



Pryfed Peillio *Cymru*
Pollinators *in Wales*



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Action Plan for Pollinators

Review 2013-18 and Future Actions



Action Plan for Pollinators Task Force

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

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Background

Pollination is a fundamental component of our biodiversity. Twenty percent of the UK cropped area contains crops which are dependent on pollinators and the value of pollinators to UK agriculture is over £690 million per year¹.

There has been growing concern regarding the population status of insect pollinators, and in turn the pollination service they provide (²Potts *et al.* 2010; Garratt *et al.* 2014³). As with most other areas of biodiversity, the main threats to pollinators include habitat loss, environmental pollution, climate change and the spread of alien species (Klein *et al.* 2007; Potts *et al.* 2010; Vanbergen & The Insect Pollinators Initiative 2013).

Wales' natural resources – our land, sea and air - are at the heart of our well-being. They support our health, our livelihoods and our vibrant culture, but we must recognise that our natural resources come with a responsibility. Improvements are needed in the way we manage our natural resources.

The three national priorities for managing natural resources sustainably set out in the Welsh Government statutory Natural Resources Policy, are:

- Delivering nature based solutions
- Increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy
- Taking a place based approach.

The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales (APP) was launched by the then Minister for Natural Resources and Food at the Royal Welsh Show in July 2013 with the aim of reducing and reversing the decline in pollinators. It was developed by a wide range of stakeholders and has been recognised as an exemplar of co-design and co-production in the UK. It is not a Welsh Government Action Plan, but belongs to all stakeholders, who have remained jointly responsible for its delivery.

The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales was the first of its kind across the UK. It has the overall aim of reducing and reversing the decline in pollinators in Wales through:

- Providing more diverse flower rich habitats
- Maintaining healthy, sustainable populations of pollinators
- Raising awareness and providing information
- Encouraging positive action by everyone
- Building an evidence base to inform future actions.

¹ https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/food-security/cfs_case_studies_-_sustainable_pollination_services.pdf

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169534710000364>

³ http://www.reading.ac.uk/caer/Project_IPI_Crops/documents/Ag_Eco_Env_2014_Garratt_et_al.pdf

The Action Plan sets out four key outcomes, and we have used these to report on what has been achieved since its launch in 2013. This review refers to some of the key achievements. More detailed information of the work undertaken is provided separately in Annex 2.

The four key outcomes are:

- **Outcome 1:** Wales has joined up policy, governance and a sound evidence base for action for pollinators
- **Outcome 2:** Wales provides diverse and connected flower rich habitats to support our pollinators
- **Outcome 3:** Wales' pollinator populations are healthy
- **Outcome 4:** Wales' citizens are better informed and aware of the importance and management of pollinators

Also of relevance is the Welsh Government's action to support the health of both managed honey bees and wild bees. In 2009, Defra and the Welsh Government published the Healthy Bees Plan and this aims to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees for pollination and honey production in England and Wales.

In addition, the National Bee Unit (NBU), part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and supported by the Welsh Government, delivers the Bee Health Programme. The NBU promotes good standards of husbandry to minimise pest and disease risks through inspection, education, research, and regularly updates contingency plans together with holding annual contingency exercises to test responses to the introduction of exotic pests into Wales and England.

The review

A Task and Finish Group of stakeholders was established and has gathered evidence of positive activities for pollinators which have been undertaken by Welsh Government and its stakeholders in support of the APP. A second role has been to identify additional future opportunities for pollinator conservation, including through increased community engagement, the ways in which public bodies can manage public land, and through the opportunity provided by future land management initiatives in Wales.

An important element of the review is to further the integration of bee health policy and activity, identifying future challenges and opportunities for solitary pollinators and honey bee colonies.

This review will ensure all stakeholders Welsh Ministers have confidence that the exercise has had a solid co-operation base in both the collating of evidence and setting future priorities to ensure the opportunities for pollinators are met. The review has taken into account 'Prosperity for All',⁴ the national

⁴ <https://gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf>

strategy for Wales, which sets out Ministerial commitments over the next term (2016-21).

Importantly, this review is underpinned by the 2015 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. Many public authorities, including Welsh Government, are obligated to comply with Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty)⁵.

⁵ <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?lang=en>

Outcome 1: Wales has joined up policy, governance and a sound evidence base for action for pollinators

- **APP Task Force.** A key element of the Action Plan was the establishment of the Wales Pollinator Task Force, a group of partner organisations with particular focus on pollinators. It has been the driving force in co-ordinating the delivery of the Action Plan. The Task Force comes together twice a year to discuss issues, share practice and to ensure consistency in the promotion of pollinators.
- **Baseline Monitoring.** The Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme⁶ pollinator monitoring surveys pollinators on a 4-year cycle on a number of random sites and targeted squares chosen to capture the effects of the Glastir agri-environment scheme on pollinators.
- **UK-wide Pollinator Monitoring.** The Welsh Government is a member of the UK-wide Pollinator Monitoring and Research Partnership (PMRP), which aims to combine improved analyses of long-term records with new systematic survey activity to establish how insect pollinator populations are changing. These include providing much-needed data on the state of our insect pollinators, especially wild bees and hoverflies, and the role they fulfil in supporting farming and other wildlife.
- **Programme for Government Indicators.** At a UK level, UK biodiversity indicator D1C⁷ reports on the status of pollinating insects. At a Wales level, work is ongoing to develop indicators 43 (Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales) and 44 (Status of Biological diversity in Wales).
- **Research.** The Saving Pollinators programme at The National Botanic Garden of Wales investigates the foraging requirements of honeybees and wild pollinators, using cutting edge DNA barcoding research. It aims to ensure that suitable plants can be provided within gardens, amenity areas and within agricultural landscapes.

Outcome 2: Wales provides diverse and connected flower rich habitats to support our pollinators

- **Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly.** A major success of the Action Plan has been the Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly initiative, which, at the time, was the first co-ordinated national scheme of its kind. It has the aim of making Wales a Pollinator-Friendly country. Launched by the Task Force in September 2016, the initiative has engaged with a variety of

⁶ <https://gmep.wales/>

⁷ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6851>

communities, community groups, businesses, third sector organisations, town and community councils, and has provided support and advice of actions to take, including a certificate of accreditation and logo for participating organisations.

- **Sharing and Publicising Information.** As an accompaniment for BeeFriendly accredited organisations, members of the Task Force (Jan Miller, North Wales Wildlife Trust and Mark Carlton, Wildlife Gardening Forum) have also collaborated to produce a suggested plant list for pollinators.⁸
- **Action by Local Authorities.** Local authorities have also played major part in supporting the Action Plan. Monmouthshire County Council has launched a Green Infrastructure Plan for pollinators, and has produced a series of guidance booklets for highway managers, green space managers, head teachers and public estates managers⁹.
- In addition, a number of projects have been supported through the Welsh Government Local Authority Green Infrastructure Capital Grant; Caerphilly, Monmouth, Torfaen and Wrexham local authorities are all undertaking work beneficial for pollinators.
- **Nature Fund and Sustainable Management Scheme.** The Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 has been used to support habitat improvement works through the Nature Fund and Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS). These are integrated projects with the aim of improving the health of ecosystems which, in turn, will aid pollinators:

Keep Wales Tidy Natural Buzz

A pan Wales project led by Keep Wales Tidy through Summer 2015 maximised multiple ecosystem services of undervalued green sterile spaces – mowed areas on industrial estates, school and hospital grounds, business parks and roadside verges transforming them into pollinator supporting areas of wildflowers.

Pollinators for Life Project

This ambitious and innovative project was delivered in 2015 and led by Torfaen County Borough Council. It undertook a range of initiatives to promote long term sustainable land management and to improve habitats and conditions for all pollinating species across the South Wales Valleys. One element of the project partnered with Gwent Beekeepers to provide education facilities at Greenmeadow Community Farm to deliver courses on beekeeping to the local community.

Pennal 2050 (Future project)

An inter-generational, collaborative, landscape scale project to be delivered by a co-

⁸ <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/File/268/en-GB>

⁹ <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/countryside-services/green-infrastructure>

operative group (The Pennal Partnership) from 2018 – 2021 of more than 40 partner landowners, community groups, environmental organisations, farming unions and local businesses including tourism, leisure, health, farming and recreation sectors. Working together and drawing on local expertise and involving people across the community the project aims to tackle key threats in the Dyfi catchment area including climate change, habitat degeneration, reduced biodiversity, biosecurity issues, flooding risk, reduced water and land quality, health inequalities and social exclusion. The project will enable a better understanding of these threats and how to best address them and towards using natural resources efficiently and building more resilient ecosystems to safeguard the services these provide to the community. The project will also explore the role for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in an agricultural context and take action to support tourism. One of the activities in the area supports pollinators and includes the establishment of 10 community hives of native Welsh bees assisting biodiversity and resilience of both pollinators and flowering plants. There are opportunities for developing further links (commercial and educational) with commercial producers such as Hilltop Honey.

- **Road Verges for Wildflowers’ initiative** In June 2014, the previous Minister for Economy, Science and Transport announced the ‘Road Verges for Wildflowers’ initiative. Coordinated by Transport officials, the 5 year initiative focuses on delivering road verge improvements along the Welsh Trunk road and Motorway Network. To date over 50 road verge projects have been completed successfully, delivered by the South Wales, and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agents. Projects range from improving maintenance techniques at key sites to encourage existing wildflower communities to thrive and spread (e.g. wild orchids on the A40 at Llandeilo), to creating new wildflower verges using techniques such as harvesting wildflower seeds from donor sites and sowing onto prepared verges (e.g. on the A487 at Maentwrog).
- **Road verge management** The Welsh Government organised two seminars for Local Authority officials in summer 2017 to help promote best practice in the management of roadside verges for biodiversity whilst still meeting road safety requirements. These seminars provided an excellent opportunity to share examples of positive roadside management and demonstrate best practice, but it was clear, there is still much to do to change traditional thinking around these important wildlife corridors.
- **B-Lines** In 2017 Buglife Cymru produced B-Lines maps for South and West Wales further to consultation with a large partnership including Welsh Government, Local Authorities, local record centres environmental NGOs and others. Whilst co-ordinated by Buglife, B-Lines is a tool that can be used by any organisation, group, business or individual that wishes to restore or create habitat for pollinators and other wildlife – everyone can take part.

B-Lines is a landscape-scale approach to pollinator and habitat conservation that provides;

- A high profile programme that can engage all sectors of society to learn more about wildlife, enjoy nature and take practical action to help wildlife.
- A framework for organisations and individuals carrying out enhancements for wildlife to work together to collectively achieve much more than they could on their own and record their progress.
- A mechanism for long term delivery of habitat restoration projects, which can attract funding from a wide variety of sources, ensure best practise and make good use of resources.
- An approach that is supported by numerous stakeholder organisations, who can all contribute to its delivery.

- **Guidance for Local Authorities** In 2017 Buglife Cymru and Friends of the Earth Cymru produced the guidance *'Helping pollinators locally in Wales – Developing a local pollinator Action Plan or Strategy'*¹⁰ primarily aimed at Local Authorities but also relevant to other statutory bodies. The guide outlines key considerations when producing a pollinator plan or strategy, framing it within the context of Welsh Policy and legislation.

Outcome 3: Wales' Pollinator Populations are Healthy

- **Beekeeping in Wales.** There are currently 3,366 beekeepers in Wales registered on the National Bee Unit's (NBU) online database Beebase. Between them, they have 18,675 colonies in 4,624 apiaries – an average of 5.5 colonies per beekeeper and 4 colonies per apiary. Over the past 5 years, the number of new beekeepers registering on Beebase in Wales has fluctuated - in 2013 there were 218 but 2014 saw an upward trend with 331 new beekeeper registrations, followed by 347 in 2015 dropping to 246 in 2016 and 205 in 2017.
- **Supporting Beekeepers.** The Welsh Government continues to work in partnership with the other UK devolved administrations in supporting the National Bee Unit to deliver the Bee Health Programme in Wales to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees for pollination and honey production in the UK.
- **Inspections.** In 2017, Welsh Inspectorate visits totalled 730 beekeepers, 1280 apiaries, 6195 colonies and carried out 430 inspections in 2017 specific to exotic pests, targeting a combination of

¹⁰ <https://www.buglife.org.uk/developing-a-local-pollinator-action-plan>

identified risk points and random sites. Exotic pest surveillance (EPS) inspections check for Small Hive Beetle (SHB), Tropilaelaps mites and Asian hornets (AH) as well as being a normal brood inspection looking for foulbrood. The identified risk points are ports, airports, crude hive product importers, fruit and vegetable wholesale markets and landfill sites associated with imported products. Given the continued presence of Small Hive Beetle in Italy this year and the incursion of the Asian Hornet from across the channel in France, the importance of exotic pest surveillance work cannot be overstated.

- **Being Prepared.** Exotic pest contingency plans are published on BeeBase¹¹. Welsh Government continues to work with colleagues in APHA and Defra in promoting enhanced vigilance of bee diseases amongst Welsh bee keepers.
- **Sentinel Apiaries.** Fifteen Sentinel Apiaries exist in Wales in order to improve capacity to combat the arrival of pests from abroad. Sentinel apiaries are set up in areas considered 'at risk' where a volunteer beekeeper agrees to monitor their colonies specifically for exotic pests.

Outcome 4: Wales' citizens are better informed and aware of the importance and management of pollinators.

- **Guidance for land managers.** Welsh Government has provided support and guidance¹² for farmers and landowners on managing farmland for pollinators through the Welsh Government Farming Connect programme, supported under the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP).
- **Social media.** There is no doubt that the plight of pollinators globally has increased in recent years. Through Bee Friendly, accredited organisations are encouraged to publicise their achievements and these are routinely shared through the Bee Friendly Facebook page and the Welsh Government Twitter account including re-tweeting by Welsh Ministers.
- **Eco-schools.** We have made great strides with the Keep Wales Tidy 'Eco Schools' programme. This is an international initiative which provides a framework to support sustainable development and global citizenship in schools. Eco Schools extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible citizenship attitudes both at home and in the wider community. The Eco Schools programme has been invaluable in promoting and enhancing the profile of the Bee Friendly initiative.

¹¹ <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=206>

¹² <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/factsheets-publications-and-technical-articles/managing-farmland-pollinators>

- **Stakeholder activities.** Many stakeholders have used the Caru Gwenyn/Bee Friendly initiative to develop new activities supporting pollinators. These have centred largely on engagement at a community level, right from primary schools, colleges and universities to town councils, community gardens and housing associations. It is using this co-design model, in conjunction with stakeholders that further avenues can be explored, resulting in positive outcomes for pollinators.
- Some examples of Bee Friendly organisations include the following:
 - Conwy, Monmouthshire and Denbighshire Local Authorities
 - Swansea, Cardiff and Cardiff Met Universities
 - Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
 - Coleg y Cymoedd, one of the biggest Further Education Colleges in Wales
 - The RSPB Reserve at Lake Vyrnwy
 - The National Trust property at Chirk Castle
 - Bron Afon Housing Association
 - St Davids – the first city in Wales to attain Bee Friendly status



Pharma Bees



Cardiff & Vale UHB -BIP Caerdydd a'r Fro



Prifysgol Caerdydd - Cardiff University

Examples of Caru Gwenyn/Bee Friendly activities



Schoolchildren on a beekeeping visit

#BEEFRIENDLY FACTS

In Wales, around 1,500 insect species are pollinators, including the Large Mason Bee which is now only recorded in two locations in North Wales.

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Caru Gwenyn
Bee Friendly

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Bee Friendly Tweet



Caru Gwenyn/Bee Friendly Activities

What we're going to do - the future

This section summarises a range of the key activities that will be taken forward to support the APP outcomes. It is not exhaustive, and other stakeholders will also be taking action in support of the APP.

Outcome 1: Wales has joined up policy, governance and a sound evidence base for action for pollinators

| Issue | Action | Lead |
|---|---|---|
| APP Task Force | The Task Force will continue to meet twice yearly, to coordinate, support and join up stakeholder activity in support of the APP. | WG will continue to provide the secretariat for the APP Task Force |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - Sustainable Management of Natural Resources | Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act puts in place an objective, principles and framework for the sustainable management of natural resources, with the aim of maintaining and enhancing resilient ecosystems, to provide the multiple benefits which contribute to our well-being. The Natural Resources Policy produced under Section 9 of the Act sets out the national priorities for Welsh Ministers. | WG will work to embed the national priorities through delivering nature based solutions – a key theme is delivering Urban Green Infrastructure. |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 -Section6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty | Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities, including Local Authorities, have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. As biodiversity underpins ecosystem resilience and the sustainable management of natural resources, the Section 6 duty aims to ensure the consideration of biodiversity becomes an integral part of the decisions and actions public authorities take in relation to Wales. | <p>WG will continue to work with public authorities to provide and share best practice guidance to both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Embed the consideration of biodiversity, including pollinators, into all levels of decision making; and <p>Take action to maintain and enhance biodiversity</p> <p>Public authorities must report on their actions by the end of 2019.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - Section 7 Biodiversity Lists | Under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish lists of species and habitats of principal importance to maintain and enhance biodiversity in Wales. In producing these lists they must consult Natural Resources Wales, and apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources as laid out in the Act. | NRW will advise the Welsh Ministers on revised biodiversity lists, which must take account of their contribution to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and to ecosystem resilience. |
| Future Land Management | <p>The Welsh Government will continue to support Welsh landowners post-Brexit and are working with a wide range of stakeholders to explore support options for the future which will protect Welsh natural resources including:</p> <p>Public goods from land management – support for delivering public benefits from the land such as mitigating flood risk, reducing carbon emissions, and increasing habitat resilience</p> <p>Supporting competitive farm businesses where sustainable production is viable – this involves supporting supply chains and processors as well as farmers.</p> <p>The Welsh Government vision is to take an integrated approach to land use and our environment to deliver competitive producers and significant public benefits. Welsh Government is considering how best to learn from the experiences of the previous land management schemes in order to increase habitat resilience underpinning our biodiversity and landscapes and it is envisaged that along with the Nature Recovery Plan, biodiversity (with a strong recognition on the importance of pollinators) will be a strong policy driver in conjunction with all other priorities.</p> | WG |
| Monitoring | Welsh Government will continue to be a member of the Pollinator Monitoring | WG |

| | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| | and Research Partnership (PMRP), providing much-needed data on the state of our insect pollinators, especially wild bees and hoverflies, and the role they fulfil in supporting farming and other wildlife. | |
| Indicators | WG, together with NRW, will continue to develop Welsh National Indicators 43 (Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales) and 44 (Status of Biological diversity in Wales). | WG and NRW |

Outcome 2: Wales provides diverse and connected flower rich habitats to support our pollinators

| Issue | Action | Lead |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Caru Gwenyn/Bee Friendly | Through our Bee Friendly initiative, we will continue to create opportunities for pollinators. Through past experience, community engagement is vital and with our partner stakeholders, we will seek to create further suitable habitats for pollinators through urban planting initiatives and public estate management. Collaborating with Keep Wales Tidy through the Eco-Schools Programme, Welsh Government are raising awareness of pollinators throughout schools and encouraging them to apply for Bee Friendly status | WG |
| WG estate | Progress is ongoing throughout the Welsh Government estate in creating native species-rich habitats for pollinators. There are currently apiaries in the Welsh Government offices at Aberystwyth, Llandudno Junction and Merthyr Tydfil offices. A number of apiaries and a wild garden is being proposed on the roof of the Welsh Government Cathays Park in Cardiff. | WG |
| Roadside verges | Building on the Welsh Government roadside verge seminars in 2017, we will continue to tackle the challenges facing the management of roadside verges and their importance to biodiversity, in particular pollinators. Continued engagement is needed with highway engineers and contract managers in collaboration with ecologists to ensure the positive management of roadside verges. | WG and local authorities |
| B-lines | Thanks to funding from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agents, and the continued support of Welsh Government, Buglife Cymru is working with partners in these areas to map B-Lines across the rest of Wales and to develop new B-lines projects and promote delivery of the B-Lines network amongst partners, land owners and land managers. | Buglife Cymru |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) | In Blaenau Gwent, a review of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan has taken place and the Biodiversity Action Group has become Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen Local Nature Partnership (LNP). This also includes discussing with LNP members on how they can contribute to the Action Plan for Pollinators and communicating these actions through Green Infrastructure Plan for Pollinators (GI fPP) meetings to ensure actions are co-ordinated across all four counties in south-east Wales. | LNPs |
| Green Infrastructure Plans | Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) are developing a Green Infrastructure Plan for selected towns in the County. This will also involve a Pembrokeshire County Council review of Roadside Verge Nature Reserve Network and to review planting in amenity areas to include native pollinator-friendly mixes. | PCC and PCNPA |

Outcome 3: Wales' Pollinator Populations are Healthy

| Issue | Action | Lead |
|--|---|------------|
| Healthy Bees Plan | WG will work in co-operation with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra in reviewing the Healthy Bees Plan. These objectives of the Healthy Bees Plan are to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees for pollination and honey production in the UK. It provides the impetus for Government, beekeepers and other stakeholders to respond effectively to pest and disease threats and to sustain honey bees and beekeeping for the future. | WG |
| UK Bee Health Advisory Forum. | WG will continue to be members of the UK Bee Health Advisory Forum. | WG |
| Support for National Bee Unit | WG will continue to the work of APHA and the National Bee Unit (NBU). This includes managing and controlling bee pests and diseases that are already present in the UK including American and European Foulbrood (AFB and EFB), | WG and NBU |
| Contingency planning and outbreaks of invasive species | <p>Varroa and also those exotic pests and diseases which are currently absent but may be a future threat such as Small hive beetle, Tropilaelaps mites and the Asian Hornet.</p> <p>An Asian Hornet Contingency Plan has been drawn up between WG and Defra, detailing the steps to be taken in the event of an outbreak. This integrated approach relationship in sharing resources will continue will colleagues in Defra.</p> | WG and NBU |

Outcome 4: Wales' citizens are better informed and aware of the importance and management of pollinators.

| Issue | Action | Lead |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Role of local authorities | <p>Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) and Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) have both successfully attained Bee Friendly status and will continue to promote pollinator-friendly behaviours</p> <p>Buglife Cymru will continue to contribute to the APP to support the development and delivery of projects in conjunction with local authorities to support the creation/revision of pollinator plans/strategies. Buglife have produced 'The Promotion of Helping Pollinators locally in Wales' guide for local authorities, increasing engagement with other statutory bodies including Public Service Bodies (PSB's).</p> | <p>CBCC and MCC</p> <p>Buglife Cymru</p> |
| Visitors to nature reserves | Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (MWT) has attained Bee Friendly status and is promoting the opportunities for pollinators across their twenty-two nature reserves in mid-Wales. | MWT |
| Working with communities | In partnership with RSPB and Cardiff Council, Buglife Cymru is assisting in the delivery of Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff, working with schools, allotments, community groups and families to increase habitat and raise awareness of pollinators. | Buglife Cymru, RSPB, Cardiff Council |
| National surveys and initiatives | Buglife Cymru is developing new pollinator projects with partners, reviewing and updating pollinator webpages, guidance sheets at events and to promote national surveys and initiatives such as BeeWalk, Polli:nation, Big Butterfly Count and Bee Friendly. | Buglife Cymru |

Annex 1 – Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Monmouthshire County Council

In December 2016, the Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators won the Landscape Institute's annual President's Award. The plan is the first of its kind and sets out how land owners can manage their property more effectively and work together to tackle the decline of bees and other pollinators

It was produced by Cardiff-based TACP landscape architects and project-managed by Mackley Davies Associates Ltd to create new habitats for pollinators on behalf of the local councils in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

The plan was one of a number of individual and collaborative projects that formed part of the *Pollinators for Life* project coordinated by Torfaen council, delivered by the four local councils and financed by the Welsh Government's Nature Fund programme.

Monmouthshire's lead on the Green Infrastructure Action Plan for Pollinators was complemented by the development of its pollinator garden at Usk and inspired by its new green infrastructure policy approach to development and management

The plan was praised in particular for the benefits brought by collaboration between neighbouring councils, social landlords, emergency services, schools, land owners and other community groups. It outlines actions to encourage bees and other pollinating insects. These include cutting grass to different heights at different times of the year and the development of wild flower meadows or formal planting areas.



Case Study 2 – Bee Friendly

Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly was launched in September 2016. It is the first co-ordinated national scheme of its kind and has making Wales a Pollinator-Friendly country at its heart. To-date, a total of twenty-nine organisations across Wales have so far attained Bee Friendly status and are undertaking positive activities for pollinators.

There are Four Goals for Bee-friendly:

- **Food** - *providing pollinator-friendly food sources in your area*
- **Five Star accommodation** - *providing places for insect pollinators to live*
- **Freedom from pesticides and herbicides** – *committing to avoid chemicals that harm pollinators*
- **Fun** – *involving all the community and telling people why you are helping pollinators.*



Notable successes have been:

- Conwy County Borough Council being the first Bee Friendly local authority in Wales, and Monmouthshire County Council the second.
- Swansea University being the first Bee Friendly University in Wales, with Cardiff University being the second.
- Usk Town Council being the first Bee Friendly Town Council in Wales, with Newport (Pembrokeshire) Town Council being the second.
- Coleg y Cymoedd Nantgarw Campus being the first Bee Friendly Further Education College in Wales.
- Other Bee Friendly organisations include the RSPB, Montgomery Wildlife Trust, and a variety of schools up and down Wales.

Case Study 3 - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority National Park HQ

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority HQ is situated in Pembroke Dock in an area that is quite urban in character. The grassland surrounding the offices was switched from a regular amenity mow to meadow management with aim of increasing the wildness of the area and creating a bit of a buzz - in particular for wildflowers and pollinators.



The grounds are now cut annually and baled using a compact tractor small hay baling equipment. The resulting hay is then offered on our Facebook page and is normally collected for use by a local farmer or landowner.

The meadow at Llanion is still developing but already contains a range of typical wildflowers including Common Catsear, Black Knapweed, Birds-foot trefoil and Selfheal and we hope these will continue to spread under the new regime. We recorded an Early Purple orchid the first time in 2015.

The meadow is now alive with bees and butterflies through the summer months and the management is also benefitting a range of other wildlife; house sparrows are a regular visitor and a small flock of goldfinches were seen this year feeding on the seedheads. Swallows skim over the area in the summer taking advantage of invertebrate food above the grassland. The area is also very good for grassland fungi including Meadow, Parrott, Butter, Scarlet, Crimson and Snowy waxcaps as well as a population of Olive Earth-tongue.

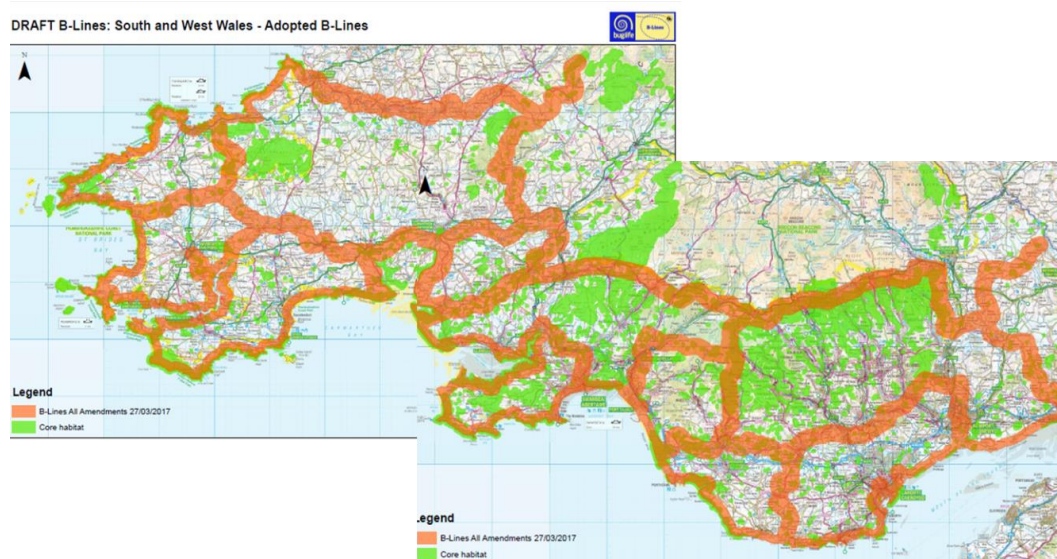
We have learnt quite a lot when establishing the meadow. The switch did cause some complaints initially about tidiness and to combat these we have diversified the mowing regime so that some areas such as the edges of the paths and in front of the buildings are now cut on a long rotation amenity mow (at least 6 weeks between cuts). These areas look smart but have also established a different but equally interesting flora with lots of low growing clover, yarrow and birdsfoot trefoil. This has the added benefit of continuing to provide a nectar source once the haymeadow has been cut.

Case Study 4 – B-Lines

Buglife's B-Lines project is working to identify linear pathways across the UK, along which a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones will be restored and created. These enhanced linear pathways will help pollinator movement across the landscape, aiming to improve habitat connectivity and contribute to more resilient pollinator populations.

B-Lines are 3km wide 'dispersal corridors' which encompass and link the best and most extensive areas of existing wildflower-rich habitat. These are mapped based on key habitat assets from both national and local habitat datasets, and where possible by taking advantage of existing ecological network and biodiversity opportunity maps to help locate key linkages. A local stakeholder group is brought together to discuss and agree upon the proposed B-Lines network.

In 2016 Buglife Cymru carried out this exercise, mapping B-Lines across [South and West Wales](#). Datasets including the Wales Phase 1 Habitat map, SSSI layer and local wildlife site layers were used to create a draft B-Lines map. Workshops engaged a wide range of partners including Local Authorities, NGOs, local record centres, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and local naturalists. Thanks to continued funding from Welsh Government and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agents (NMWTRA) we are now working with partners to map B-Lines in mid and north Wales.



B-Lines have the potential to:

- Restore and create permanent high quality wildflower-rich grasslands (and other wildflower-rich habitats), increasing the overall area of habitat and helping conserve and enhance populations of a wide range of invertebrates
- Reduce habitat fragmentation across our landscapes and improve habitat connectivity and species movement/dispersal
- Contribute towards a number of ecosystem services, including pollination, carbon sequestration and water resource management. Importantly the B-Lines Initiative allows participation whether you are a large landowner, a local authority, community group, business or as an individual – everyone has a part to play.

Case Study 5 – Saving Pollinators at the National Botanic Garden of Wales

The interacting factors of habitat loss, agricultural intensification, pests, disease and climate change contribute to worldwide pollinator declines. Understanding the reasons for these pollinator losses and providing conservation guidance requires detailed information on the habitat requirements and foraging preferences of pollinating insects. We use our DNA barcoding expertise and extensive horticultural resource to research the floral preferences of both honeybees and wild pollinators.

By using DNA barcoding to identify pollen from the bodies of pollinators and from honey samples, we are investigating which plants honeybees and wild pollinators use. We are using this information to provide guidance on the best plants to provide within gardens, amenity areas and within agricultural landscapes. We currently have four PhD students conducting this research, three of which are funded through the Knowledge Exchange Skills Scholarship (KESS2).

- Laura Jones (NBGW and Bangor University) is investigating the foraging preferences of honeybees throughout the UK.
- Andrew Lucas (NBGW and Swansea University) investigating the plants used by hoverflies in semi-natural agricultural grasslands.
- Abigail Lowe (NBGW and Bangor University) researching the value of gardens for providing floral resources to pollinating insects.
- Lucy Witter (NBGW and Aberystwyth University) Plants for Pollinators: developing and testing pollinator-friendly seed mixes and planting schemes for gardens, amenity spaces and agricultural systems.

Growing the Future – Plants for Pollinators Assurance Scheme

We are embarking on a five-year project to champion Welsh horticulture, protect wildlife and extol the virtues of growing plants for food, fun, health and well-being. The project has received £2.3 million of funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government. Part of this project will see the development of a 'Plants for Pollinators Assurance Scheme'. Using the results of our Saving Pollinators research we will work with Welsh growers to provide pollinator-friendly plants that are sustainably produced in Wales without the use of peat and pesticides.



Annex 2 – Progress on Actions 2013 – 2017

| Area for Action 1.1: | Evidence of Action |
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| Linking together and initiating policies and programmes to produce actions that are good for pollinators and therefore wider ecosystem health | |
| Establish a Pollinators Taskforce group. | Achieved. The APP Task Force was established in October 2013. It is a key driving force for delivering the objectives of the Action Plan. It is open to any organisation which contributes to the Wales action plan and continues to meet twice a year. It receives presentations on ongoing initiatives from members of the Task Force to help join up and coordinate activity across Wales. |
| Identify any future resource needs and sources for the implementation of the plan. | Ongoing. Guided by priorities set and the work of the APP Task Force informs the decisions concerning the resources its individual members allocate to implementing the action plan. |
| Develop the draft Implementation Plan into a work programme, using Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) protocols and website. | Achieved. The Implementation Plan has been put into action through the ongoing actions of the APP Task Force. This annex summarises the work undertaken. |
| Ensure the natural resource management programme within Welsh Government (WG) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) takes full account of pollinators as a key ecosystem service. | Achieved. The WG's statutory Natural Resources Policy fully reflects the importance of pollination as a key ecosystem service. NRW continue to actively promote pollinators through their Love Pollinators and Pollinator Paparazzi initiatives ¹³ . |

¹³ . <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/pollinators/bee-a-pollinator-paparazzi/?lang=en> / <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/pollinators/love-pollinators/?lang=en>

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| Ensure the next Rural Development Plan has the potential to deliver for pollinators. | Achieved. The Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020 has delivered positive actions for pollinators through the Glastir agri-environment scheme and the Sustainable Management Scheme (further details below). |
| Ensure pollinators are an integral part of the response to the State of Nature report and any strategy for biodiversity in Wales. | Achieved. The State of Nature 2016: Wales ¹⁴ report notes in particular on the decline of butterflies in Wales. Wales' biodiversity strategy is the WG Nature Recovery Action Plan and includes recognises the role and importance of the Action Plan for Pollinators. |
| Take account of pollinators during WG NERC biodiversity audits internally, and of Local Authorities, including ensuring any funding criteria includes biodiversity and pollinators. | Achieved. The WG biodiversity were completed and published ¹⁵ . To contribute to reversing the decline of biodiversity, to promote the resilience of ecosystems Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act introduced an enhanced Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (the Section 6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The Section 6 duty replaces and strengthens, in Wales, the previous biodiversity duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The revised duty means that all public authorities, when carrying out their functions in relation to Wales, must |

¹⁴ https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/state-of-nature/stateofnature2016_wales_english.pdf

¹⁵ <https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/?lang=en>

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| | <p>seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity wherever possible within the proper exercise of their functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.</p> <p>Guidance has been produced by the Welsh Government to assist and support public authorities to comply with the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales.</p> <p>The opportunities to take action in support of biodiversity and pollinators have been fully included in WG funding guidance and criteria for WG Environment and Sustainable Development core funding; local authority Single Revenue Fund; and WG green infrastructure funding.</p> |
| Develop an indicator for the Programme for Government which will reflect work being done for pollinators across sectors. | Ongoing. At a UK level, UK biodiversity indicator D1C ¹⁶ reports on the status of pollinating insects. At a Wales level, work is ongoing to develop indicators 43 (Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales) and 44 (Status of Biological diversity in Wales). |
| Produce agreed best practice guidance for pollinators for land managers and policy makers. | <p>Achieved. Organisations such as NRW¹⁷, Buglife and Friends of the Earth Cymru¹⁸, and Monmouthshire, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent Councils¹⁹ have all produced separate guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • managing public land for pollinators (NRW); • developing a local pollinator action plan or strategy (Buglife and |

¹⁶ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6851>

¹⁷ <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/pollinators/love-pollinators/?lang=en>

¹⁸ https://www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Helping%20Pollinators%20Locally_Wales.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2017/01/Managing-Highway-Verges-for-Pollinators-An-introduction-for-highway-managers-final-draft-18.11.15.pdf>

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| | <p>Friends of the Earth Cymru);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> managing highway verges for pollinators (Monmouthshire, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent Councils). <p>Guidance has also been produced for landowners through Farming Connect²⁰ and in addition, technical advice is available on balancing the needs of wildlife and efficient food production.</p> |
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²⁰ <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/factsheets-publications-and-technical-articles/managing-farmland-pollinators>

| Area for Action 1.2: Building an evidence base to support future action for pollinators | Evidence of Action |
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| <p>Establish evidence gaps and research priorities for pollinators in Wales, linking with the Defra review of pollinators evidence, and other UK initiatives including the Insect Pollinators Initiative.</p> | <p>Achieved. WG continues to work at a UK level on the collection of data through the UK Pollinator Monitoring Programme²¹. This will ensure co-operation in monitoring pollinator the trends in populations and communities over time and will enhance our understanding of the threats to pollinators and the links between pollinators and pollination services which play a key role in the farming industry. This is a co-funded programme with the other UK Devolved administrations.</p> |
| <p>Establish baseline data and a monitoring scheme for appropriate indicators for the plan for example: agreed pollinator populations, area of flower rich habitat and an indicator of public awareness.</p> | <p>Achieved. The Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme²² pollinator monitoring surveys pollinators on a 4-year cycle on a number of random sites and targeted squares chosen to capture the effects of the Glastir agri-environment scheme on pollinators.</p> <p>It is hoped using the finding in the recent Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP), the opportunities for pollinators can be expanded.</p> |

²¹ <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring>

²² <https://gmep.wales/>

| Area for Action 2.1: Promoting, creating and enhancing diverse and connected flowering habitats across farmland | Evidence of Action |
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| <p>Consider how Glastir can improve outcomes for biodiversity and pollinators.</p> | <p>Achieved. The Glastir agri-environment scheme includes an option for farmers to improve food resources for the rare bumblebee species Shrill Carder Bee and Brown-banded Carder Bee by sowing Red Clover in whole fields. The Glastir Small Grants Scheme recently offered a 'Landscape and Pollinators' application window offering funding for activities that contribute to restoring landscape features and providing habitat for pollinator species.</p> <p>Through the 'Landscape and Pollinators' window, over 750 landowners across Wales have committed to undertake land management options which are beneficial for pollinators.</p> |
| <p>Inclusion, where feasible, of biodiversity outcomes within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform process and the development of the next RDP.</p> | <p>Ongoing. Welsh Government is looking at improving land management in the wider countryside, including farmland.</p> <p>WG officials are considering how best to combine Glastir best practice (as evidenced by the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme), as well as lessons learned from biodiversity measures from outside of Wales, along with the Nature Recovery Plan to ensure that biodiversity (with a strong recognition on the importance of pollinators) is accommodated along with all other priorities.</p> <p>Officials are currently engaging with the full range of stakeholders to gather as many ideas and as much information as possible.</p> |

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| <p>Linking outcomes for pollinators with WG work on Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).</p> | <p>Ongoing. The Welsh Government is exploring all possible funding streams for developing more sustainable and robust land management, and is keen to explore the possibilities of attracting private funding to secure and enhance ecosystems services provided by land from landowners.</p> <p>PES can be defined in terms of payments to individual or groups of land managers and others to undertake actions that increase the resilience of ecosystems so that they are able to provide increased longevity, quantity and quality of desired ecosystem services, which benefit specific or general users.</p> <p>Developing markets for ecosystem services is a crucial tool for delivering sustainable natural resource management. It recognises the importance of ecosystems and their services to the economy and well-being of Wales and can help deliver the positive changes and benefits for wildlife, water quality, flood risk reduction, health and well-being, carbon safeguarding, and rural communities. In particular, we are working to create the infrastructure and frameworks to support new markets for ecosystem services.</p> <p>Realising the value of ecosystem services, and generating an income for their management, allows us to realise both positive environmental outcomes and provide farmers and land owners with new income streams. This is one of the many tools that the Welsh Government is using to deliver its key priorities of creating jobs and growth and tackling poverty, while ensuring we maintain a resilient and diverse environment as well as demonstrating the benefits of the ecosystem approach to natural resource management and the development of ecosystem markets and a green economy.</p> |
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| <p>Raising awareness of best practice with farmers and land managers through Farming Connect, and dissemination of best practice guidance.</p> | <p>Achieved. Farming Connect has published²³ guidance for farmers and landowners and will encourage the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce habitat fragmentation and improve habitat connectivity in the landscape. • Provide different types of habitat and places to nest and breed, forage for food and hibernation. • Reduce cutting / grazing of fields and hedges where possible; many pollinating insect species need undisturbed areas for hibernation. • Encourage the growing of pollen and nectar-rich plants as well as larval food plants. <p>The Pastures for Pollinators²⁴ project has been facilitated through Menter a Busnes and involves six dairy farmers across Wales who are members of the Calon Wen Milk Co-operative, and are aiming to boost pollinator numbers on their farms through a 3 year project.</p> <p>Together with representatives from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and RSPB, the project is looking at simple changes to grassland management without sacrificing farm productivity and to share show that profitability can go hand in hand with bee conservation.</p> |
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²³ <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/factsheets-publications-and-technical-articles/managing-farmland-pollinators>

²⁴ <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/pasture-pollinators>

| Area for Action 2.2: Promoting, creating and enhancing diverse and connected flowering habitats across protected areas and the wider countryside | Evidence of Action |
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| <p>Work with NRW to ensure action for pollinators on designated sites, and within the woodland estate.</p> | <p>Achieved. NRW has taken action across a number of designated sites for pollinators; At Cors Caron for example, scrub and hedgerow trees and shrubs, particularly early-flowering species such as blackthorn, willow, hawthorn and elder, provide a blossom resource and are cut sensitively on rotation to ensure that some blossoming growth is available.</p> <p>Rough dry grassland along the disused railway line verges provides breeding habitat for bumble and other bees that like to nest in old rodent burrows. As a dry haven in an otherwise mostly wet landscape, the old railway line embankment and verges also provide safe overwintering homes for all kinds of wildlife, including many wild pollinators.</p> |
| <p>Ensure National Park and AONB outcomes and indicators include biodiversity and pollinators.</p> | <p>Achieved. National Parks continue to support the conservation of pollinators.</p> <p>For example, Craig y Nos Country Park, owned by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, has introduced two hives, which are occupied by more than 30,000 bees and there are now plans underway to establish more hives on other sites owned by the National Park Authority. The Country Park is a great place for honeybees – a place where they can thrive in a protected ecosystem and insect friendly paradise free from pesticides and other hazards that threaten the species.</p> |

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| | <p>Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has established and continues to manage flower-rich grassland on estate property. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llanion Park Offices grounds (Urban environment). Orchids were recorded for the first time in 2018 • Skinkle Haven (Informal coastal recreation Site) • St David's Airfield (One of the largest areas of haymeadows in the National Park). • Minwear (Picnic Site) • Carew Castle (Visitor Attraction) <p>The Rhossili Meadows Project is part of the Gower Landscape Partnership, working with National Trust who is working to reinstate and restore hay meadows around Rhossili. In addition to establishing 30Ha of hay meadows, one of the main beneficiaries will be insects and other pollinators.</p> |
| Review key regulations and designations which impact on pollinators to ensure they are fit for purpose. | <p>Achieved. Biodiversity underpins ecosystem resilience, as recognised by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Act includes the goal of A Resilient Wales: 'A nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)'.</p> <p>Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 enshrines a set of key principles for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) aligned to those contained in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of</p> |

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| | <p>ecosystems and the multiple benefits they provide.</p> <p>To achieve this objective, the Act puts in place a clear framework for evidence and priority setting consisting of the State of Natural Resources Report, the Natural Resources Policy, and the Area Statements delivered by NRW. It also makes key connections between these products and key elements of the Well-being of Future Generations and Planning Acts.</p> |
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| Area for Action 2.3: Promoting opportunities and creating and enhancing diverse and connected flowering habitats in our towns, cities and developed areas | Evidence of Actions |
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| <p>Instigate an Urban Pollinators Initiative for Wales as part of the Pollinators work programme.</p> | <p>Achieved. Buglife Cymru have developed Urban Buzz Cardiff – part of a 8 city UK-wide pollinator project has enhanced over 100 sites for pollinators across Cardiff, engaging with statutory authorities, school, local groups and communities²⁵.</p> <p>Buglife is continuing to work with a number of local authorities including Cardiff Council and Carmarthenshire County Council.</p> <p>Under the COBWEB Project²⁶, citizen scientists were recruited from the 3000+ inhabitants of the Penparcau ward in Aberystwyth to record observations of butterflies and their food resources using innovative mobile phone and web technologies. The project was co-designed with Penparcau Community Forum to help record the butterfly species in the area to inform local management plans and increase interest and understanding of the importance of butterflies (and other pollinators) to the health of Wales' natural environment. Data collected in the course of</p> |

²⁵ <https://www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz/cardiff>

²⁶ <https://cobwebproject.eu/co-designers/penparcau-community-forum>

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| | <p>this sub-project will be shared with biological record organisations (National Biodiversity Network, Local Records Centres) to support dissemination and use for a variety of purposes from planning to environmental research and decision making. Data collected will be utilised by Welsh Government to assess the suitability of modelled large scale pollinator resource maps to inform a range of policy questions.</p> <p>Administered by Keep Wales Tidy and supported through the Welsh Government Nature Fund, the Natural Buzz project²⁷ has maximised the multiple ecosystem services of undervalued sterile green spaces - mowed areas on industrial estates, school and hospital grounds, business parks or roadside verges on five demonstration locations across Wales – and has transformed them into a blaze of wildflowers and colour, reshaping our urban and rural landscapes and changing the image of our towns, cities and farmland.</p> <p>Over the lifetime of the project, over 150 grants of garden centre vouchers will have been awarded to community groups and schools supported pollinators, as well as raised the profile and value of these areas for multiple benefits, helped to reverse the acknowledged decline in our endangered wild flower species, whilst providing a stunning visual connection with nature for thousands of people. The project will enable the profile of bees and wildflowers, and their associated pollination services, to inform better understanding of the value of nature to people.</p> |
| Review Local Authority management of roadside verges, parks and public green spaces. | Achieved. In 2017, two seminars for practitioners were held in South and North Wales aimed at policy and decision makers who we need to |

²⁷ <https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/naturalbuzz>

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| | <p>engage in order to facilitate changes to roadside verge management regimes.</p> <p>The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs recently wrote to Local Authority Chief Executives across Wales to remind them of their obligations and responsibilities towards roadside verges under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and how the management of roadside verges can also help them meet the statutory goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> <p>Conwy County Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Denbighshire County Councils have successfully attained Bee Friendly status.</p> <p>Monmouthshire has a Green Infrastructure Plan for Pollinators and has produced a series of guidance booklets for highway managers; green space managers; head teachers; and public estates managers.</p> <p>Through the Welsh Government Nature Fund, the 'Pollinators for Life' project has engaged with communities across Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly County Borough Councils to collaboratively improve habitats for pollinating species whilst also enhancing these green spaces for people to enjoy. This project has undertaken a range of initiatives to promote the long term sustainable management of natural resources.</p> |
| Promote community led projects to benefit pollinators and local communities through current annual | Achieved. Through the Keep Wales Tidy 'Natural Buzz' Project (see above), a number of community-led projects have been undertaken |

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| <p>funding streams such as <i>Tidy Towns</i> and <i>Tranquil, Cleaner and Greener Places</i>, and with partners: Keep Wales Tidy, local authorities and communities.</p> | <p>which have enhanced the profile of pollinators across Wales.</p> <p>Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly²⁸ was the first co-ordinated national scheme of its kind and has making Wales a Pollinator-Friendly country at its heart. At the time of writing, a total of forty-three organisations across Wales have attained Bee Friendly status and are undertaking positive activities for pollinators.</p> |
| <p>Incorporate pollinator friendly practice within WG landscaping and commercial property management contracts.</p> | <p>Achieved. Welsh Government currently has apiaries at its offices in Aberystwyth, Merthyr Tydfil and Llanduno Junction and is shortly to install apiaries and a wild garden on the roof of its building at Cathays Park in Cardiff.</p> <p>Welsh Government is working closely with the Pharma-Bee project²⁹ at Cardiff University in order to have a ‘community’ of bee apiaries across the Cathays area of Cardiff.</p> <p>A programme of wildflower planting is being undertaken where appropriate across the Welsh Government estate.</p> |
| <p>Include pollinator guidance within the review of sustainable housing policy.</p> | <p>Achieved. Two seminars with Registered Social Landlords and Stock Retaining Local Authorities (SRLAs) ‘<i>Creating gardens for people and pollinators</i>’ were organised by Welsh Government in 2015. These were organised to bring the relevant organisations and policy makers together to discuss how best to create and improve habitats for pollinators and the multiple environmental, social and economic benefits that can accrue from this work.</p> |

²⁸ <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators>

²⁹ <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/pharmabees>

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| | <p>The seminars were run in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy (KWT) as part of the Natural Buzz pollinator initiative, run by in partnership with the Horticultural Trade Association and Green Space Wales and was funded by the Welsh Government's Nature Fund. Under this initiative, KWT have worked in partnership with different organisations, including Registered Social Landlords, to transform land by planting and sowing wildflowers to create new attractive habitats that are good for people and pollinators.</p> |
| <p>Contribute to any review of WG transport guidance and policies and the Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan with guidance for management for pollinators.</p> | <p>Achieved. In June 2014, the previous Minister for Economy, Science and Transport announced the 'Road Verges for Wildflowers' initiative. The initiative is being led by officials in Transport and being delivered by the South Wales, and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agents.</p> <p>Since the announcement of the initiative in 2014, Welsh Government has delivered over 40 road verge projects, ranging from improving maintenance techniques to encourage existing wildflower communities to thrive and spread (e.g. wild orchids on the A40 at Llandeilo), to harvesting wildflower seeds from donor sites and sowing on verges (e.g. on the A487 at Maentwrog).</p> <p>Buglife and partners have produced a B-Lines map for South and West Wales³⁰. They are also currently working with North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) to develop a B-Lines mapping project for mid and North Wales</p> |

³⁰ <https://www.buglife.org.uk/b-lines-hub/wales>

| Area for Action 3.1: Supporting UK action to promote healthy populations of pollinators in Wales | Evidence of Actions |
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| Continue to support the Healthy Bees Plan and fund the National Bee Unit | Achieved. The Welsh Government continues to work in partnership with the other UK devolved administrations in supporting the National Bee Unit to deliver the Bee Health Programme in Wales to achieve a sustainable and healthy population of honey bees for pollination and honey production in the UK. |
| Work with the NBU and Defra to develop the current England and Wales contingency plan for exotic pests and diseases of honey bees. | Achieved. Exotic pest contingency plans are published on BeeBase ³¹ . Welsh Government continues to work with colleagues in APHA and Defra in promoting enhanced vigilance of bee diseases amongst Welsh bee keepers. |
| Support beekeeping and associated awareness activities under the Rural Development Plan. | Achieved. Support and advice (where appropriate) is available through projects funded under the Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020. Welsh Government continues to work in partnership with APHA and NBU in maintaining healthy bee populations in Wales. |
| Provide support for honey producers through marketing programmes. | Achieved. Support has been provided for honey producers through the Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020. |
| Engage with the National Action Plan for Pesticides | Achieved. Officials are working closely with colleagues in the Invasive Non-Native Species team regarding neonicotinoids and their effects on pollinators. |

³¹ <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=206>

| Area for Action 4.1: Working to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and engage our citizens in their management | Evidence of Actions |
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| Produce a Communications Plan as part of the Pollinators work programme. | <p>Achieved. Pollinator activities are routinely publicised on Ministerial social media sites.</p> <p>Officials regularly liaise with colleagues on WG comms team to promote pollinator activities.</p> |
| Establish a website to centralise information, and promote best practice for pollinators. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership website will provide an initial host for this. | <p>Achieved. Wales Biodiversity Partnership continues to host both the APP and the Bee Friendly supporting documents³², included a recommended list of Bee friendly plants.</p> |
| Improve information and facilities in schools on pollinators and their importance, initially through the Eco Schools programme in Wales. | <p>Achieved. The Eco Schools programme is an important international initiative, which provides an ideal framework to support sustainable development and global citizenship in schools. Eco Schools extends learning beyond the classroom and develops responsible citizenship attitudes both at home and in the wider community.</p> <p>The programme has been invaluable in promoting and enhancing the profile of the Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly initiative.</p> |
| Promote best practice guidance to Local Authorities, land managers and the public, and seek to work with award schemes to promote pollinator friendly practice, building on previous work towards this. | <p>Achieved. Buglife Cymru has also produced guidance for local authorities on how to create/enhance pollinator plans/strategies and is working with a number of local authorities including Cardiff Council and Carmarthenshire County Council.</p> |

³² <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators>

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| Promote pollinator friendly practice to farmers through Gwlad and the Farming Connect knowledge transfer programme. | Achieved. Guidance has also been produced for landowners on managing farmland through Farming Connect. |
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