large concentrations of diving waterfowl.

In Conwy, the narrow coastal belt houses 85% of the County Borough's population, leaving the rest of the 113,000 hectares sparsely populated. Approximately 38% of the area, 4% of the population and all the highest mountains lie within the Eryri National Park (ENP). Yet outside ENP, priority habitats cover just 15% of the land area (this figure rises to 36% in the ENP). And these remaining areas of semi natural habitat are by no means secure. In Conwy, across Wales, and around the world, wildlife is being threatened by modern lifestyles. Threats include new developments and urbanisation in response to demands from an ever-increasing population; changing farming practices; changes brought about by climate change; declines in response to nitrogen deposition from intensive agricultural systems and other emissions; and increasing fragmentation of the remaining habitats.

Two of Conwy's main industries, namely agriculture and tourism, are closely interlinked with and dependent upon the natural environment. It is essential that biodiversity, which is a key component of that natural environment, is protected and enhanced so it can continue to underpin our lives and livelihoods.

5 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Delivery Plan Action Plan

Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
Corporate Issues, Policies and Plans (NRAP Objective 6)					
P1	Ensure that biodiversity conservation is embedded as a core component of Conwy's <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Business Improvement		
P2	Ensure biodiversity impacts and opportunities are considered when developing or reviewing policies, strategies, plans or programmes and in project management.	All			
P3	Biodiversity conservation is incorporated into existing plans, policies and programmes.	All Environment, Roads and Facilities Department			
P4	Ensure biodiversity actions are included in the service plan template	Corporate Performance and Improvement Environment, Roads and Facilities Department			

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
P5	Consider declaring a Nature Emergency alongside Climate Change as the defining issues of our time and the greatest threat to our well-being, globally and locally.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Democracy			
P6	Encourage recognition of biodiversity as a key component of achieving the environmental resilience goal.	All, led by Corporate Performance and Improvement	Corporate Performance and Improvement		
P7	CCBC to develop and deliver biodiversity measures with other public bodies, businesses and community groups across Conwy county.	All			
P8	Optimise the synergy between biodiversity and other environmental projects such as Green Dragon EMS, Carbon Reduction Programme, Natural Flood Risk Management, Green Infrastructure and any other initiatives.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Green Programme Board Regulatory Services	Business Improvement Open Spaces (Nature/ Countryside) Flood Risk Planning		
P9	Review internal procedures and produce supplementary planning guidance for planners and developers to ensure that planning obligations and conditions which require measures to ensure net biodiversity benefit are always met.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Regulatory Services	Open Spaces (Nature/ Countryside) Planning/ Planning Policy		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
P10	Ensure that targeted changes to Planning Policy Wales on net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystems resilience to be published late 2023 Local Development Plan policy NTE/3 to conserve and enhance biodiversity are taken into account appropriately where relevant.	Regulatory Services	Planning		
P11	Develop a programme to adopt the opportunities to improve ecological resilience of Conwy's landscapes identified within the Green Infrastructure Assessment linking into other related plans, projects, policies and strategies including the Active Travel Plan, Tree and nature policies, further supplementary planning guidance and grant funded projects.				
P12	Review procurement policies which could have biodiversity implications elsewhere	All	Audit & Procurement		
P13	Ensure all frontline staff undertake mandatory biodiversity safeguarding training every 3 years	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department All			
P14	Write and implement a strategic Tree Policy (to include woodlands,street trees,orchards,hedgerows,orchards)	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces Planning Policy		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
P15	Create a resilient practical and technical Nature/Countryside team to drive implementation of this plan and improve delivery standards	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside)		
P16	Assess the potential of Council estate currently proposed for disposal to deliver biodiversity and ecosystem resilience , Green Infrastructure, Decarbonisation,30x30 ,Natural Flood risk management and Wellbeing of Future Generations strategic aims. Where potential realise this through grant aid long term funding mechanisms or lease to third sector	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Economy and Culture	Open Spaces Estates and Asset Management		
P17	Explore resourced opportunities as they arise to adopt land or other assets that serve biodiversity and ecosystem resilience , GI, Decarbonisation,30x30 ,Natural Flood risk management and Wellbeing of Future Generation strategic aims	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside)		
Site Management and Species Protection (NRAP Objectives 2 & 4)					
S1	Ensure that management of Council land maintains and enhances the extent, condition and connectivity of the semi natural habitats and species of conservation concern it supports and contributes to Welsh and local priorities	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Economy and Culture	Open Spaces Management Team Estates		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
S2	Ensure standard guidance and procedures to incorporate appropriate consideration of biodiversity during the early stages of proposed schemes affecting buildings, structures, vegetation, land and water are available to all staff.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Information Technology and Digital Transformation	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team) Communication Team Digital Transformation Team		
S3	Develop and document operational procedures for work on trees, hedges and scrub with respect to protected species, important hedgerows and Tree Protection Orders (TPOs).	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces Management Team		
S4	Undertake baseline habitat condition assessments across all the Council Local Nature Reserve's to create new 5 year habitat management plans that will document operational procedures and requirements for managing nature sites.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department			
S5	Develop, document and communicate to the public a nature engagement calendar as a framework for raising awareness on nature throughout the year during key periods.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		

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S6	Document and publicise invasive species on the Council website.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces Management Team		
S7	Record and publish an asset register of biosites, sensory gardens and ponds.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces Management Team		
S8	Review historical byelaws relating to land managed by Open Spaces to ensure historical byelaws are reflective of current management needs, with a view of adding byelaws to protect sites of ecological importance	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces Management Team		
S7	Ensure that biodiversity enhancement opportunities arising from new Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) schemes are maximized	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Flood Risk & Infrastructure		
S13	Ensure that staff receive appropriate training and are aware of where to access further guidance	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department All	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team) Management Team		
S14	Deliver advice and/or training to third parties as appropriate	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		

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S15	Audit Council facilities for potential to support and enhance protected species conservation e.g installation of swift colony boxes on appropriate buildings	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
S16	Deliver actions to meet aim of minimising risk of Pesticides to environment and human health aligned with the <i>National Action Plan on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides</i> (WELSH GOVERNMENT publication due late 2023)	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
Habitat Improvement on the CCBC Estate (NRAP Objective 3)					
E1	Review grass cutting policy to reduce grass cutting operations and increase biodiversity sites across the County.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces Management Team		
E2	Identify and target funding opportunities to implement habitat creation, restoration and enhancement measures across Council managed land.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	All		
E3	Reapply for bee friendly accreditation annually and ensure the actions are implemented.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Countryside Team)		
E4	Continue to ensure that conservation objectives and actions are included in Green Flag and beech management plans whenever appropriate.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Countryside Team)		

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E5	Promote adoption of voluntary actions by staff to support wildlife at Conwy County Borough Council offices and sites.	All	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
E6	Ensure opportunities for biodiversity enhancements are always explored when site -based projects are undertaken	All, led by Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team) Flood Risk All Project Managers		
E7	Develop a protocol to identify and manage veteran trees of the future in Conwy County Borough Council open spaces.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Tree Team)		
E8	Ensure that actions taken in relation to ash dieback avoids and mitigates adverse biodiversity impacts as far as possible	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside/Tree Team)		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
Use and Development of Biodiversity Data (NRAP Objective 5)					
D1	Utilise data held by Cofnod – North Wales Environmental Information Service through a Service Level Agreement to inform CCBC regulatory and operational activities	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
D2	Continue to facilitate ecological survey data submitted in support of planning applications and projects to be uploaded to Cofnod.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
D3	Incorporate a requirement for ecological consultants, commissioned by Conwy County Borough Council to conduct ecological surveys, to submit the resulting data to Cofnod.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Consultancy Flood Risk & Infrastructure		
D4	Consider conducting/commission further survey on Conwy County Borough Council land prioritised for biodiversity improvement, where beneficial.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
D5	Monitor Protected species mitigation/compensation features created through Council plans/projects post completion to provide design feedback loop e.g artificial bat roosts / Sabillera translocation	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Consultants Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside)		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
Awareness, Education and Advice (NRAP Objective 1)					
A1	Develop and document operational procedures regarding advising applicants of species protection issues in discharging regulatory duties including reviewing and revising existing procedures and developing and publishing guidance through Building Control to applicants.	Regulatory Services Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Planning Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
A2	Develop an online biodiversity information Centre via the Council's intranet and internet website to provide guidance on and engage the wider community in Conwy County Borough Council measures to conserve Conwy's biodiversity.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department Information Technology and Digital Transformation Team	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team) Communications Team Digital Transformation Team		
A3	Ensure that public information activities take due account of biodiversity matters as projects are undertaken	Regulatory Services All	Planning		
A4	Explore ways of keeping biodiversity as a high profile matter across Conwy County Borough Council sites and departments	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Countryside Team) Communications Team		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
A5	Support Council departments in their implementation of biodiversity improvement actions ensuring the provision of advisory and practical support.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
A6	Raise awareness of biodiversity within the community including the delivery of a wildlife events programme and regular utilisation of social media to raise awareness of biodiversity and related issues.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team) Communications Team		
A7	Seek resource and explore opportunities to enable the delivery of educational events on Council-managed nature reserves, particularly on the Great Orme	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
A8	Continue to educate relevant recreational communities on how to avoid adversely impacting vulnerable marine and coastal species.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Harbours		
A9	Provide opportunities for students and volunteers to contribute to nature reserve management and gain skills and experience.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		

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Ref	Action	Department	Section	Status	Notes
Working with the Community (NRAP Objectives 2,3 & 4)					
C1	Explore opportunities for enabling volunteering on nature reserves, parks and beaches to all members of the community when possible and actively work with friends groups.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		
C2	Work in partnership where possible to deliver biodiversity gains through specific projects by continuing to involve and support Friends groups and other organisations wherever possible and as resources allow.	Environment, Roads and Facilities Department	Open Spaces (Nature/Countryside Team)		

Appendix 1

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 has been designed to complement the goals of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by applying the principles of sustainable development to the management of Wales' natural resources. Biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems provide natural solutions that build resilience, which in turn help society create jobs, support livelihoods and human well-being, adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and contribute to sustainable development.

The Act puts the ecosystem approach into statute through a set of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) principles. There are 3 main constituents to Part 1 of the Environment Act:

1. The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) - A report produced by Natural Resources Wales that gives an assessment of natural resources and how well Wales is doing to manage them in a sustainable way
2. Natural Resources Policy - A policy produced by Welsh Government that sets out the priorities, risks and opportunities for managing natural resources sustainably. The policy takes into account the findings of the State of Natural Resources report
3. Area Statements –A local evidence base produced by Natural Resources Wales which helps to implement the priorities, risks and opportunities identified in the National Policy and how NRW intends to address these (not yet published in October 2018).

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Act requires that

1. A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.
2. In complying with subsection (1), a public authority must take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects—
 - a) diversity between and within ecosystems;
 - b) the connections between and within ecosystems;
 - c) the scale of ecosystems;
 - d) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
 - e) the adaptability of ecosystems.

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3. Subsection (1) does not apply to—
 - a) the exercise of a function by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, or
 - b) the exercise of a judicial function of a court or tribunal.
4. In complying with subsection (1)—
 - a) the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister for Wales, the Counsel General to the Welsh Government, a Minister of the Crown and a government department must have regard to the United Nations Environmental Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, and
 - b) any other public authority must have regard to any guidance given to it by the Welsh Ministers.
5. In complying with subsection (1), a public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must have regard to—
 - a) the list published under section 7;
 - b) the state of natural resources report published under section 8;
 - c) any area statement published under section 11 for an area that includes all or part of an area in relation to which the authority exercises functions.
6. A public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with subsection (1).
7. A public authority must, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what it has done to comply with subsection (1).
8. A public authority that has published a plan under subsection (6)—
 - a) must review the plan in the light of each report that it publishes under subsection (7), and
 - b) may revise the plan at any time.

Explanatory notes

Biodiversity means the diversity of living organisms, whether at the genetic, species or ecosystem level.

Ecosystems comprise communities of plants and animals, together with the non-living physical characteristics of their environment (e.g. geology, soil and climate) interlinked together as an ecological system through nutrient flows and energy cycles.

Ecosystem resilience is dependent on:

- Diversity of species and habitats within and between ecosystems
- Size and extent of the ecosystem. The greater the extent of an ecosystem the more able it will be able to cope with disturbance, e.g. the larger the area of habitat is, the larger the populations of species it can support, so they will be more genetically diverse and are less

likely to become extinct.

- Condition of the ecosystem. If an ecosystem is in poor condition it will be stressed and have a reduced capacity to resist, recover or adapt to new disturbances or to deliver ecosystem services.
- Connection and linkages between and within ecosystems. This usually applies to movement of organisms – from foraging for food to dispersal of seeds and genes, as well as movement in response to climate change. Good connectivity allows ecosystems to recover from disturbance more easily. Connectivity can be reduced through habitat loss, fragmentation and barriers to movement.
- Adaptability to change (for example, climate change) is a vital part of resilience since it allows ecosystems to adapt to change, such as climate change. All the other aspects of resilience form the basis which allows successful adaptation to take place.

References

1. Priority Habitats of Wales, a technical guide, edited by PS Jones, DP Stevens, TH Blackstock, CR Burrows & EA Howe published by Countryside Council for Wales 2003
2. [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
3. [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#)
4. [The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales](#)
5. Conwy Corporate Plan 2017-2022
6. Conwy County Borough Council Environmental Policy 2017
<https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Corporate-Plan/assets/documents/Environmental-Policy.pdf>