

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

Section 6 Report December 2022 – Nevern Community Council

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Nevern Community Council:

Introduction and Context

Nevern Community Council covers the southern part of St Dogmaels County Council ward, in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and includes the villages of Moylegrove, Monington, Glanrhyd, Felindre Farchog, Nevern and Cilgwyn.

It has 9 community councillors and a clerk. As a guide to its population, there are approximately 700 electors in its area. Its 2022-2023 precept is £14,600.

As a small Council, it is not subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Its Section 6 planning and reporting duty is undertaken by the Community Council as a whole.

The council does not own or occupy an office building and holds its meetings alternately in Moylegrove Old School Hall and Nevern Village Hall. The Council owns Nevern Castle.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) objectives 1, 4 and 6 are assumed to be relevant to all Councils, while the NRAP objectives 2, 3 and 5 relating to grounds are relevant for Nevern Castle, which is owned by the Council.

Nevern Community Council helps biodiversity by

- ensuring that environmental issues are promptly reported to the relevant authorities,
 - reviewing planning applications to ensure that these do not compromise local biodiversity,
 - taking advantage of schemes that can benefit our environment
 - making the local community aware of local schemes to improve the environment
 - managing our own site at Nevern Castle in an environmentally-friendly way.
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNPA) undertakes management of the site of the historic monument at Nevern Castle, in coordination with one of our Community Councillors, who is also responsible for monthly inspections of the site as a whole, and ensuring any necessary works are carried out to parts outside the remit of PCNPA.

The key issues for biodiversity in our area are as follows:

- Loss of wildlife corridors
- Slurry management
- Pollution of water courses and sewage management
- Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed
- Protection of bird nesting sites along the coast and of seal pups
- Protection of our sites of Special Scientific Interest

- Management of our Nevern Castle site to protect the woodland, including dealing with trees affected by ash dieback, and to manage the grassed area of the historic monument itself in a way that supports biodiversity.

The Nevern area has faced and faces a number of challenges:

- The threatened closure of public toilets at Newport Beach and Moylegrove is a challenge, threatening an increase in the amount of human ordure left on the coastline.
- There has been increased disturbance of seal pups - an increase in swimming and kayaking in the Witches Cauldron when there are seal pups on the beach, and also more seal pups at Ceibwr Bay, subject to disturbance by dogs and people.
- There have been issues with sewage work overflows resulting in sewage at Newport Beach and Ceibwr Bay.

See also Section 6 plan and the description of habitats at the end of this document.

Action Report

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<p>As a small council, all councillors are involved in decision-making, at council meetings.</p> <p>Ongoing project to renew interpretation panels at Nevern Castle – commitment to use environmentally-friendly materials.</p>	
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Information on relevant initiatives are passed on to the local community.	
-safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>Management of the Nevern Castle site: in collaboration with PCNPA, grass on the site is cut late in the season in order to support meadow plants, including orchids.</p> <p>A programme of felling some ash trees subject to ash dieback is in progress, with advice from, and in collaboration with, PCNPA.</p>	

-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<p>Liaison with PCNPA and local community on the 70 trees for 70 years project to plant 70 trees in each community, resulting in the planting of trees behind Nevern Village Hall and at the road junction south of Moylegrove.</p> <p>From 2016 - 2019, the St Dogmaels Community Orchard project helped local people in Moylegrove plant orchard trees and also had an ambition to take steps towards a wildlife corridor between St Dogmaels and Moylegrove, as their research showed wildlife corridors are lacking in our area.</p>	
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<p>Slurry and other pollution affecting watercourses has been reported to Natural Resources Wales.</p> <p>PCNPA project to eliminate himalayan balsam from the Nevern catchment area: communicated to local volunteers. Principles from this project have also been transferred to local community efforts to eliminate Himalayan balsam in the Nant Awen and Nant Ceibwr catchment areas.</p> <p>Local community involvement with CLEAN (Catchment Level Environmental Action Network), which has been looking at water quality on the River Nevern.</p>	
-use improve and share evidence		
-support capacity and/or other organisations	Collaboration with PCNPA, CLEAN (supported by CARE) and other organisations.	
Review of s6 duty		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change? • How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed? <p>Nevern Community Council will review its S6 plan and its approach to monitoring the S6 duty within the next three months.</p>		

Nevern Community Council: Section 6 Plan to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity and Promote Resilience

This plan sets out what Nevern Community Council proposes to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote resilience.

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The S6 duty requires that public authorities 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.

There are six objectives set out in the **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales** that should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the S6 Duty. These objectives are as follows:

- 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 Environment (Wales) Act sets out the following attributes of ecosystem resilience:

- Diversity - generally speaking, more diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences and their impacts. This includes biological, geological and physical diversity
- Connectivity within and between ecosystems
- Scale and Extent - the bigger the ecosystem extends, without fragmentation, the more resilient it is likely to be
- Condition - ecosystems need to be in a healthy condition to function effectively, to deliver a range of important ecosystem services
- Adaptability – the ability of ecosystems to adapt to events, understanding that ecosystems are not static and will change over time.

Nevern Community Council will take the following actions to contribute to these objectives and to promoting resilience:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

Nevern Community Council is committed to taking biodiversity into account:

- In its management of the grounds of Nevern Castle

- When considering planning applications
- When highlighting environmental issues in its area, such as slurry on roads, contamination of watercourses or invasive plants etc.

Nevern Community Council will also seek to ensure that other voluntary bodies in the Nevern Area, including Cymdeithas Trewyddel, Nevern Village Hall and Friends of Nevern Castle, are aware of relevant projects in the area.

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

Nevern Community Council undertakes to:

- manage the grounds of Nevern Castle to be wildlife friendly, in collaboration with our partners, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA), who help maintain the grounds of the ancient monument
- look for opportunities to improve biodiversity both within the grounds of Nevern Castle and elsewhere within the Nevern Area
- look for opportunities to support pollinators and be a Bee Friendly organisation
- support local and community-based biodiversity action
- support local action to improve wildlife corridors to help improve resilience
- support local action to maintain and protect our areas of special scientific interest.

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

Nevern Community Council will review biodiversity and resilience issues and actions each year. It will produce an action report every three years and subsequently revise this plan.

Habitats

Nevern is within the South West Wales Area as classified by Natural Resources Wales.

In terms of “broad” habitats, it is mostly enclosed farmland, with a small amount of woodland, semi-natural grassland, coastal margins (along the whole coast), marine and open waters (at Newport Estuary), and mountain and moorland (Cilgwyn). See <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/691538/area-statement-broad-habitatssw-a4.pdf>

Nevern is within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and includes a number of areas of special interest:

- Parts of the North Pembrokeshire Woodlands Special Area of Conservation:
 - Coed Ty Canol (Also a National Nature Reserve - NNR). This is one of six Welsh wood pastures of international importance due to its rich and diverse lichens (more than 400 species). It is owned and managed by PCNPA (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park).
 - Pengelli Forest and Pant-teg Wood (also an SSSI and NNR). Pengelli Forest is part of the largest block of ancient oak woodland in West Wales. It is owned by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.
- Part of the Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation, which extends from the coastal path or fence outwards 20km from the coast and protects the wildlife of 1000k m² of sea. The area is designated for the protection of bottlenose dolphins, grey seals, river and sea lampreys, reefs, sandbanks and sea caves. (See https://cardiganbaysac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Cardigan_Bay_SAC_Management_Scheme_2008.pdf). Byelaws and the Pembrokeshire Marine Code (code of conduct) are relevant to activities within the area (see appendix 9 of the Management Scheme document above), while the Countryside Council for Wales is the first point of contact for information about the impact of various recreational activities.

The Special Area includes:

- Ceibwr Bay, the north side of which is also part of the Aberarth – Carreg Wylan Special Area of Scientific Interest. This is a marine protected area where the habitats listed for protection include reefs, shallow submerged sandbanks, and submerged or partly submerged sea caves. Protected marine species include the Eurasian otter, grey seal, common bottlenosed dolphin and harbour porpoise.
Parts of the coast at Ceibwr Bay are owned by the National Trust.
- Part of the West Wales Marine Special Area of Conservation, designated for the protection of Harbour Porpoise, and including a large part of the coast of West Wales. The area includes:
 - Newport Cliffs Special Area of Scientific Interest, designated such in an attempt to protect its fragile biological elements. It includes cliffs, and coastal grassland and heathland, and features include perennial

centaury, royal fern, sea spleenwort and sea purslane as well as nesting for choughs, peregrine falcons and razorbills.

- Whole coastline – is considered sensitive from 1st March to 31st July, with sensitive nesting sites, for instance at Ceibwr Bay. See the Pembrokeshire Marine Code <https://www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/>