

Torfaen County Borough Council
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan
2025 – 2030
Nature Positive by 2030



Conservation Grazing at Garn Lakes LNR. Photo credit: J Howells

Reviewed by TCBC 2025



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1.Foreword – Joint Statement from Cllr Mandy Owen, Executive Member for Environment, and Cllr Sue Morgan, Executive Member for Waste and Sustainability.



We are proud to introduce Torfaen County Borough Council’s Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan (BERP) for 2025–2030. This plan represents more than a statutory requirement—it is our shared commitment to safeguarding the natural world that sustains our communities, supports our well-being, and shapes the character of Torfaen for generations to come.

In recent years, the urgency of both the **Nature Emergency** and the **Climate Emergency** has become increasingly clear. Declining species, habitat loss, flooding, and the accelerating effects of climate change present interconnected challenges that affect every part of society. Torfaen recognised this reality through its declarations of a Climate Emergency in 2019 and a Nature Emergency in 2021. These commitments have shaped the direction of our work and underpin the ambitions set out in this updated BERP.

Since the publication of the original 2019 plan, we have made significant progress. The Council has invested in habitat restoration, strengthened planning guidance, expanded our Local Nature Reserve network, improved grassland management, planted thousands of trees, updated key strategies, and supported community-led action across the borough. A particular milestone has been the **designation of a new Local Nature Reserve at Blaenserchan**, reflecting not only the ecological importance of this landscape but also the powerful outcomes achieved through partnership and community involvement.

We are especially proud of the wide variety of work undertaken across departments, community groups, landowners, volunteers, and external partners. The success of our Local Nature Partnership, our growing network of community champions, and the delivery of major externally-funded nature-based projects show what is possible when we work together. These collaborations demonstrate that integrated, cross-departmental approaches are key—not only to nature recovery but also to meeting the climate challenge.

The local action we take today will help ensure that future generations living in Torfaen can experience the tremendous health and wellbeing benefits that a thriving natural environment provides. Clean air, access to quality green spaces, healthy soils, climate-resilient landscapes, and thriving wildlife are essential foundations for strong, healthy and connected communities. These principles are deeply aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Marmot Principles, which recognise the fundamental links between environmental quality and health equity.

Protecting isolated pockets of nature is no longer enough. This plan sets out a bold, landscape-scale approach to reconnect fragmented habitats, restore ecosystem resilience, and integrate biodiversity into everything we do—from planning and regeneration to asset management, climate action, education, and community development. The Section 6 Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is clear: every part of the Council has a responsibility to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to ensure ecosystems are resilient. This BERP ensures we meet that responsibility.

We would like to thank the officers, volunteers, partners, schools, community organisations, and local residents whose dedication continues to drive this work forward. Their commitment and passion are vital to shaping a more nature-positive, climate-resilient Torfaen.

Together, we can achieve more. This plan marks the next step in our journey—a collective effort to create a borough where nature thrives, communities flourish, and future generations inherit a healthier, greener and more sustainable Torfaen.

Cllr Mandy Owen

Executive Member for Environment

Cllr Sue Morgan

Executive Member for Waste and Sustainability

2.Introduction

Biodiversity is fundamental to sustaining life, providing essential goods, ecosystem services, and supporting human health and well-being. The implementation of this plan will contribute directly to the well-being goals outlined in the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*, while also aligning with the strategic objectives of Torfaen's Corporate Plan and the Climate & Nature Emergency Action Plan.

The proposed actions will support Torfaen in progressing towards the Welsh Government's ambition to halt biodiversity loss by 2030. Furthermore, they will advance the Council's broader commitments under the eight Marmot Principles, particularly in the areas of:

- Ensuring every child has the best start in life
- Promoting a healthy standard of living for all
- Creating and nurturing healthy, sustainable communities
- Strengthening preventative approaches to ill-health
- Pursuing environmental sustainability in tandem with health equity

Biodiversity outcomes have a direct and profound impact on several key health determinants. Rich and diverse ecosystems contribute to **cleaner air** by supporting vegetation that filters pollutants and produces oxygen. Natural environments also foster **mental health** by providing calm, restorative spaces that reduce stress and anxiety. Access to biodiverse green spaces encourages **physical activity**, promoting cardiovascular health and reducing obesity. Furthermore, these shared natural areas enhance **social cohesion**, offering communal spaces where people can connect, interact, and build stronger communities. In essence, thriving biodiversity underpins healthier, more resilient societies by supporting both environmental and human well-being.

This Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Plan demonstrates our commitment as a Local Authority to meeting the requirements of our statutory Section 6 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty (S6 Duty) under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This legislation places a duty on the Local Authority to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. In so doing, the Local Authority must also seek to promote the resilience of eco-systems'.

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21st March 2016. The Act requires all public authorities to report on implementation of the plan every 3 years to demonstrate compliance with the S6 Duty.

The S6 Duty is a *council-wide responsibility* and the actions within this plan aim to embed biodiversity delivery across the whole organisation. As a result, the 3 yearly compliance reports will reflect a broad range of activities, projects and functions that all contribute to our efforts as a council to reverse the decline in biodiversity, and how working collaboratively across departments can achieve real change.

As required by this legislation, Torfaen Council published its first Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Plan (BERP) in 2019.

This updated plan is a review of the original, reflecting on key milestones and adjusting the action plan to reflect updated legislation, changes to obligations since 2019 and aspirations to achieve real change in the coming years. From this point onwards the plan will be referred to as the 'BERP'.

3. Legislative policy and context

National	Regional	Local
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	South-East Wales Area Statement 2020	Torfaen County Plan 2022-2027
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Gwent Marmot Region and Principles	Torfaen Well-being Statement 2022-2027
Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales	Gwent State of Nature Report 2021	Torfaen Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan
Wales Climate Emergency Declaration	Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators in South-East Wales 2015	Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (BG & TCBC) 2023-2030
The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales	South-East Wales Uplands Natural Resource Management Plan.	Torfaen Local Development Plan
Welsh Government 30 x 30 targets	Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) 2022	Torfaen Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)
Wales Natural Resources Policy (WG)	Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Plan 2023	Torfaen Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Wales Nature Emergency Declaration		Torfaen Litter and Fly-tipping strategy
The Placemaking Wales Charter		Torfaen Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020 Torfaen Green Infrastructure Assessment 2022
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040		Torfaen Tree Strategy and Action Plan 2021- 2031
Planning Policy Wales 12		Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Strategy 2024-2034
State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) 2020.		Torfaen Economy and Skills Strategy 2021-2030
Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning 2009		Open Space Report and Assessment 2021
Placemaking Plans – strategic frameworks required by Welsh Government, led by TCBC's regeneration team, which integrate biodiversity and green infrastructure principles into town centre and community development.		Cwmbran, Pontypool and Blaenavon Placemaking Plans

		TCBC GI SPG 2024
		TCBC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan 2025-2030
		Revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance - Annex 5 'Biodiversity, Geodiversity & Ecological Resilience' 2023.
		Site Design, Masterplanning and Development Brief Supplementary Planning Guidance 2023.
		House Extension and Alterations Supplementary Planning Guidance 2022.
		Sustainable Locations Supplementary Planning Guidance 2023.
		Planning and biodiversity guidance for householder and other minor applications.
		Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan: Habitats Regulation Assessment Scoping Report (including NRW comments) 2023.

4.Key Milestones Since the Publication of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan 2019.

Since the last iteration of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan, Torfaen County Borough Council has made significant progress in enhancing local biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. The following highlights key achievements and developments:

Strategic Reporting and Planning

- Submission of two Section 6 Duty Reports to Welsh Government (2019 & 2022); next report due end of 2025.
- Preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (2023–2030).
- Integration of Section 6 Duty into the draft Asset Management Strategy. The Council is developing a Corporate Landlord Asset Management model that considers biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, and long-term sustainability when taking decisions around assets. This approach aligns with Section 6 duties and Welsh Government's 30x30 targets while optimising assets to support services, wider strategies, partnership working, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act
- Publication of Supplementary Planning Guidance:
 - Biodiversity, Ecosystem Resilience & Development (Feb 2024)
 - Green Infrastructure (Feb 2024)
 - Sustainable Locations (June 2023)
 - Site Design, Master-planning & Development Brief (Feb 2023)
 - Revised Planning Obligations (Feb 2023)
 - House Extensions and Alterations (Dec 2022)

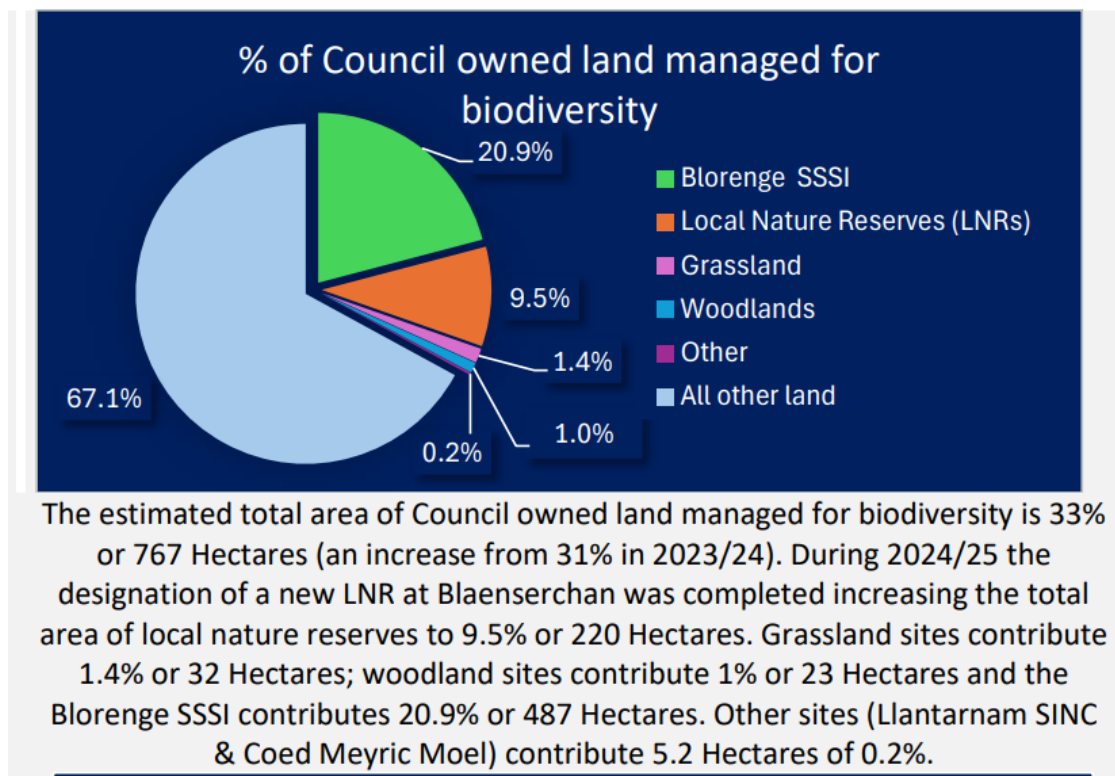
Project Delivery and Funding

- Successful delivery of two Welsh Government ENRaW projects: *Resilient Greater Gwent* and *Gwent Green Grid*.
- Awarded £808,000 from the HLF Nature Towns and Cities Programme for the *Torfaen Healthy Planet, Healthy People* project.
- Funding secured from the Peatland Restoration Fund for upland restoration in 2025/26.
- Approximately £1.3 million received through Local places for Nature funding up to and including 2025/26 FY.

Habitat and Site Management

- New management plans commissioned for all Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).
- Designation of a new Local Nature Reserve.
- Woodland Management Plans developed, including Blorengie SSSI.
- Purchase of Coed Meyric Moel Woodland near Henllys LNR.
- Creation of a new pond network at Garn Lakes LNR.
- Conservation grazing programme initiated.

- Pilot project launched to assess council-owned grazing sites for biodiversity, carbon storage, and climate resilience.
- A recent Cabinet Report (dated October 2025): Torfaen Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan: further revisions to Grassland Management, estimated that between 2019 and 2022, 27 hectares of council owned grassland was under an annual cut and collect regime with capacity to expand by a further 58 hectares. In 2023 Cabinet agreed to the introduction of a further 51 cut and collect sites to be phased in over 2023/2024 – adding a further 4.6 hectares, bringing the total to 31.6 hectares. This is (approx.)17% increase in council owned grassland managed for biodiversity since 2019. In addition to this a further 127 sites across the borough are proposed for a cut and collect regime, to be phased in over 2026/2027. This all contributes to the councils' efforts to work towards Welsh Governments 30x30 targets.



Green Infrastructure and Tree Strategy

- Publication of the Torfaen Tree Strategy and Action Plan (2021–2031).
- Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan (Dec 2019).
- Internal GIS system updated with Green Infrastructure layers and ecological corridors.
- 21,875 trees planted since 2022/23, including 9,700 in 2024/25.
- Establishment of new orchards at multiple sites including Brooklands Park, Cwmbran Boating Lake, Pontnewydd, Oakfield Flower Garden, Llantarnam, and Holy Trinity Church.

Species and Habitat Conservation

- Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) criteria completed.
- Management of roadside verges and grasslands enhanced for biodiversity.
- Hedgehog Highways motion passed (March 2022) to support Section 7 species.
- Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) mapping system developed; azolla weevils used to control invasive water fern.

Community Engagement and Education

- Appointment of Local Nature Partnership and Canal Coordinators.
- Delivery of three "Go Wild" events.
- Development of in-house e-learning modules on climate change and nature emergency.
- Bespoke staff training delivered:
 - Tree Strategy (Feb 2022)
 - Japanese Knotweed (Mar 2022)
 - Bats in the Built Environment (2024/25)
- Production of awareness films:
 - *Love Trees* (Tree awareness)
 - *Torfaen Wetlands* (Wetlands awareness, with Welsh subtitles)
 - *Wildflower Spaces* (Grasslands awareness)
- Biodiversity enhancement guidance published for householders and small developments.

Recognition and Awards

- Civic Award presented to mark 25 years of the Local Nature Partnership in Torfaen.
- Green Flag awards received for multiple sites.

Ongoing and Future Work

- Updates underway for the Council's biodiversity and natural environment webpages.
- Biodiversity as a key theme in placemaking plans, delivered in partnership with the regeneration team to ensure nature recovery and ecosystem resilience are embedded in regeneration projects.
- Maximising GI and biodiversity in town centres funded through Nature Towns and Cities.
- Canal management planning initiated to enhance its role as a strategic ecological corridor.
- Participation in the Southeast Wales Resilient Uplands project for peatland restoration.

5. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure of Torfaen.

The County Borough of Torfaen covers approximately 126 square kilometres (49 square miles) with an altitudinal range of between approximately 600 metres above sea level (asl) in the uplands to the north and west, to 50 asl in the extreme south. Geologically its position on the edge of the south Wales coalfield provides added diversity through landscape features fashioned by the coal measures, sandstone and carboniferous limestone. It's this landscape diversity that enables Torfaen to support a rich and varied range of national and locally important habitats and species.

Details:

- **Upland Heath (600 m)**
Species: Red Grouse, Heather, Skylark
- **Grassland (400 m)**
Species: Meadow Pipit, Common Blue Butterfly, Field Vole
- **Woodland (200 m)**
Species: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Bluebell, Badger
- **Wetland (50 m)**
Species: Reed Warbler, Marsh Marigold, Otter

The uplands and valley sides of the county borough exhibit a landscape strongly shaped by historic industrial activity and contemporary use as agricultural common land. These areas are characterized by extensive tracts of semi-natural habitats forming a distinctive mosaic.

Habitat Composition

- **Acid Grassland and Heathland** dominate much of the terrain, interspersed with bracken-covered slopes (*ffridd*).
Key Species:
 - *Flora:* Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*).
 - *Fauna:* Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*), Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*), Green Hairstreak Butterfly (*Callophrys rubi*).
- **Bracken Slopes** provide cover for mammals such as **Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)** and **Badger (*Meles meles*)**, and nesting sites for birds like **Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)**.
- **Wetland Features** occur where water accumulates, supporting **rush pasture** and **purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*)** communities, often underlain by **peat bog**.
Key Species:
 - *Flora:* Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), Sundews (*Drosera spp.*).
 - *Fauna:* Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).

Conservation Priorities

- Maintain habitat diversity to support species richness.
- Protect peatlands to safeguard carbon storage and hydrological function.
- Manage bracken to prevent loss of acid grassland and heath.
- Balance grazing levels to avoid overgrazing and soil compaction.
- Monitor indicator species such as heather, purple moor grass, and ground-nesting birds.
- Ensure management interventions maintain or restore Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to a favourable conservation status, safeguarding its designated features for the long term.

Key Threats

- Overgrazing leading to soil erosion and reduced biodiversity.
- Invasive species such as bracken and non-native plants.
- Climate change altering hydrology and peatland integrity.
- Historic industrial legacy causing soil contamination and drainage issues.
- Recreational pressure damaging sensitive habitats and disturbing wildlife.

Pontypool to Waun Afon Bog Landscape Corridor

The landscape extending northward from Pontypool represents a region of high ecological value, shaped significantly by post-industrial rewilding. Former coal tips and reservoirs associated with heavy industry have undergone natural revegetation, now supporting a diverse range of habitats and species, including several of national conservation concern.

Among the notable species is the **Silurian moth** (*Eriopygodes imbecilla*), a nationally scarce invertebrate that finds suitable habitat within the regenerating coal spoil. These areas also contribute to a broader ecological network that supports declining species and enhances landscape connectivity.

At the northern extent of this corridor lies **Waun Afon Bog**, a substantial peatland habitat situated at the source of the **Afon Lwyd** (Grey River). This bog functions as a significant **carbon sink**, playing a vital role in climate regulation. Its saturated soils and diverse vegetation provide ideal breeding conditions for wetland bird species such as the **Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*) and **Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella naevia*). In late summer, the bog is characterized by a striking display of **Bog Asphodel** (*Narthecium ossifragum*), adding seasonal botanical interest.

Elsewhere in the landscape, upland habitats support the **southernmost Welsh populations of Red Grouse** (*Lagopus lagopus scotica*) and **Alpine Clubmoss** (*Diphasiastrum alpinum*), indicating the area's importance for range-edge conservation. The presence of **Round-leaved Sundew** (*Drosera rotundifolia*), a carnivorous plant adapted to nutrient-poor conditions, further highlights the ecological richness of the site. Grassland and heath areas also host notable communities of **Waxcap fungi** (*Hygrocybe* spp.), which are indicators of unimproved, species-rich grasslands and contribute to the site's mycological interest.



Waxcaps at Garn Lakes LNR. Photo credit R.Edwards



Waxcaps on roadside verge grassland managed for biodiversity in Pontypool. Photo credit: V. Brannovic

This landscape corridor exemplifies the ecological potential of post-industrial environments and underscores the importance of habitat restoration and protection in supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Afon Lwyd Watercourse: Ecological Overview

The Afon Lwyd originates in the extreme northern reaches of the Torfaen County Borough and flows southward through the valley, ultimately joining the River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at Caerleon. Historically, the river has been significantly impacted by industrial activity, particularly in its upper reaches. Legacy issues such as river canalisation and mine water pollution remain evident, although ongoing remediation efforts have led to notable improvements in water quality.

These enhancements have facilitated the recolonisation of the river by **Lutra lutra** (Otter), a key indicator species of aquatic ecosystem health. In addition to the main channel, associated tributaries and standing water habitats within the catchment support a breeding population of **Triturus cristatus** (Great Crested Newt), a species of European conservation concern.

Furthermore, the area hosts a **regionally significant assemblage of Odonata**, including various species of dragonflies and damselflies. This highlights the ecological value of the Afon Lwyd and its associated habitats, underscoring the importance of continued conservation and habitat management efforts within the catchment.



Black darter dragonfly (Sympetrum danae). Photo credit: A. Underwood.

As the river descends from its upland source, it transitions into a meandering course through the valley bottom, forming a dynamic and ecologically valuable corridor. The adjacent habitats comprise a mosaic of ancient and semi-natural woodland interspersed with sheep-grazed, semi-improved pasture. These habitats contribute significantly to the ecological integrity of the landscape, supporting a diverse range of flora and fauna.



Afon Lwyd, Blaenavon. Photo credit: R. Edwards

The river serves as a strategic ecological corridor, extending the full length of Torfaen County Borough and intersecting all major urban centres within the region. This connectivity facilitates species movement and genetic exchange, enhancing landscape-scale ecological resilience. The corridor also provides essential ecosystem services, including water regulation, habitat provision, and recreational opportunities for local communities.

The juxtaposition of natural and semi-natural habitats alongside the river enhances its role as a biodiversity hotspot and underscores its importance in local conservation strategies. Continued management and protection of this corridor are vital to maintaining its ecological function and supporting the broader environmental objectives of the county borough.

Beyond the upland slopes and valley-side habitats that shape the green expanse above Pontypool, the landscape gradually transitions into the more cultivated terrain typical of modern-day Monmouthshire. Here, gently undulating fields interspersed with scattered woodlands and fragmented hedgerows provide a fragile refuge for the increasingly rare wild daffodil. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal meanders from Newport through Cwmbran, brushing the southern edge of Pontypool before heading east toward Abergavenny. This waterway serves as a vital ecological corridor, supporting diverse wildlife including several bat species, regularly visited by otters, and home to breeding birds such as the kingfisher. In the warmer months, the canal hosts a rich community of aquatic insects, notably the red-eyed and

small red-eyed damselflies. However, as it passes through urban commons, the canal is frequently colonised by non-native aquatic plants like water fern and water soldier.



A section of the Mon & Brec Canal near Ty Coch Cwmbran where waterfern is often found, which has been successfully addressed several times through the use of Azolla weevils as biological control – a more environmentally friendly alternative to chemical treatments or manual removal.

Photo credit: R. Edwards

Further south, Cwmbran Boating Lake has emerged as an increasingly important site for wildlife in recent years. Nestled within a broader parkland setting, the lake now supports a growing number of wintering bird species, including tufted duck, Mediterranean gull, little grebe, and water rail. Notably, the presence of rarities such as Cetti's warbler highlights the lake's ecological value and its role in supporting biodiversity within the region.



Cwmbran Boating lake

Torfaen boasts a rich mosaic of protected natural areas, encompassing both statutory and non-statutory designations. The borough is home to more than 100 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), alongside four nationally recognised Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In addition, eight Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) provide valuable spaces for wildlife and community engagement with nature.

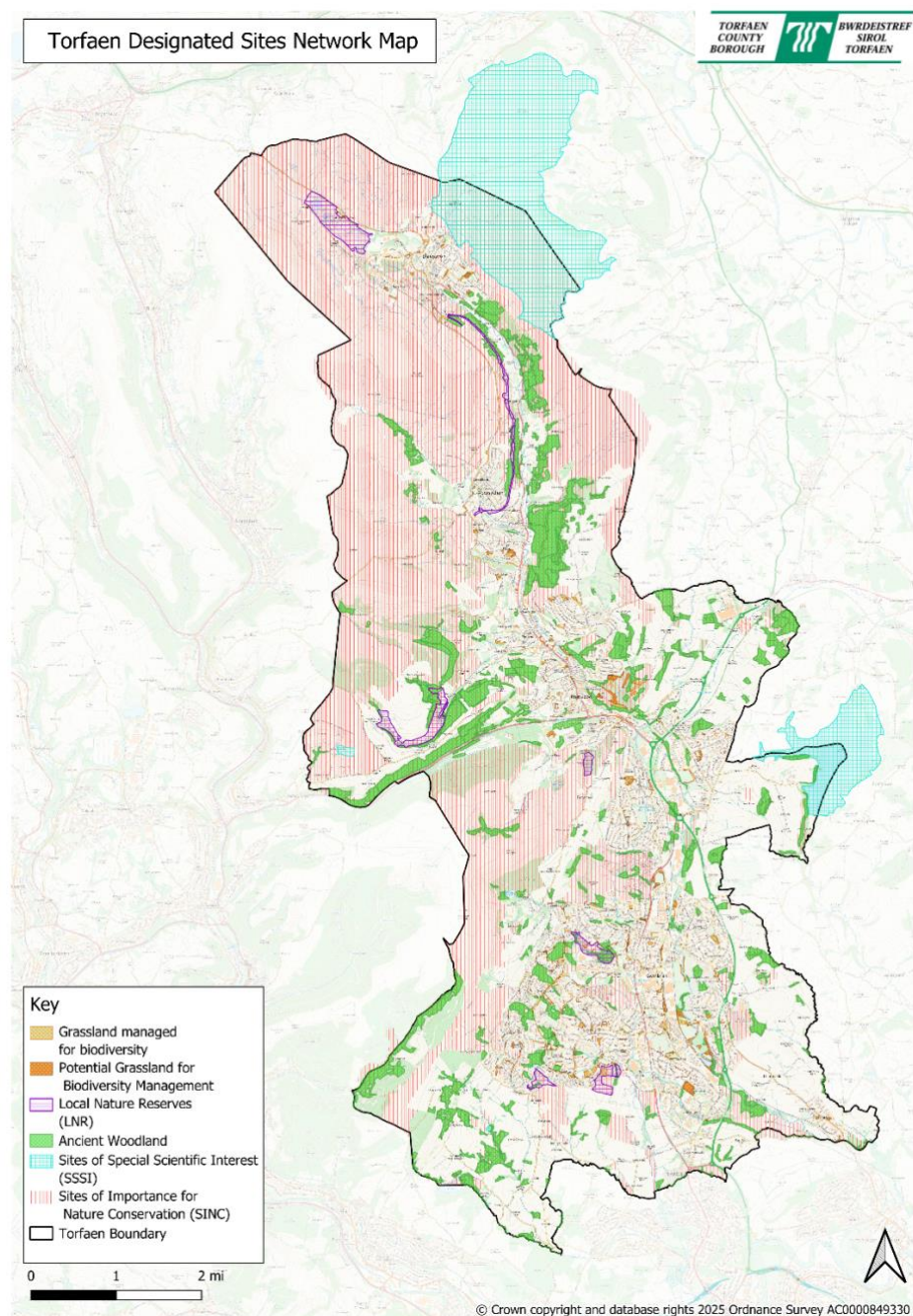
Finally, it is important to recognise that the existing landscape of Torfaen is open to significant change through the potential future approval of Developments of National Significance such as Wind Farms and Solar Farms as we explore the benefits of renewable energy. These large-scale infrastructure projects can alter the landscape, with potential to impact the visual, ecological, cultural and character of a setting.

Windfarms often evoke a mix of admiration and concern within communities. On the positive side, they represent a clean, renewable source of energy that reduces reliance on fossil fuels and helps combat climate change. Their presence can symbolize progress and environmental stewardship, inspiring pride in local efforts toward sustainability. However, windfarms also bring challenges. Some residents express frustration over visual impacts on the landscape, noise from turbines, and potential effects on wildlife, particularly birds and bats. These concerns can lead to feelings of loss, especially in areas with strong cultural or emotional ties to the land. The emotive responses range from hope and empowerment to anxiety and resistance, highlighting the complex relationship between technological advancement and community identity.



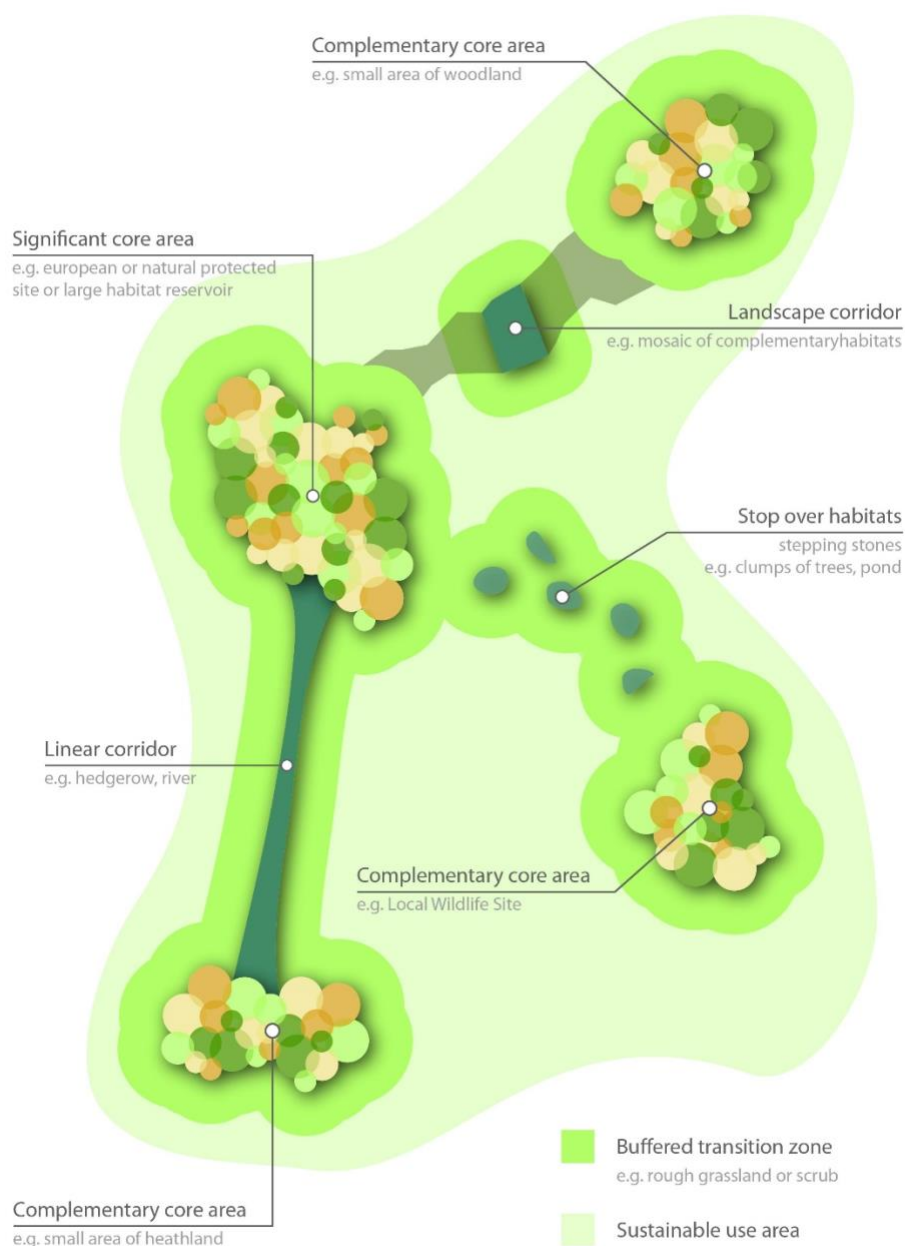
Windfarm in landscape visual. Photo credit: <https://mynydd-llanhilleth.co.uk/proposals/>

Through our planning policy, we will endeavour to ensure that ecological considerations are fully integrated into the assessment and development of wind and solar farm proposals. This approach supports sustainable development by safeguarding and enhancing the borough's rich ecological assets. By prioritising biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and the protection of sensitive species, we aim to strike a balance between renewable energy generation and the long-term health of our natural environment.



6. Ecological Networks and Resilience

Ecological networks are systems of interconnected core habitats—such as grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands—linked by ecological corridors that enable species to move across fragmented landscapes. In Torfaen, these diverse habitats form a cohesive network of ecosystems that work in harmony to support biodiversity across the borough. By collaboratively enhancing and strengthening these habitats, and improving the surrounding landscape, we can increase ecological resilience to future challenges such as climate change, flooding, and biodiversity loss. The image below illustrates a simplified landscape, highlighting core habitat areas and the ecological corridors that connect them.



Taken from: https://mansfield.objective.co.uk/events/27478/popimage_d274024e7253.html

7. Conclusion

Biodiversity and the natural environment underpin a wide range of essential ecosystem services that support human life and well-being. These include the provision of oxygen, food, clean water, medicine, and raw materials, as well as vital functions such as carbon sequestration through woodlands, wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands. Our natural landscapes also play a critical role in mitigating flooding, reducing pollution, and alleviating the urban heat island effect—all of which contribute significantly to public health and quality of life. The continued degradation of these ecosystems poses a direct threat to our collective future.

Protecting isolated pockets of nature, such as Local Nature Reserves and other small-scale sites across Torfaen, is no longer sufficient. To achieve meaningful and lasting change, we must adopt a landscape-scale approach that reconnects fragmented habitats and establishes new ones—not only in rural and semi-rural areas but also throughout our towns, villages, and urban spaces. We have a responsibility to pursue sustainable development and lead by example in safeguarding and enhancing our natural environment. This requires cross-departmental collaboration and a commitment to innovative, forward-thinking solutions.

The strategy outlined in this plan aligns closely with the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. To meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, we must act decisively and collectively - starting now.

The nature emergency is increasingly prominent in public discourse, driven in part by the findings of numerous ecological reports that consistently highlight a concerning decline in species and habitats. While climate change rightly receives substantial attention, there is growing recognition that biodiversity loss warrants equal urgency. The two crises are deeply interconnected: climate change accelerates ecological degradation, while the loss of biodiversity undermines our ability to adapt to climate impacts. This interdependence was acknowledged by Torfaen County Borough Council through the declaration of a Nature Emergency in 2021, following its Climate Emergency declaration in 2019. The evidence is clear—immediate and coordinated action is essential to halt and reverse biodiversity decline. Torfaen Council is committed to being part of a broader collective effort, working collaboratively to fulfil its responsibilities under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and to help secure a resilient natural environment for future generations.

8. Action Plan and Objectives

In accordance with the Welsh Government's guidance on Section 6 delivery and reporting, the actions that form the basis of this plan have been set within the framework of the NRAP Objectives. Whilst each action has been allocated to the most relevant NRAP Objective, the vast majority will undoubtedly deliver against multiple objectives.

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. Including the requirement on Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitats of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales.

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.

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty (S6 Duty) is a responsibility that applies across the entire council. It must be considered in all departments and embedded into everyday tasks, projects, and decision-making processes.

The table below outlines a set of objectives and actions to support biodiversity. These are not exhaustive but represent a collective effort to achieve shared goals aligned with the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP). This collaborative, cross-departmental approach will help the council address both the S6 Duty and the Climate and Nature Emergency.

Progress will be monitored and reported through an implementation plan (S6 Duty Report), published every three years in accordance with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. These reports are publicly available on the council's website.

Appendix 1 – The Action Plan

Colour Key for Lead Departments

Department/Team	Colour
Ecology, Environment, Streetscene, Waste, Biodiversity Champions, HDRC	Light Green
Planning & Development	Blue
Asset Management	Orange
Communications/GIS/Digital/IT	Purple
Education	Yellow
Leadership/PMO/Internal Audit	Grey
Highways/Property Maintenance	Brown
Regeneration	Pink
All Departments	Red
Elected Members/Town Councils	Turquoise
Communities Team/Community Champions/Voluntary groups	Dark Green
Energy Climate & Sustainability	Light blue

Item	Action	Measure	Lead	NRAP objectives	Timescales
1	The S.6 duty is a key consideration in the Council's business planning processes and procedures and project management systems, through early engagement on ecological issues, maximising nature-based solutions and ensuring a consistency across all departments Update the internal integrated assessment used in Council decision making reports.	Evidence produced that biodiversity procedures are being followed across all service areas. Biodiversity protection and enhancement measures in delivery of new schemes are consistently implemented and reported. Continue to set and review measurable targets within the corporate plan	Leadership Project Management Office All departments with support from Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6	ongoing
2	Create and support a team of community champions at ward level (elected members/town councils?) to develop an understanding of legislative requirements (S6 Duty) as they apply to their communities, encouraging nature recovery ideas and discussions.	organise and deliver a package of training to up-skill and build confidence in communicating the S.6 requirements	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist. Elected members Town councils Voluntary groups	1, 5, 6	2030
3	Promote community action and education through the provision of web-based info, training and awareness-raising activities	Web-based biodiversity information maintained and updated as required. A programme of community focused, accessible training/engagement activities for biodiversity delivered and reported on.	Environment Team Comms team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2030
4	Develop & support a team of internal champions who understand the	Deliver a package of training on the S.6 Duty.	Leadership	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2030

	legislative requirements as they apply to their service area.	Nominate champions to communicate the S.6 Duty to team members, ensuring forward planning for biodiversity in projects/tasks Quarterly updates with lead champions for biodiversity from each service area for progress updates and an opportunity to discuss any issues/answer queries	Departmental/Service champions with support from Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist.		
5	Incorporate the S.6 requirement into the Council's audit procedures. Undertake an audit of services, exploring their potential to impact on biodiversity and how they can contribute to nature recovery and ecosystem resilience across the borough to contribute towards WG 30x30 targets and maintain and enhance biodiversity in accordance with S6 Duty	Audit reports reference compliance with the S.6 duty A report compiled of all engagement with services across the council with results being used to inform measures to protect and enhance biodiversity consistently	Internal Audit Team Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2030
6	Develop an internal checklist for PMO team to use at the start of council projects/activities to ensure biodiversity is appropriately considered throughout.	Checklist and records	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist, with PMO team	1,2,3,4,5	2025
7	Embed the S.6 duty into the Council's Community Strategy delivery	Agree, monitor and record activities/projects undertaken and	Communities Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	ongoing

	mechanisms and statutory regulatory functions	include as part of the WG statutory 3 year reporting mechanism	Teams delivering community involvement activities		
8	Develop a checklist to ensure Council and community organised activities and events minimise disturbance/damage to habitats and species	ESAG Checklist	Head of Communications. Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2026
9	Ensure planning & development management decisions are made in accordance with advice and guidance outlined within Planning Policy Wales 12 (particularly Chapter 6 as amended), Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and all proposed development is in line with the Step-wise approach outlined in PPW12.	Planning/Development Management Team, working with the Councils Ecologist Planning decision reports will fully reflect the ecological advice provided to inform mitigation and enhancement obligations.	Planning Department Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist. Daniel Hodson, Landscape Recreation Policy Partnerships Manager. Other consultees as deemed appropriate	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	ongoing
10	Undertake a review of Council owned green assets, including our Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) sites, to ascertain their current ecological value/resilience, to inform management interventions and maintain accurate and up to date data to inform planning decisions, and feed into wider RLDP.	A more functional and accessible SINC system, providing a single repository of easily retrievable information in a consistent format	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2030
11	Explore options for a series of off-site compensation schemes throughout	To be discussed	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2030

	the borough whereby (as a last resort, as outlined in the step-wise approach) enhancements can be secured where mitigation cannot be achieved within a development boundary.		Rachael O'Shaughnessy, Planning Department, Asset management.		
12	Explore mechanisms to ensure compliance with planning conditions related to biodiversity	To be discussed	Planning dept.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	ongoing
13	In accordance with the role of the Council as a competent authority, provide Habitat Regulation Assessments, alongside NRW consultation, where required.	Reports as required	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
14	Procure biological data to inform decision-making	Continue annual service level agreement with SEWBRc to maintain access to up-to-date species and habitats records for use to provide the best available evidence for decision making	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
15	The requirement to maintain and enhance biodiversity to be embedded within the SABs (SuDS Advisory Board) process	Ecological input to be demonstrated in the design and implementation process	Planning, Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist. Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
16	Use the Green Infrastructure mapping and evidence on TCBC spectrum GIS layer to inform planning and broader action for biodiversity, to support ecosystem resilience and connectivity.	Deliver training on use of the GIS layer if required. Evidence of existing data used to inform positive action for biodiversity.	Digital team. All departments.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
17	Ensure compliance with the S.6 duty in the improvement and management of	Biodiversity protection and enhancement measures to be	Asset management Team.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing

	land and buildings owned by TCBC to ensure protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the management of council assets. This includes, but is not limited to greenspace, property, protected/designated sites, structures, drainage, highways, social services and education. Integration with the Corporate Landlord Asset Management Approach: this approach will embed biodiversity objectives into all asset related decisions, prioritising nature recovery and ecosystem resilience over short-term financial returns	included within forthcoming asset management strategy. Biodiversity protection and enhancement procedures in management or disposal of council assets are consistently implemented and reported. Measures to manage, enhance and increase biodiversity through maintenance of green spaces (inc. Cut and Collect programmes) and highways are implemented and reports provided. Develop and implement a mandatory biodiversity checklist for all asset management decisions (property, maintenance, disposal, development etc). Use TCBC GIS mapping layers to inform asset planning and monitor habitat connectivity improvements. Incorporate measurable targets for tree canopy cover and habitat enhancement into asset performance reporting, aligned with TCBC Tree Strategy and GI Strategy.	All departments.		
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		Conduct annual audits of council owned assets to assess compliance with S6 Duty and identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. Deliver corporate landlord-specific training for asset managers and project officers on biodiversity obligations and nature-based solutions. This could be delivered in-house or by external consultants. Implementing long-term aspirations, ensure asset disposal or redevelopment proposals demonstrate net biodiversity gain and alignment with Welsh Governments 30x30 targets.			
18	Organise and deliver bespoke biodiversity/protected species/green infrastructure training to Council staff and elected members as necessary	Records of training delivered	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist. Daniel Hodson, Landscape Recreation Policy Partnerships Manager	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
19	Provide ad-hoc ecological expertise & advice to teams across the Council as necessary.	Consultation responses provided and follow-up dialogue/informal discussions held	Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing

20	Highway, Active Travel, Public Rights of Way, Property and Water Body Maintenance Programmes will seek ecological advice and support for biodiversity & enhancement and protection up front for all proposed work. Biodiversity considerations must be factored into the start of the design process.	Maintenance programmes include biodiversity protection mechanisms and enhancement commitments	Public Rights of Way, Highways and Property Maintenance Teams Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	ongoing
21	Minimise litter and fly-tipping to protect damage to species and habitats, including limiting plastic waste entering water courses.	Keep Wales Tidy litter monitoring surveys	Waste team. Environment Team	5	ongoing
22	Support the Local Nature Partnership, attending meetings to review and share local information, expertise, knowledge and evidence including actions for LNRAP and potential cross-boundary projects for biodiversity.	Record of meetings	Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	ongoing
23	Annual review Local Nature Reserve Management Plan delivery with a forward plan for the year ahead and explore opportunities to declare further reserves to meet the WG 30x30 target.	Review and update each management plan as a team and report progress against implementation	Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Ongoing/2030 review
24	Review and implement best practice methods in sustainable land and water management activities, eg conservation grazing, erosion minimisation, soil health and links to	Evidence and reports that best practice has been implemented accordingly	Environment team and any team who implement projects/activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	ongoing

	carbon sequestration potential for soils.		impacting these habitats Energy, Climate & Sustainability		
25	Continue to identify and expand opportunities to improve habitat connectivity to create new wildlife networks, inc. canal, river, cycleways, green spaces, grassland management, road-side verges, with links to carbon storage/sequestration	Network connectivity maps	Environment Team Energy, climate & Sustainability	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
26	Maximise the biodiversity value of the Council's tree stock in accordance with Torfaen Tree Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2031, monitoring tree canopy cover to measure a net expansion and increase carbon storage/sequestration.	Quarterly service plan updates	Tree Team. Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
27	Minimise the use of pesticides and herbicides in Council operations where feasible alternatives are available.	Annual report on quantities of glyphosate used.	Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
28	Continue to manage Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) on council owned land.	Annual report on area of INNS across the borough	Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
29	Identify biodiversity education opportunities within local education facilities, including additional needs, secondary schools and local colleges	Variety of work undertaken in educational settings, increasing skill-set, awareness and understanding. Records kept of work undertaken for monitoring and to identify any gaps	Education dept. External partners LNP officers	1, 3, 4, 5	ongoing

30	Support delivery of biodiversity and green infrastructure enhancements within school grounds	Reports on actions taken for biodiversity within school boundaries	Education Service, Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist LNP Officers	1, 2, 3,4, 5,	ongoing
31	Raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning about and understanding of the natural world	Records kept of all education/engagement activities in relation to biodiversity	Communications team with support from Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
32	Develop positive messages and achievements for biodiversity through social media channels, regular posts and updates. Use them as an opportunity to communicate our S6 Duty and the actions we are taking for biodiversity through land management practices and other biodiversity related work. Raise awareness of threats to nature and positive nature recovery efforts.	Keep a record of how many posts go out through social media for biodiversity and monitor engagement	Comms team LNP Officers Environment Team, Community and internal champions	1, 5,	ongoing
33	Monitor skills and capacity in the ecology team to ensure the ongoing provision of advice to teams across the Council	Annual staff capacity review. Budget requirement for the delivery of the Section 6 Duty is considered as part of broader budget reviews.	Environment Team	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
34	Seek opportunities to source more core revenue and capital funding for nature recovery through external grant funding mechanisms, exploring potential for cross-boundary/regional collaboration.	Report on grant applications submitted and funding secured.	Environment Team External Funding.	1, 5	ongoing

35	Demonstrate TCBC's commitment to the S6 Duty	3 yearly reports on progress implementing the S6 Duty (next report due December 2025.	Lead Ecologist with input from wider service areas	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ongoing
36	Undertake a review of council owned waterway sections on Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal assessing ecological resilience with a focus on the impact of water supply	Assessment and report	Environment team through external funding	1,2,3,4,5	2030
37	Work with HDRC (Health Determinants Research Collaboration) Team to explore potential to develop joint funding applications to support biodiversity projects, particularly those focussing on health determinants.		Environment team/HDRC team	1,2,3,4,5	ongoing
38	Collaborate with the regeneration team to embed biodiversity and green infrastructure principles into Placemaking Plans and regeneration projects, ensuring alignment with the S6 Duty, Welsh Government's 30x30 targets, and the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.	Placemaking plans to explicitly reference biodiversity and green infrastructure objectives. Evidence of ecological input in regeneration project design and delivery. Annual review of regeneration projects to assess biodiversity outcomes and habitat connectivity improvements. Training sessions delivered to regeneration officers on biodiversity	Regeneration Team with support from Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist, and Daniel Hodson Landscape Recreation Policy Partnerships Manager	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Ongoing with annual review

		obligations and nature-based solutions – in house or external consultant.			
39	Embed organisation-wide accountability for the S6 Duty and Welsh Government 30x30 targets, requiring every TCBC department/service area to: 1. Plan, deliver and evidence biodiversity protection/enhancement within their functions and assets; and 2. Submit concise, timely data reports to support the statutory 3-yearly S6 reporting duty.	Departmental biodiversity champions and delivery plans in place and reviewed annually, showing priorities, actions and alignment to 30x30 and NRAP objectives. S6 3-yearly evidence responses provided within 28 working days of request, including sources, photos, files and reports, using the appropriate template as provided by Welsh Government. Audit Trail: Create Shared S6 Evidence Library (folder structure and name to be agreed) to support any internal audits and the 3 year section 6 report.	Lead: Leadership/Corporate Performance/PMO. All departments/service areas (delivery) with support from Rachel Edwards Lead Ecologist, Digital/GIS and comms.	1,2,3,4,5,6	Immediate and ongoing with annual updates, and 3 yearly reporting requirements.
40	Integrate biodiversity objectives and ecological connectivity principles into RLDP policies and proposals. Apply the step-wise approach outlined in Planning Policy Wales PPW12 to	RLDP policy documents explicitly reference biodiversity and ecosystem resilience objectives.	Lead: Planning Policy Team with support from Rachel Edwards, Lead Ecologist, Landscape Recreation Policy	1,2,3,4,5,6	RLDP preparation and adoption phases, with

	firstly avoid, then mitigate, and/or compensate for biodiversity impacts. Include measurable targets for habitat creation, green infrastructure, and tree canopy expansion within the RLDP framework. Require ecological assessments for all strategic sites and ensure policy wording mandates net biodiversity gain. Incorporate GI mapping and ecological corridor data from TCBC GIS layers to inform spatial planning decisions.	Evidence of ecological input in PLDP drafts and supporting technical papers. Annual review of RLDP implementation to assess biodiversity outcomes and habitat connectivity improvements. Monitoring reports demonstrate compliance with Section 6 Duty and delivery against NRAP objectives, Welsh Government 30x30 targets and actions in TCBC Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan.	Partnerships Manager and digital/GIS Team.		ongoing monitoring.
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Appendix 2 –

Section 7 Priority Species and Habitats

The lists of priority species and habitats as well as more information about the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 can be accessed here:

<https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en/legislation-guidance/environment-wales-act/>

Appendix 3 – LNRAP Objectives (Page 18 of link to NRAP below)

For access to the BG & TCBC Local NRAP and more information about the Local Nature Partnership see here: <https://bgtorfaenlnp.wales/en/>

Appendix 4 – SEWBReC info

SLA agreement summary for SEWBReC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre):

Service Specification

Period of Agreement: 01 April 2025 - 31st March 2028

The provision of accurate, up-to-date biodiversity information to meet the needs of TCBC through the following bundle[#] of products and services:

- **Planning List Checking Service** according to agreed criteria.
- **GIS Alert Layers** according to agreed criteria.
- **Aderyn:** Logins for up to three Ecology staff* allowing full ‘partner access’ to Aderyn, the LERC Wales Biodiversity Information Reporting Database (aderyn.lercwales.org.uk)
- **Biodiversity Information Searches and Services** in support of TCBC functions.
- **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs):** Dissemination of boundaries and associated information.

Submitting Biological Records to SEWBReC.



Importance of Submitting Biological Records

1. **Conservation Planning**
 - Records help identify species distributions, population trends, and habitats that need protection.
 - They inform local biodiversity action plans and conservation priorities.
2. **Environmental Decision-Making**
 - Local authorities and developers use biological records in planning applications and environmental impact assessments.
 - Accurate data can prevent development in ecologically sensitive areas.
3. **Monitoring Biodiversity**
 - Long-term data sets allow scientists to track changes in species abundance and distribution, especially in response to climate change or habitat loss.
4. **Supporting Research**
 - Records contribute to ecological and taxonomic studies, helping researchers understand species ecology, behavior, and interactions.
5. **Public Engagement and Education**
 - Sharing records helps raise awareness of local biodiversity and encourages community involvement in conservation.
6. **Early Warning System**
 - Records can detect the arrival of invasive species or the decline of native ones, prompting timely management actions.

Reasons to Submit Your Records

- **Data Centralization:** Ensures your observations are accessible to researchers, conservationists, and policymakers.
- **Quality Assurance:** BRCs often verify records, improving data reliability.
- **Contribution to National Databases:** Your records may feed into larger databases like the NBN Atlas or iRecord, amplifying their impact.
- **Recognition and Feedback:** You may receive feedback on your records, helping improve your identification skills and ecological knowledge.
- **Community Contribution:** You're helping build a collective understanding of local biodiversity, which benefits everyone.



Submitting biological records via the **LERC Wales app** is easy thanks to its intuitive design and user-friendly features. The app allows users to quickly record sightings of wildlife by simply entering basic details such as species name, location, date, and any supporting photos. It uses GPS to automatically capture location data, reducing the need for manual input and ensuring accuracy. The streamlined interface guides users through the process step-by-step, making it accessible even for those new to biological recording. Additionally, records are sent directly to the Local Environmental Records Centres, helping to support conservation efforts across Wales with minimal effort from the user.

You can find guidance on how to download and use the LERC Wales app here:

<https://www.sewbrec.org.uk/recording/app>

Appendix 5
TCBC Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Climate-Change/Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Action-Plan.pdf>

10.Contacts

For any initial enquiries relating to this document, in the first instance please contact:

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or,

Andrew Osborne, Group Leader, Economy & Environment: andrew.osborne@torfaen.gov.uk

11. Glossary

Aderyn

A biodiversity information system used by Local Environmental Records Centres (LERCs) in Wales to store and share species and habitat data.

Biodiversity

The variety of living organisms, including plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, and the ecosystems in which they live.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan (BERP)

A strategic document produced by local authorities to fulfil their duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, outlining actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Carbon Sequestration

The process by which carbon dioxide is captured and stored in natural systems such as trees, soils, peatlands, and oceans.

Climate Emergency

A declaration acknowledging the urgent need to address climate change and its impacts through immediate and sustained action.

Ecological Corridor

A continuous area of habitat that connects wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures, enabling species movement and genetic exchange.

Ecological Networks

Systems of interconnected habitats (core areas and corridors) that collectively support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience across a landscape.

Ecosystem

A dynamic complex of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Ecosystem Resilience

The capacity of an ecosystem to withstand, adapt to, and recover from environmental pressures such as climate change, pollution, and habitat loss.

Ecosystem Services

The benefits provided by ecosystems to humans, including clean air and water, pollination, flood regulation, climate regulation, and recreational opportunities.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Welsh legislation that introduces a legal duty for public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.

Green Infrastructure (GI)

A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas designed to deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits, including biodiversity enhancement.

Habitat

The natural environment in which a species lives and thrives.

Habitat Connectivity

The degree to which habitats are linked, allowing species to move freely between them.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

Species introduced outside their natural range that spread rapidly and can cause harm to native biodiversity, ecosystems, or human interests.

Local Development Plan (LDP/RLDP)

A statutory planning framework that guides development and land use within a local authority area.

Local Nature Partnership (LNP)

A collaborative network of organisations and individuals working together to conserve and enhance biodiversity at a local level.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

A protected area designated by local authorities for its importance to wildlife, education, and public enjoyment.

Marmot Principles

A set of principles aimed at reducing health inequalities by addressing social, environmental, and economic determinants of health.

Nature Emergency

A recognised state of crisis relating to rapid biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation requiring urgent action.

Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)

A national or local framework outlining priorities and actions to protect and restore biodiversity.

Peatland

A wetland ecosystem where organic material accumulates, acting as a significant carbon store and supporting specialised species.

Section 6 Duty (S6 Duty)

A legal obligation under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requiring public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience in all functions.

Section 7 Species and Habitats

Lists of species and habitats of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in Wales, identified under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

Non-statutory designated sites recognised locally for their significant wildlife value.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Statutorily protected areas designated for their national importance in terms of wildlife, geology, or landforms.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Water management practices that mimic natural drainage processes to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Legislation requiring public bodies to act in ways that support sustainable development and improve social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being.

30x30 Target

A Welsh Government commitment to protect and effectively manage 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

