
Talgarth Town Council

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Biodiversity Duty Plan 2026





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Executive Summary

Talgarth Town Council has a legal duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This plan demonstrates how we will fulfil that duty and will act as a driver for ensuring that all service areas consider biodiversity and actively enhance biodiversity when carrying out our day-to-day activities. Talgarth Town Council will work with Powys County Council to promote and develop an Action Plan within the Talgarth area. The Welsh Government has introduced a number of new legislative requirements for public bodies and local authorities to comply with, which will change the way services are planned and delivered through the principle of sustainable development. The County Biodiversity Duty Plan is underpinned by local ward plans in which each area explains how ward based services recognise and demonstrate local actions. The biodiversity plan will be revised at least every three years and will underpin the County Plan which will be formally reported to Welsh Government by early 2023 and every three years thereafter. Principally, this Plan builds on the intelligence of former county biodiversity action plans, highlights the connections between the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, county actions through the Nature Recovery Plan for Wales and helps the Community Council to plan and deliver its local services clearly with sustainable development at its centre. Talgarth enjoys rich and diverse habitats with some sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) and sites of interest for nature conservation (SINC). To enhance or maintain our valued natural (and build) assets, our biodiversity actions are listed in the plan and include:

- Partnering with experts and local organisations
- Using resources wisely and where there is positive impact on biodiversity and environment
- Examining our own behaviour and making changes to reduce our footprint and promote good practice within our community.

This Plan is our first and will develop over time as we understand more about the duties and monitoring/reporting which is required. We have produced it in two sections. The first being recognition of our duty and the second, the action plan which will remain in development and reported on as a live document. This will be our local response to emerging issues and ideas.

INTRODUCTION

This plan has been prepared as part of the Council's legal obligation as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. All public bodies must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. As a first step, the Council (as other public bodies) are required to prepare and publish a plan on how they intend to comply with its "biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems Duty". Interim guidance published by Welsh Government sets out that public authorities must take into account relevant evidence when complying with the Section 6 duty of the Environment Act including the State of Natural Resources Report published by NRW, 2016, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 7 lists of habitats and species of principal importance in Wales, and relevant Area Statements to be prepared by Natural Resources Wales under Section 11 of the Act. This plan's actions have been drawn up in line with the objectives in the Local Nature Recovery Plan. At the same time, those actions allocated to the authority in the Nature Recovery Plan are incorporated into this plan. In this plan the Council:

- Explains the legislative background to this report and the multiple benefits resulting from the proposed actions
- Outlines the natural resources in Talgarth to identify why they are so special and summarise what has already been done to protect them;
- Set out how the forward plan works and the mechanisms for delivery and
- Gives detailed actions to be achieved with milestones for reporting.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on the 21st March 2016. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up way and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change. The Act supports the Welsh Government's wider remit under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, so that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities. Specifically, the Act places an enhanced biodiversity duty on public authorities (appendix A).

Section 6(1) - A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

The intention of this duty is to ensure biodiversity becomes an integral part of decision making in public authorities. The duty came into force in May 2016.

Unlike previous provision, the new duty requires formal demonstration of compliance. The authority is therefore required by the Act to prepare and publish a plan setting out how it intends to comply with the duty. While the Act does not set a timescale for this, guidance from Welsh Government encouraged its production in 2017. The Act requires public bodies to publish a report by the end of 2019 on what it has done to comply with the duty which is then required to be reported on every 3 years thereafter.

The Act also requires Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to publish a State of Natural Resources Report setting out the current status of natural resources in Wales. The local authority is required to have regard to the findings of this report in exercising its functions. Local issues and matters of importance will be obtained to assist in writing a ward level plan.

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It set out ways of working that ensure all elements of well-being are considered together and encouraged collaborative working.

The Act placed a duty on public bodies to carry out actions towards sustainable development. This is defined as a process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. This is achieved through taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle so that well-being goals are achieved.

Any plan/project must demonstrate working practices to meet the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The County Biodiversity Duty Plan will meet each one.

NATURE RECOVERY PLAN FOR WALES

The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales (2015) recognises that the importance of biodiversity as underpinning healthy functioning ecosystems, human well-being and the economy. The Plan builds on the legislative frameworks set out above and identifies how, in Wales, we can address underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Specifically, by:

- Putting nature at the heart of decision-making
- Increasing the resilience of our natural environment
- Taking specific action for habitats and species

It sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the decline of our biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline. The ambition of the plan is:

To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society.

Part 1 of the Nature Recovery Plan sets out the objectives needed in Wales to achieve the ambition:

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

Part 2 of the Nature Recovery Plan sets out an action plan. A number of actions are allocated to the local authority as a key partner for delivery which will be incorporated into the Biodiversity Duty Plan.

TALGARTH TOWN COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY DUTY PLAN AND PRINCIPLES

The Biodiversity Duty Actions set out below broadly identify what local authorities intend to do to meet their legal requirements. The actions are organised into five Nature Recovery Plan objectives each of which are interdependent with other objectives. TTC will underpin its own actions through the five objectives identified through the Nature Recovery Plan for Wales - which means in practice:

Objective	TTC approach
Objective 1 - Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels	Grants monies and other decision making regarding use of resources will prioritise those with most benefit towards biodiversity and the environment.
Objective 2 - Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	Where there are principally important species identified locally, these will be incorporated into the Council plan and appropriate actions and partners found to support management
Objective 3 - Increase the resilience of our natural environments by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	The Councils and volunteer partners will use its resources towards restoring and creating habitats and will ensure that resource use increases the potential for resilience of the ward's natural environment.
Objective 4 - Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Where there pressured species and habitats are identified, TTC and volunteer partners will seek to support relevant organisations to help mitigate risks of decline Monitor and report on all invasive non-native species INVS
Objective 5 - Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	TTC will seek to learn more about, understand and mitigate risks around environmental pressures in the ward – within its resources and capabilities.

[Environment \(Wales\) Act - Wales Biodiversity Partnership](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES IN TALGARTH

Priority habitats and species have been identified by the Welsh Government as required by Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and subsequently by Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act. A revised list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales was published by Welsh Government in 2009. The list contains 51 priority habitats. This is the definitive reference for all statutory and non-statutory bodies involved in biodiversity conservation in Wales.

This plan has been produced to fulfil TTC's legal obligation set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 201 as public bodies seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This plan illustrates the Council's intent to behave responsibly and examine its own ecological footprint with a view to making positive change in the locality.

Talgarth is a historic market town and community located in Southern Powys, Mid Wales, situated within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. It lies at the southwest end of the Black Mountains, along the River Ennig and near the River Llynfi. It has a resident population of 1280. The main routes linking the area are the A479 and A470. The natural habitats of the ward, included in current and previous County Biodiversity Action Plans include:

Habitat	Location/Description	Associated Species
Wetlands and Watercourses	River Llynfi/Ennig Pond at 1976 old school site	Grayling, wild brown trout, white clawed crayfish, otter, dragonflies, newt, common frogs
Ancient Semi Natural woodland	Pwll Y Wrach SSSI	Dormouse, Otter, Bluebell, Toothwort, Ramsons, Dog's Mercury, wood anemone, Ash, Field Maple, hazel, Honeysuckle, lesser horseshoe bat, Wych Elm, Spindle, Sessile Oak, Rowan, Geulder Rose, Herb Robery, Wood Sorrel, Wood Avens, Enchanters Nightshade, dog violet, Herb Paris,

	Trewalkin meadow SSSI	Birds Nest Orchid, Pied flycatcher, wood warbler, Chiffchaff, Wood mouse, Kingfisher, great spotted woodpecker, badgers, fox, otter, tawny owl, barn owl, pheasant, nuthatch, tree creeper, dragonflies, Common spotted and early purple orchids, globeflower, betony, ragged robin, great burnet, meadowsweet, devils bit scabious
Common land/Ffridd/ Species rich Grasslands		Slow worm, hedgehogs, frogs, bats, bees, butterflies (various), red kites, buzzards, song thrush, robin, house sparrow, goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch, siskin, bluetit, long-tailed tit, coal tit, great tit, swallow, house martin, blackbird, curlew, raven, skylark, kestrel, sparrowhawk, pheasant, heron, badgers, fox, tawny owl, barn owl, field vole, sparrow hawk
Post-industrial land-Quarries	Regionally Important Geodiversity Site (RIGS)Pwll Y Wrach/Trewalkin meadow reserve	North East Wales RIGS Group Site Record
Wildlife Corridors	Farmland throughout the parish, Roadside verges, Old stone walls	Slow worm, hedgehogs, frogs, bats, bees, butterflies (various), red kites, buzzards, song thrush, robin, house sparrow, goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch, siskin, bluetit, long-tailed tit, coal tit, great tit, swallow, house martin, blackbird, dormice, voles, pheasant, heron, badgers, meadow sweet

Urban Habitats, Churchyards, Parks, Play areas, Allotments,	Town Centre St Gwendoline's Graveyard Woodlands Play area King Georg V play area Coed Y Bryn Allotments War Memorial Housing areas	Slow worm, hedgehogs, frogs, bats, bees (various), butterflies (various), red kites, buzzards, song thrush, robin, house sparrow, goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch, siskin, bluetit, long-tailed tit, coal tit, great tit, swallow, house martin, blackbird, wren, chiffchaff, starlings, raven, magpie, jackdaw, nuthatch, tree creeper, sparrow hawk, tawny owl, barn owl, dipper, dragonflies, grey wagtails
Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation SINC's	Bronllys Castle, Trefecca Cutting Woodland (The Mount), Middle Genfford and Trefecca Cutting Woodland (Maesgwyn)	Tawny owl, barn owl, collared dove, wood pigeon, heron, fox, hedgehog, rabbits, voles, badgers, pipistrelle bat, kingfisher

Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate. The IPES global assessment of biodiversity, the UN Global Biodiversity Outlook and the WWF's Living Planet Report show that levels of biodiversity across continents are plummeting with no sign of stopping, around one million animal and plant species across the globe are threatened with extinction. In Wales, the 2019 State of Nature report estimated that 1 in 6 of Wales' species are at risk of extinction. Since scientific monitoring began in the 1970s, 73 species have already gone extinct in Wales and a further 666 species are threatened with extinction. The 2020 State of our Natural Resources Report [5] also shows that Wales' species and habitats are in serious decline and the resilience of our ecosystems is in decline too. Across Wales we have networks of protected sites and nature reserves but these only account for around 12% of our land. These areas alone are not enough to reverse the ongoing declines in biodiversity.

The key pressures contributing to biodiversity loss in Wales are:

Climate change, Invasive species, development, intensive agriculture, pollution, woodland management and hydrological change. (Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan, PNRAP)

Habitat		Location	Current /previous actions	Planned action/Target	Date for completion	Whom
Wetlands and Watercourses		Llynfi/Ennig River	Wye and Usk river foundation/NRW management	Support any clean ups/walks and community actions. LERC/BIS reporting. Controlled removal of invasive species	Ongoing	Whole council
		Pond at old school	None to date	Clean and re-establish pond. Encourage the construction of ponds throughout the ward		
Ancient Semi Natural woodland	SSSI	Pwll Y Wrach SSSI reserve Trewalkin Meadow Nature Reserve	The Brecknock Wildlife Trust Management PCC/BBNPA	Work with management group. Support any initiatives. LERC/BIS reporting.	Ongoing	Whole council
Common land/Ffridd/ Species rich Grasslands		Rhos	BBNPA management	LERC/BIS reporting. Promote on social media platforms to not walk dogs in bird breeding season	Ongoing	
Post-industrial land-Quarries	RIGs	Regionally Important Geodiversity Site (RIGS)Pwll Y Wrach	The Brecknock Wildlife Trust Management PCC/BBNPA	LERC/BIS reporting. Support partner agencies	Ongoing	

Urban Habitats, Churchyards, Parks, Play areas, Allotments,		Urban Habitats Centre of town and surrounding	Worked with community volunteer biodiversity groups to develop plan Swift boxes on council owned buildings	To use eco-friendly planters and hanging baskets rather than plastic - rattan, willow, bamboo or seagrass with sustainable liners. Request the use of biodegradable pots for plants used throughout public places. Native pollinator friendly plants to be used only and locally sourced. To use bare root plants rather than those in plastic pots. Signage to be durable eco friendly material like wood To encourage chemical free weeding.	Ongoing	All volunteer groups in Town
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				To discourage the use of slug pellets. The use of peat free compost. Create dead wood piles. Encourage bird boxes. Weed any plants causing a trip hazard on pavements and walkways. Replace plastic tree ties with biodegradable materials like jute/hemp. Reduce the scrapping of between stone slabs to stop destroying microhabitats which are vital for tiny ecosystems that provide food and shelter.		
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				Stop use of leaf blowers as they are destructive to microhabitats. Reduce mowing on council land in these areas, potentially create meadow environments.		
		Churchyard	Reduction in mowing	To reduce mowing schedule. To request no use of plastic plants/flowers on graves. Hedgehog houses Wild flower meadow planting. Install organic composters	Ongoing	
		Play areas	Woodlands play area already a vibrant area for the Tiny Veg planting group	Encourage wood piles/bug houses. Wild planted areas. Organise litter picking with the children.	Ongoing	

		Allotments		For allotment committee to join Section 6 group. To encourage non chemical weeding Stop the use of slug pellets. Introduce wildlife and countryside act to group – especially around hedge cutting. Create hedgehog highways. Assist with grant applications. Construct a wildlife pond.	Ongoing	
		War Memorial	Perennial plants in council owned beds	Only perennial plants to be used in beds/planters around war memorial. Litter picking.	Ongoing	

Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation	SINC	Bronllys Castle, Trefecca Cutting Woodland (The Mount), Middle Genfford and Trefecca Cutting Woodland (Maesgwyn)		Review applications for potential negative impacts. Collaborate with NRW and local wildlife trusts for advice.		
TTC council commitments and behaviours			Reduction in the amount of photocopying Supporting sustainable projects- food share Book exchange Clothes swap	To source eco-friendly cleaning products. Reduce photocopying and utilise electronic means of communication. Encourage the community to reduce, reuse and recycle. Install recycling bins in the town centre. Encourage businesses to be aware of their responsibilities - reduce single use plastics.	Ongoing	

Adopted by Talgarth Town Council 15th April 2026 – Signed by Cllr A Lord Mayor