



Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2015



Wet Woodland habitat at Bedwelly Pits



Male Bullfinch- can be found in mixed woods, in parks and gardens



Hedgehog- can be found in most people's gardens and parks



Trevor Rowson Local Nature Reserve, Nantyglo

Prepared by

**Blaenau Gwent County
Borough Council**



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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Baldwin House
Victoria Business Park
Ebbw Vale
NP23 8ED

Enquiries 01495 356070

FOREWORD

'The county of Blaenau Gwent covers an area of deep valleys and exposed upland heath, comprising a diverse range of habitats ranging from upland oak woodlands to lowland meadows, meandering rivers, bog and heathland.

Associated with these habitats, is a wealth of wildlife including a diverse assemblage of birds and invertebrates as well as mammals, reptiles and amphibians many of which have declined in numbers and are now rare in the Country of Wales.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is the driver in the continued and increasing effort to protect, enhance and manage our biodiversity resource. The original action plan was produced in 2001 and positive changes have been made, particularly in the designation of areas to ensure that the County's important habitats and wildlife are protected for future generations.

The Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership, in association with other important contributing individuals, has worked hard to carry out a third review of the biodiversity resource in Blaenau Gwent to ensure that the County's important habitats and wildlife are protected for future generations.

The success of the Biodiversity Action Plan depends not only on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Biodiversity Partnership but also on the wider community including landowners, schools, businesses, developers, politicians and decision makers. I would say a big thank you to all who contributed towards the production of this plan'.



(Cllr Graham Bartlett)

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Executive
Member- Economic Strategy and Development and
Biodiversity Champion



Amanita muscaria- also known as Fly Agaric this fungus can be found in woodland habitats or beside isolated trees.

INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of Blaenau Gwent's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

The action plan is the driver in the continued and increasing effort to protect, enhance and manage our biodiversity resource, by setting out objectives, targets and actions for the conservation of biodiversity within Blaenau Gwent.

The LBAP can also be viewed on the Biodiversity Reporting Action System website (BARS), <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>

For further information contact

Nadine Morgan, Biodiversity Project Officer
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Green Infrastructure
Baldwin House
Victoria Business Park
NP23 8ED

01495 356070

Email: Nadine.Morgan@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



Small tortoiseshell Butterfly – Can be found in gardens, parks and hedgerows. The caterpillars feed on stinging nettles. They can be found throughout Blaenau Gwent.

VISION STATEMENT

'The biodiversity of Blaenau Gwent is a valuable asset to everyone and the purpose of the LBAP is to strive to protect and enhance'

The objectives of the LBAP are:

- To increase awareness and educate people about the importance of biodiversity conservation
- To encourage communities to get involved in protecting their local biodiversity resource
- To increase and share the knowledge held about sites and species
- To identify the current location and extent of habitats and species in Blaenau Gwent
- To enhance and protect existing habitats and to restore areas to create new ones
- To halt the loss of biodiversity in Blaenau Gwent in line with National and local targets by 2020

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity means the 'variety of life' on Earth and is short for biological diversity. It describes the richness and variety of all living things, from the smallest microscopic organism, to the largest tree.

Wild plants and animals are included, together with the places and habitats in which they live. Biodiversity is not just the rare and threatened, but includes all life from the commonplace to the critically endangered.

Why is Biodiversity Important?

- Has an **intrinsic value** of all living things
- **Key indicator** of sustainable development
- Essential to **maintain quality of life**- providing us with food, water, oxygen, clothing, reduce pollution, improve our health and wellbeing.
- Many **environmental, social and economic benefits**- attract inward investment and tourism and offer many opportunities for lifelong learning, community action and recreation.



Scarce blue tailed damselfly-usually found in shallow wetland sites. It is classed as nationally scarce in the British Red Data Book of Insects.



Seven-spot Ladybird at Ebbw Vale Cemetery - once widespread across Britain, now in decline.



BACKGROUND

The Convention of Biological Diversity (1992)

The concept of biodiversity was first introduced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (also known as the Earth Summit). This is where over 150 nations including the UK Government signed a commitment to conserve their nation's biodiversity and agreed to produce action plans and program to achieve this.



Blue tit- Can be found within most garden, parks and woodlands. They eat insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts and are popular on a bird feeder.

UK BAP (1992 – 2012)

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was published back in 1994, and was the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the UK signed up to in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UK was the first country to produce a national biodiversity action plan, and the UK BAP described the biological resources of the UK and provided detailed plans for conservation of these resources. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats were set out to aid recovery, and national reports, produced every three- to five-years, showed how the UK BAP was contributing to the UK's progress towards the significant reduction of biodiversity loss called for by the CBD.

Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach' (2007)



Laetiporus sulphureus on a Beech tree in Silent Valley Nature Reserve.

Following the creation of the UK BAP, devolution, in 1998, led the four countries of the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) to develop their own country strategies for biodiversity and the environment, allowing conservation approaches to differ according to the different environments and priorities within the countries. In 2007, however, a shared vision for UK biodiversity conservation was adopted by the devolved administrations and the UK government, and is described in 'Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach'. This document reflected the new top drivers for conservation action since the UK BAP was created, including the EU Gothenberg agreement

in 2001 to **halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010**, and the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005). Additionally, it outlined the need for the four countries to work together to meet shared challenges and achieve common goals, and described the requirements for future work at a UK level.

Failed Targets & the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit (2010)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) published the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) which confirmed that the world had **failed** to meet its target to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The Outlook warned that massive further loss of biodiversity was becoming increasingly likely, and with it, a severe reduction of many essential services to human societies as several 'tipping points' were approaching, in which ecosystems shift to alternative, less productive states from which it may be difficult or impossible to recover. The conclusions of the report were central to the negotiations by world governments at the Nagoya (Japan) Biodiversity Summit in October 2010. Following the summit the CBD produced the 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020' and the 20 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets'.



Male Common Darter dragonfly, abundant in Wales. Often perches near a pond darting after prey - Waun y Pound Industrial Estate.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011) and the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' (2012)

The European Union adopted its own new EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) in May 2011 to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 as a contribution to meeting the goals of the Strategic plan and Aichi targets. The EU Biodiversity Strategy includes a new vision: **"By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided"**.

Within the UK, delivery of the CBD and the Strategic Plan is now guided by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. This framework is overseen by the Environment Departments of all four governments in the UK working together through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group. The framework demonstrates how the work of the four countries and the UK contributes to achieving the 'Aichi

targets', and identifies the activities required to complement the individual country biodiversity strategies. The framework supersedes earlier approaches under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1992-2012).

Wales Nature Recovery Plan (2014 -2020)



Small Skipper, widespread in Britain - Beaufort Woodlands Nature Reserve

Welsh Government has recently consulted on its Nature Recovery Plan. The plan will define the direction of travel to ensure that Wales meets its international 2020 commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This includes Wales's contribution to the European Union Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) and implementation of the relevant EU, UK and Wales legislation.

The proposed ambition of the Plan is *'to reverse the decline in biodiversity and ensure lasting benefits to society by building the resilience of our ecosystems, by focusing on effective natural resource management.'*

The new strategy focuses on an ecosystems approach to managing natural resources. Biodiversity underpins ecosystems and an ecosystems approach provides a framework for looking at whole ecosystems in decision-making, and for valuing the ecosystem services they provide, to ensure that society can maintain a healthy and resilient natural environment now and for future generations.

The Environment Bill (Wales) will be the major driving force for adoption of the ecosystem approach in Wales and the associated natural resource management approach. The Bill is due to become law in Spring 2016.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)

Section 40(1) imposes a duty to conserve biodiversity: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."

Section 40(3) of the Act explains that:
"Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to

a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat” .

The duty applies to all local authorities and extends beyond just conserving what is already there to carrying out, supporting and requiring actions that may also restore or enhance biodiversity.

Priority Habitats and Species

There is a list of 557 species and 54 habitats of principal importance in Wales. This combine list of species and habitats is referred to as the Section 42 list for Wales. This list is used to help guide decision makers such as public bodies, including local and national statutory authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 “to have regard” to the conservation of biodiversity in all their activities.



Wildflowers along highway verges are incredibly important as the habitat they provide act as corridors for a variety of wildlife



Teasel flourishes in rough grassy places, along embankments and roadsides. Teasels are visited by bees when in flower and birds when seeding



Elephant Hawk-moth- the caterpillars vaguely resembles an elephant's trunk hence how the species got its name. The caterpillar's main food plant is rosebay willowherb, Gelli Crug Allotments Abertillery



Peacock butterfly seek out plants such as buddleias, thistles and ragwort. As a result they can be found in gardens, parks and anywhere with flowers rich in nectar, Gelli Crug Allotments Abertillery

BLAENAU GWENT BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN APPROACH

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Blaenau Gwent was first produced in 2001 by the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership. More information on Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership can be found at <http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/leisure/7681.asp>

This provides a framework for nature conservation within Blaenau Gwent. It sets out priorities and targets which will guide the work of all those organisations in the County Borough with an interest in nature conservation.

The aim of the LBAP is to focus on habitats to maintain a rich wildlife. In most circumstances a focus on habitat improvement will benefit individual species. By developing these habitats, it's creating a rich environment for a variety of species; with some requiring separate consideration. Separate species actions have also been included.

The LBAP has been reviewed and updated to reflect, a changing environment, the availability of biodiversity information and changes to the LBAP process. This revision ensures that LBAP targets reflect the conservation needs of habitats and species.

The LBAP is a working document allowing flexibility within actions to be undertaken. To enable the LBAP to be flexible and to allow partners to report successes, achievements, and losses, a national database has been developed- BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System). The full LBAP (including actions) can be viewed via this system at <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>.

This document details action plans for habitats and species that are of national and local importance and therefore classed as a priority for conservation in Blaenau Gwent.

These priority Habitat and Species have been selected by members of Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership using the following criteria:

Habitats

- Habitats of national and/or international importance (UK BAP priority habitats and section 42 habitats)
- Habitats of importance for UK BAP species
- Habitats of local importance (habitats that are rare, in decline and/or under threat in Blaenau Gwent)

Species

- Species of national and/or international importance (UK BAP priority species, Section 42 species and species listed in the RSPB/IUCN red lists)
- Species of local importance (species that are rare, in decline and/or under threat in Blaenau Gwent)
- Special cases (The presence of these species is unconfirmed however suitable habitats exists in Blaenau Gwent, in which they may occur).

The Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) contained within this plan provide descriptions and actions for twenty six Priority Habitats which have been identified within Blaenau Gwent. These Priority Habitats have been grouped into nine broad habitat types, a summary of which is contained in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Habitat groups and Habitats

Habitat Groups	Habitats
Woodland	Wet Woodland Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Upland Oak Woods
Grassland	Lowland Meadow Lowland Calcareous Grassland Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Purple Moor-grass and Rush pastures
Heathland	Upland Heath Lowland Heath
Wetland	Blanket Bog Lowland Raised Bog Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp Mesotrophic Lakes Ponds
Rivers and Stream	Rivers and Stream
Public Green Space and Gardens	Gardens and Allotments Churchyards and Cemeteries School Grounds Urban Green Spaces
Boundary and Linear Features	Hedgerows Dry Stone Walls Highway Verges
Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree	Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree
Post Industrial	Colliery Sites Quarries Refuse Tips Open Mosaics on previously developed land

* **Bold** habitats indicate UK BAP/Section 42 Habitats

Many of the species selected to be included in the LBAP have been listed within the different Habitat Action Plans, these species (Known as associated species) will benefit from the actions that can be undertaken under the relevant HAP such as habitat management and enhancements.

Six Species Action Plans (SAPs) have been prepared for individual species such as Otter (*Lutra Lutra*), or groups of species such as Bats. These species require more specific actions, that cannot be undertaken under a HAP. Each SAP gives specific descriptions of the species along with specific actions for conservation. SAPs have been prepared for:

- Bats
- Birds
- Otters
- Pollinating Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Invasive Species

Appendix 4 provides a full list of all the species included in the LBAP and in which HAP they occur.

Generic Action Plans have been prepared for common themes that are integral to all Habitat and Species Action Plans. These include:

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Process
- Education and Raising Awareness of Biodiversity



Heathland habitat, Green Meadow Farm, Abertillery



Wetland habitat-Toad pond, north of Abertillery Park



Garden tiger moth found in a back garden, Abertillery



Grey Dagger caterpillar, back garden, Abertillery

BLAENAU GWENT BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

The partnership is made up of a variety of individuals from the local community, community groups, voluntary, and government and non-government organisations that are committed to conserve and enhance local biodiversity.



INTRODUCTION TO BLAENAU GWENT'S HABITATS

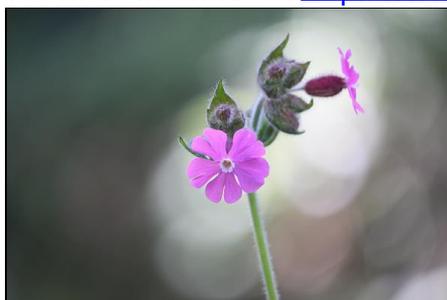
Blaenau Gwent Covers an area of 10,900 hectares (ha) and is situated within the preserved county of Gwent, bordering the Brecon Beacons National Park. The main towns include Abertillery, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo, Blaina and Tredegar.

The land use is predominantly rural with over 77% of the land comprising of farmland, commons and open spaces.

The borough has a magnificent landscape which is characterised by narrow valleys with fast flowing rivers and streams, wooded slopes, and large areas of upland habitat rich in ponds, unimproved grassland and heathland habitat. Over the years, industrialised sites, which were previously used for coal mining and steel making, have been reclaimed and many natural green spaces created as a result. Sites such as these are both valuable for wildlife and local communities.

Blaenau Gwent has a range of wildlife resources many of which are the result of land restoration in the area which has provided valuable habitat for threatened species. Breeding Lapwing favour habitats typically found on old colliery sites, which are found across Blaenau Gwent. The Borough supports populations of the Silurian moth and the Brown hawkler which are only found in a few locations in south Wales including Blaenau Gwent.

There are many sites within the Borough, which support a diversity of habitats and species. The importance of these, not only for wildlife, but also for the local community has now been recognised in their designation as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). For more information <http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/leisure/20244.asp>



Red campion grows in field margins, woodlands, hedgerows and roadsides, ERC, Ebbw Vale



Wildflowers, Gelli Crug Allotments, Abertillery

Blaenau Gwent County Borough



BIODIVERSITY LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

The following legislation and planning policies and guidance provide the framework within which Local Biodiversity Action Plans are produced and operate.

National Legislation

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010

Provides protection of sites in the UK that supports habitats and species in need on conservation across Europe and the full protection of some species of European importance whether occurring within designated sites or not.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As amended)

Provides for further protection of sites of at least national importance for nature conservation and varying levels of protection for species in need of conservation action, or other protection, within the UK. Protection may include prohibition of some or all of: killing, injury, disturbing, taking, sale/barter or possession of species and also protection of breeding and sheltering places. It does so through listing species that requires special actions in annexes. It is also important due to the fact that it enacts several EC directives and conventions and binds the UK's environmental position with that of the EC.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act)

Amends and strengthens existing legislation. For example, some offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act can now result in imprisonment.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)

Wide ranging act with some biodiversity components which places a duty on all public bodies, including local planning authorities, to include biodiversity as an integral component of their work. Requires government departments to have regard to the convention on Biological Diversity. Compels the Secretary of State (Welsh Government) to produce a list of species and habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity (Section 42 species) and to take or promote steps to further conservation.

National Planning Policy Guidance Planning Policy Wales 2014

The Welsh Government's objectives for the natural environment and biodiversity are set out in 'Planning Policy Wales' (PPW) (Edition 7-2014). This recognises that local authorities must address biodiversity issues through land use planning, in both Local Development Plans (LDP) and development control decisions. It also recognises the important role that the planning system has to play in meeting biodiversity objectives by promoting approaches to development which creates opportunities to enhance biodiversity losses, or compensate for losses is unavoidable. Paragraph 5.1.4 also reinforces the need that '...it is important that biodiversity and landscape considerations are taken into account at an early stage in both development plan preparation and development management.

Technical Advice Note 5

Detailed advice on the importance of the planning system in relation to conserving biodiversity is set out in Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (TAN 5) (2009). TAN 5 provides advice on development proposals affecting statutory and non-statutory designated sites as well as protected species.

Circular 35/95 The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions

Circular 35/95- 'use of planning conditions in planning permissions', gives advice on the use of planning conditions including for nature conservation and protected species. The Circular puts emphasis on giving conditions that require the prevention of damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or important physical features.

Circular 13/97 Planning Obligations

Circular 13/97- use of planning obligations, provides local planning authorities with the Government's guidance on the use of obligations. This circular sets out the benefits which can be secured from such agreements and the role of development plan policy. Paragraph 3.7.1 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) notes that 'when granting planning permission local authorities may seek to enter into a planning obligation with a developer to: 1) restrict development or use of land; 2) require operations or activities to be carried out; 3) require the land to be used in a specified way; and 4) require payments to be made to the authority'.

The Wales Spatial Plan

The Wales Spatial Plan was first adopted in 2004 by the Welsh Government and was called 'People, Places, Futures' and it formed a key part of the implementation of their strategic agenda on sustainable development. The plan was updated in 2008

and recognises that sustainable development is about improving wellbeing and quality of life by integrating social, economic and environmental objectives in the context of more efficient use of natural resources.

Environmental Strategy for Wales

The Environment Strategy for Wales was published in May 2006 by the Welsh Government and is the Government's long term strategy for the environment of Wales, setting the strategic direction for the next 20 years (2026).

It provides the framework within which to achieve their vision for the environment of Wales. The Strategy has five main environmental themes:

Climate Change: covers climate change mitigation and adaptation

Sustainable resource use: covers material consumption and waste, water, soils, minerals and aggregates

Distinctive biodiversity, landscapes, and seascapes: covers biodiversity, the marine environment, landscapes, and seascapes and their historic component

Our local environment: covers the built environment and access to green space, environmental nuisances, walkability in urban areas and access to the countryside and coast, and flood risk management

Environmental hazards: covers pollution, chemicals and radioactivity

For each of the subjects, the Strategy explains the issues, sets out the environmental outcomes to be achieved and the associated indicators and timelines for delivery.

Welsh Government is currently reviewing the Environmental Strategy to ensure that it reflects relevant commitments in the Natural Resources Management Plan.

Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales

Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales (Jan 2000) contains a number of policies relating to the protection, enhancement, and management of the region's biodiversity resources. It also recognises the importance of Local Biodiversity Action Plans in helping to determine planning applications.

Local Planning Policy **Local Development Plan**

The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in 2012 and supersedes the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The LDP identifies where new developments such as housing, employment, community facilities, and roads will go. It provides a framework for local decision making and brings together both development and conservation interests to ensure that any changes in the use of land are coherent and provides maximum benefits to the community.

The LDP sets out the council's land use policies and proposals to control development in the county borough up to 2021.

Local Agenda Strategy

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council produced a draft Local Agenda 21 Strategy document in January 2001. This document describes the council's commitment to the sustainable care of natural and physical resources in accordance with the Agenda 21 process. The key components of the document address the current sustainability challenges and issues, the council's responsibilities, targets and current situation, action plans and implementation mechanisms. The LBAP is a vital part of Agenda 21 process.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

The Blaenau Gwent Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Biodiversity was produced in 2009 and supplements Local Development Plan (LDP) policies. The purpose of the SPG is to assist those submitting and determining planning applications in Blaenau Gwent to ensure that biodiversity, and where relevant, geodiversity, is protected and conserved when development is proposed. It will also enable the public to understand the aspirations of BGCBC with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.

BS 42020- Code of Practice for planning and development

The UK commitment to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2020 in line with the European Biodiversity Strategy and UN Aichi targets, is passed down to local authorities to implement, mainly through planning policy. To assist organisations affected by these commitments, BSI has published BS 42020 Biodiversity in Planning and Development- Code of practice which offers a coherent methodology for biodiversity management.

BS 42020 will play a vital role in helping protect and enhance UK biodiversity.

The British Standard therefore seeks to promote transparency and consistency in the quality and appropriateness of ecological information submitted with planning applications and applications for other regulatory approvals.

The standard provides:

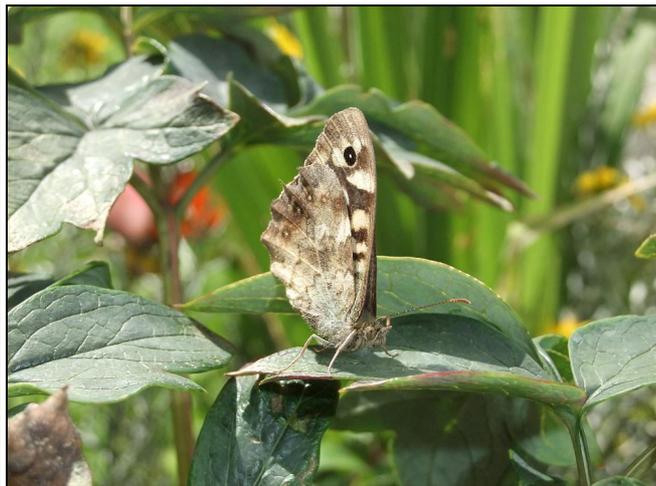
- Guidance on how to produce clear and concise ecological information to accompany planning applications
- Recommendations on professional ethics, conduct, competence and judgement to give confidence that proposals for biodiversity conservation, and consequent decisions/actions taken, are sound and appropriate
- Direction on effective decision-making in biodiversity management
- A framework to demonstrate how biodiversity has been managed during the development process to minimize impact.

Agri-Environmental Schemes and Glastir

Agri-environmental schemes are regarded as having the potential to deliver the majority of biodiversity targets relating to agriculture land, thus they can contribute considerably to meeting LBAP targets. Glastir is the Welsh Government's agri-environmental programme, which pays farmers for the delivery of specific environmental goods and services. The scheme is aimed at: combating climate change, improving water management and maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

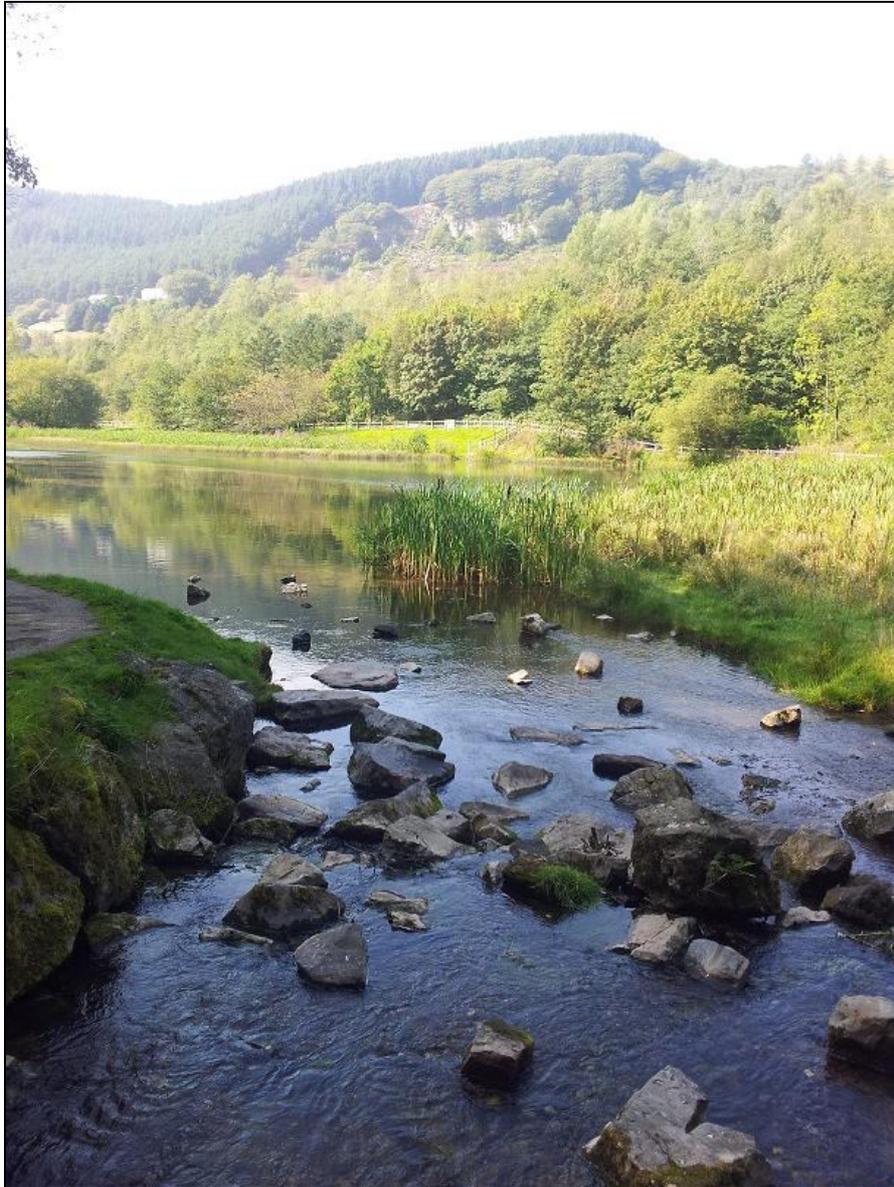


Southern Marsh Orchid, Trevor Rowson Nature Reserve



Speckled wood, resting on vegetation, Abertillery

HABITAT ACTION PLANS



Cwmillery Lakes Nature Reserve -Covers approximately 10 ha It is characterized by the presence of four large waterbodies, a section of the River Tyleri and a series of drainage channels. Apart from aquatic and water margin vegetation, it supports a range of habitats including neutral grassland, species rich acid grassland, dwarf shrub heath and woodland, which form complex mosaics that enhance the overall ecological value.

BROADLEAVED WOODLAND



Silent Valley Nature Reserve – highest beech woodland in Britain



A range of different types of woodland can be found across the borough reflecting variations in soil type, wetness and aspect. Wet woodland can be found on sites such as Coed Trostre, Cwm Celyn, Garn Cam Isaf, Green Meadow, Roseheyworth and Silent valley (Cwm Merddog) woodlands which covers an estimated area of 9ha. Lowland beech and yew woodland can be found on sites such as Coed Y Gilfach, Coedcae Coch and Craig Swyfyrd, the estimated area at around 28ha. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland can be found on sites such as Green Meadow and Swyffryd Fach Woodlands estimated to cover around 6ha. Examples of upland oakwoods include sites such as Cwm Big, Darren Ddu and Silent Valley estimated to cover approximately 91 ha.

See Gwent Wildlife Habitat Management Toolkits

Links to Species Action Plans

- Bats
- Birds
- Pollinating Insects
- Otters
- Invasive Species

Examples of Actions

- Woodland thinning
- Tree planting
- Controlled Grazing
- Appropriate planting, i.e. native species

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Wet Woodland	Pied Flycatcher
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	Green Woodpecker
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Badger
Upland Oakwood's	Otter
	Noctule
	Bluebell



GRASSLAND



Bryn Bach Park Nature Reserve - wildflower meadow



Blaenau Gwent County Borough has 1592ha of grassland, including acid, neutral and calcareous grasslands. The main threat to all semi-natural grasslands is from agricultural improvements, inappropriate management, development and lack of awareness.

Example of Actions

- Controlled Grazing
- Conservation Grazing
- Bracken Control
- Mowing/Cut and collect

See Gwent Wildlife Trust's Grassland management Toolkits No. 1-5 & 12

Links to Species Action Plans

- Bats
- Birds
- Pollinating Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Lowland Meadow	Skylark
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lapwing
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Common Lizard
Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture	Pink Meadow Waxcap
	Date Coloured Waxcap
	Wood Bitter Vetch



HEATHLAND



Heathland habitat - Mynydd James



Blaenau Gwent has approximately 1560 ha of heathland. This upland heathland is associated with thin, acidic, nutrient poor soils dominated by heather and heaths with at least 25% dwarf shrub cover. Whilst lowland heathland can be typically found in an open landscape with impoverished soils, acidic mineral and shallow peat soil and characterised by the presence of plants such as heathers and dwarf gorse.

Examples of Actions

- Bracken Control
- Scrub Control
- Grazing

See Gwent Wildlife Trust's
Habitat management
Toolkit No. 7, 11 & 12

Links to Species Action Plans

- Bats
- Birds
- Pollinating Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Upland heathland	Red Grouse Nightjar Brown Hare Adder Silurian Moth Compact Bog Moss
Lowland heathland	



WETLANDS



Wetland habitat at Festival Park, Ebbw Vale



Blaenau Gwent County has 359 ha of wetland which includes bogs, fen, swamp, lakes and ponds. Wetlands are biodiversity rich habitats which can support a variety of invertebrates, amphibians, birds and mammals. Ponds and open standing water are vulnerable as over time, if not properly managed, can silt up and become encroached with vegetation over time.

Examples of Actions

- Dredging
- Pond clearance
- Pond creations
- Pond dipping- recording

See Gwent Wildlife Trust's Ponds & Lakes Toolkit No. 10

Links to Species Action Plans

- Bats
- Birds
- Otters
- Reptiles and Amphibians



Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Blanket Bog	Reed Bunting
Lowland Raised Bog	Brown Hawker
Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp	Daubentons Bat
Mesotrophic Lakes	Palmate Newt
Ponds	Weedy Frillwort
	Yellow Water Lily

RIVERS AND STREAMS



Sirhowy River at Bedwellty Pits



There are five main watercourses in Blaenau Gwent- the River Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr, Ebbw Fach, Clydach and Tyleri in addition to many streams. The current extent of rivers and stream in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 44km however this only includes the main watercourses. Rivers and stream support a wide range of biodiversity including key species such as otter, kingfisher, dipper and salmon.

Examples of Actions

- Flood Risk management
- Litter clearance
- Riparian management
- Fish pass creation
- River monitoring
- Install otter holts
- Install bird and bat boxes

Links to Species Action Plans

- Birds
- Bats
- Otters

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Rivers and Streams	Kingfisher Otter Daubentons Bat Brown Trout Irish Frillwort Purple Willow



PUBLIC GREEN SPACES AND GARDENS



Victorian walled garden and Bedwellty House, Tredegar



Gardens, allotments, churchyards, cemeteries, school grounds and urban green spaces can support a rich diversity of wildlife. They are important refuges for many resident and migratory species, particularly birds. Public green space and garden that offer the most diversity are generally characterised by mature shrubs and trees in addition to field layer plants. Species that particularly favour these habitats include swallows, bullfinches, bumblebees, frogs, toads, newts and hedgehogs. Key green spaces are those that have been designated as Local Nature Reserves.

Examples of Actions

- Bird/Bat boxes
- Bug hotels
- Flowers
- Log piles

Links to Species Action Plans

- Birds
- Pollinating Insects

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Gardens and Allotments	House Sparrow Pipistrelle Bat Garden Tiger Common Frog Slow Worm Earth Star Fungi
Churchyards and Cemeteries	
School Grounds	
Urban Green Spaces	



BOUNDARY AND LINEAR FEATURES



Dry stone walls are a feature at Festival Park, Ebbw Vale



Linear features are important for supporting a variety of plants and animals as they provide vital wildlife corridors linking between different habitats which may have become fragmented. Hedgerows, dry stone walls and highway verges are all important features in the landscape to allow species such as bats to travel between different habitats. However, such features are becoming threatened and being lost due to pollution, loss of traditional management and colonisation of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

Examples of Actions

- Road verge management-controlled mowing
- Hedge laying
- Restore dry stone walls
- Wildflower seeding
- Planting and maintain hedgerow

See Gwent Wildlife Trust's Habitat Management Toolkit No. 8

Links to Species Action Plans

- Bats
- Birds
- Otters
- Pollinating Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Hedgerows	Kestrel
Dry Stone Walls	Dunnock
Highway Verges	Polecat
	Common Lizard
	Pipistrelle Bat
	Wood Bitter Vetch



INLAND ROCK OUTCROP AND SCREE



Lichen covering rock, Trefil



Natural rock exposures support a wide range of communities. Scree is typically dominated by ferns, lichens and bryophytes. Rock faces can provide important refuges for vascular plants and invertebrates; in addition several key species of birds use inland cliffs for nesting, including the peregrine falcon.

Examples of Actions

- Bracken control
- Scrub Control

See Gwent Wildlife Trust's Habitat Management Toolkits No. 11-12

Links to Species Action Plans

- Bats
- Birds
- Pollinating Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree	Peregrine Falcon Ring Ouzel Neglected Rustic Moth Lesser Horseshoe Bat Brown Long Eared Bat Dwarf Streaked Moss



POST INDUSTRIAL HABITAT



Post industrial habitat as a result of coal mining at Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar



Blaenau Gwent Has approximately 123.5 Ha of Post Industrial habitat, including colliery spoil, quarries, refuse tips, and open mosaic habitats on previously developed land.

Examples of Actions

- Scrub Control

See Gwent Wildlife Trust's Scrub Control Toolkit No. 11

Links to Species Action Plans

- Birds
- Bats
- Otters
- Pollinating Insects
- Reptiles and Amphibians

Local Priority Habitats	Associated Species
Colliery Sites	Lapwing Peregrine Falcon Brown Hare Scarce Blue Tailed Damselfly A Lady's Mantle Peltigera Lichen species
Quarries	
Refuse Tips	
Open Mosaic Habitats (on previously developed land)	

SPECIES ACTION PLANS



Skylark chicks- The adult birds like open countryside from farmland to upland heathland. Its recent and dramatic population decline makes it a Red List species.

BATS



Pipistrelle bat-is Britain's smallest and most common bat. They can be found in a variety of different habitats such as woods and urban areas (churches, roof spaces and often found in areas of new housing). The pipistrelle photographed was found in the reception area of Llanhilleth medical Centre.

All UK bats are nocturnal (active at night), insectivorous (insect eating) and belong to the sub order *Microchiroptera*. Bats can roost in a range of places, with different species preferring different types of roosts. All bat species experienced a marked decline in the latter half of the 20th Century from loss and fragmentation of habitats which they depend on. As a result all British bat species are strictly protected by national and international legislation. Meaning that it is an offence to harm or disturb them or their roosts, whether intentionally or by accident.



Examples of Actions

- Installing Bat Boxes on buildings and in trees
- Creating roosting opportunities within new and existing buildings
- Managing habitat for food species such as moths
- Enhancing flight lines

Links to Habitat Action Plan

- Boundary and Linear features
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Wetland
- Rivers and streams
- Public green spaces and gardens

Species

- Brandt's (*Myotis brandtii*)
- Brown Long Eared (*Plecotus auritus*)
- Common Pipistrelle
- Daubentons (*Myotis daubentonii*)
- Leislars (*Nyctallus leisleri*)
- Lesser Horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)
- Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*)
- Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)
- Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*)
- Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)
- Whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*)

BIRDS



Great spotted woodpecker- wedge nuts into cracks of bark to ease their opening.



Lesser redpolls can be seen dangling from tiny twigs in birch and alder trees, or perhaps on shrub stems.



Lapwings were once a common sight on agricultural land throughout the UK with large flocks of over-wintering birds and breeding birds a common sight.

Most bird species exploit different habitats, some are resident remaining in one location all year round and others are migratory, travelling to different locations in order to find places to breed and find food. The bird species included in the action plan are species which are known to be important in Blaenau Gwent due to their status as either rare, declining or threatened locally or nationally. Blaenau Gwent lies within the Heads of the Valleys area, which supports approximately 10% of the Welsh lapwing population and is one of the few remaining strongholds for the species.

Example of Actions



- Nest boxes
- Create nesting opportunities
- Manage Habitat

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>) • Eurasian Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>) • Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) • Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) • Tree Pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>) • Short Eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) • Long Eared Owl (<i>Asio otus</i>) • European Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) • Lesser Redpoll (<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>) • Common Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>) • Dipper (<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>) • Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) • Little Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>) • Hawfinch (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>) • Common Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>) • House Martin (<i>Delichon urbium</i>) • Yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>) • Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>) • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) • Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) • Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) • Ring Ouzel (<i>Turdus torquata</i>) • Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) • Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>) • *Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>) • Pied Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>) • Brambling (<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>) • Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) • Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) • Red Grouse (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>) • Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) • Grasshopper Warbler (<i>Locustella naevia</i>) • Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>) • Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) • Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>) • Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) • Willow Tit (<i>Parus montanus</i>) • Marsh Tit (<i>Parus palustris</i>) • House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) • Grey Partridge (<i>Perdix perdix</i>) • Honey Buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>) • Green Woodpecker (<i>Picus viridus</i>) • Wood Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>) • Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>) • Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>) • Stonechat (<i>Saxicola torquata</i>) • Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) • Mistle Thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>) |
|--|--|

POLLINATING INSECTS



*Small pearl bordered fritillary,
Garden City, Ebbw Vale*



Chinese character moth



Bumblebee collecting pollen, Cwm

Honeybees and wild pollinators including bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies, moths, parasitic wasps and hoverflies are important pollinators across a wide range of crops and wildflowers. They also provide a vital step in numerous food chains by providing food supplies for animals such as birds, bats and other invertebrates. Most of these species are included on the S42 which highlight that they are priority species. One of the most notable moths is the Silurian moth *Eriopygodes imbecilla*, a species which is only found a few locations in Wales including in the hills of Blaenau Gwent.

Example of Actions

- Encourage people to plant wildlife friendly plants
- Create suitable habitats such as wildflower meadows
- Manage highway verges/grass land areas



Moth Species

- Grey Mountain Carpet (*Enterphria caesiata*)
- The Silurian (*Eriopygodes imbecilla*)
- Double Line (*Mythimna turca*)
- Grey Scalloped Bar (*Dyscia fagaria*)
- Heath Rustic (*Xestia agathina*)
- Large Ear (*Amphipoea lucens*)
- Northern Rustic (*Standfussiana lucernea*)
- Red Sword-grass (*Xylena vetusta*)
- Scarce Silver-lines (*Bena bicolorana*)
- Neglected Rustic (*Xestia castanea*)

Butterfly Species

- Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)
- Pearl Bordered Fritillary (*Boloria euphrosyne*)
- Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)
- Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)
- Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)
- Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*)
- Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*)

Links to Habitat Action Plan

- Grassland
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Post Industrial habitat
- Inland Rock and scree
- Public green spaces and gardens



OTTERS



Otters can be found on all the main rivers within Blaenau Gwent. Otters are one of our top predators, feeding mainly on fish, water-birds, amphibians and crustaceans. Otters have their cubs in underground burrows, known as a 'holt'. Excellent and lithe swimmers, the young are in the water by 10 weeks of age. Otters are well suited to a life on the water as they have webbed feet, dense fur to keep them warm and can close their ears and nose when underwater.

Otters (*Lutra lutra*) are strictly protected through national and European legislation. Populations are now recovering in Wales as a result of the ban on the use of organo-chloride pesticides and improvements in water quality and fish populations in rivers. In order to maintain this it is important to continue to ensure the habitats are managed and maintained, and any sightings or evidence of otter recorded.

Examples of Actions

- Otter holt creations
- Woodland management
- Installing otter ledges through culverts
- Maintaining access routes across land

Links to Habitat Action Plans

- Wetlands
- Rivers and Stream
- Woodlands



REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



Common frog, pond on Tredegar Business Park



Common lizard, Silent Valley Nature Reserve



Common toad, Six Bells Nature Reserve

Four reptile species are found within Blaenau Gwent. These are the adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm. All receive protection from intentional killing, injury and sale. Five amphibian species occur in Blaenau Gwent, of these only great crested newts and common toad receive protection.

Examples of Actions

- Pond creations and good management practice
- Reptile hibernacula
- Stone walls, grassland and heathland management

Links to Habitat Action Plan

- Boundary and Linear features
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Public green spaces and gardens
- Wetland
- Post industrial habitats

Species

- Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)
- Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)
- Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)
- Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)
- Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*)
- Adder (*Vipera berus*)
- Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)
- Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*)



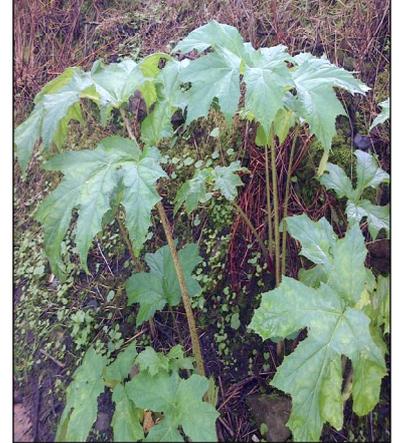
INVASIVE SPECIES



Japanese Knotweed has become invasive spreading from gardens into the natural environment.



Himalyan Balsam have exploding seed pods and is commonly found along rivers as the water transports the seeds.



Giant Hogweed produces phytotoxic sap. If the sap becomes in contact with human skin and exposed to sunlight can cause skin burnings.

Several invasive species can be found within Blaenau Gwent. Examples of plant species include cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Invasive faunal species include mink (*Mustela vison*), signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) and grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to release any animal or to allow any plant to grow which is not ordinarily resident in the UK or is listed on schedule 9. Japanese knotweed has been found in over 500 sites in Blaenau Gwent with Himalyan Balsam and giant hogweed also being problematic species. Rivers in particular are highly vulnerable to colonisation by invasive plants as they allow easy passage of waterborne seeds and plants.

Example of Actions

- Himalayan Balsam Bash
- Reduce and control populations of invasive species

Links to Habitat Action Plan

- Boundary and Linear features
- Grassland
- Woodland
- Heathland
- Wetland
- Rivers and streams
- Public green spaces and gardens
- Inland Rock and scree
- Post industrial habitat

GENERAL ACTION PLANS



The RSPB with their stall at Blaenau Gwent's 'Go Wild' event, at Bryn Bach Park-2014 to promote and encourage members of the public to 'Give Nature a Home'.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN PROCESS

It is essential to ensure that the biodiversity partnership continue to drive the LBAP forward, helping its implementation and promotion throughout Blaenau Gwent. This can be made possible through the continued efforts and support from all the members of the partnership. Blaenau Gwent Partnership needs to ensure that where possible, biodiversity resources are identified and protected.



Pollinator patches sown on areas of highway verge in Ebbw Vale

Example of Actions

- Ensure that the LBAP is focusing actions towards priority species and habitats
- Promote LBAP and process
- Deliver actions outlined in the LBAP
- Integrate LBAP into plans, policies and strategies
- Focus on supporting groups and communities
- Green Spaces designation, improvement and use
- To ensure that biodiversity resources are protected and enhanced through the planning and development process
- Ensure actions through the planning system and development control comply with EU and UK legislation and policies



EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS OF BIODIVERSITY



Go Wild! event at Parc Bryn Bach – the event is shared with Caerphilly Council and swaps between local authority areas on a biannual basis . On average 3000 members of the public attend and interact with a host of stall holders promoting biodiversity and nature conservation within the Mid Valley's area.

Through the interpretation of biodiversity information and education to a wide audience, it is possible to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity wildlife legislation and policies, and the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Action Plan. By gaining and understanding/sympathy for biodiversity conservation, it is possible to engage many people in this- whether it is inputting into the LBAP, surveying practical conservation work or simply trying to minimise their impact on biodiversity.

Examples of Actions

- Support schools to raise awareness of conservation/wildlife issues at local and global scales
- Support local communities to become more aware and involved in local biodiversity issue
- Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity
- Promote LBAP document and Process
- Promote education and raise awareness of priority species and habitats
- Promote monitoring of priority species and habitats and that it is recorded
- Support local communities to become more aware and involved in local biodiversity issue
- Work together with other local organisations
- Encourage local communities, schools and members of the public to use and protect the environment and green spaces



APPENDICES



Porcelain Fungus (Oudemansiella mucida)-occurs in large numbers on fallen dead wood or on the trunks of standing beech trees. They can be seen fruiting from late autumn to early winter.

APPENDIX 1. CASE STUDIES OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership Case Study 1: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Green spaces designation, improvement and use	✓	Improve quality of life	✓
Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity	✓	Promote learning through biodiversity	✓
Encourage local community involvement	✓	Considering biodiversity in planning and development	✓

Aim:

- For Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to designate four Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) using powers under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- The four sites were: Cwmcelyn ponds, Roseheyworth Woodlands, Trevor Rowson and Six Bells.
- Local Nature Reserves are designated in recognition of the rich diversity of habitats and species they support but also they are important for the local community.
- LNR's are a contributor to ecosystem service by providing the local community an accessible green space, resources for learning and education whilst also aiding with a physical and mental wellbeing.

Partners Involved:

- BGCBC, CCW, and Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership



Local Nature Reserve Launch Event at Cwmcelyn Ponds

LBAP: The designation of the above LNRs protects the following LBAP priority habitats in Blaenau Gwent: Wet Woodland, Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Lowland dry acid grassland, Open Standing Water, Rivers and Streams and Post Industrial habitat.

Since designation (October 2013), the LNRs have been used for a wide variety of community events such as bat walks, practical conservation training and

The Borough now has 10 Local Nature Reserves 5 sites designated in 2009- Parc Nant Y Waun, Beaufort Hills, Parc Bryn Bach , Sirhowy Woodlands and Cwmtillery Lakes. Silent Valley was first to be designated in 1988 and has since been managed by Blaenau Gwent CBC in partnership with Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council aim to continue working with the community to manage each Local Nature Reserve for the benefit of the local people and wildlife.



Trevor Rowson Local Nature Reserve



Roesheyworth Local Nature Reserve



Six Bells Local Nature Reserve



Cwmcelyn Ponds Local Nature Reserves

Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership

Case Study 2:

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council- Schools Biodiversity Project



Green spaces designation, improvement and use		Improve quality of life	✓
Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity	✓	Promote learning through biodiversity	✓
Encourage local community involvement	✓	Considering biodiversity in planning and development	

Aim:

- To create spaces for nature and provide learning opportunities for school children aimed at cultivating an appreciation for the natural environment.
- Reverse the decline in biodiversity by improving and enhancing urban green spaces (school grounds)
- Create learning opportunities for school children and cultivate an appreciation of nature conservation and biodiversity.

Partners Involved:

- BGCBC, NRW, Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership, Gwent Wildlife Trusts, Communities 1st, Keep Wales Tidy, Valleys Bat Group, National Museum of Wales (OPAL Project).

LBAP: The project implements the habitat public green spaces-school grounds and fits with education and raising awareness with biodiversity

There is now a focus in the school curriculum on the outdoor classroom and outdoor learning, through Foundation Phase and programmes such as Forest Schools, Eco Schools and Healthy and Sustainable Living. For these initiatives to reach their full potential, schools need to look at the best ways of using their school grounds.



School children visiting Roseheyworth Local Nature Reserve

This project also fits in with government policy and legislation relating to biodiversity and sustainability. All actions that take place within schools go towards implementing the Local Authority's Biodiversity Action Plan and all activities are recorded at a national level to record progress towards the government's biodiversity targets.

The Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership started

the Schools Biodiversity Improvement Project in 2010. The project aims to work with schools to help enhance biodiversity within the school grounds, create learning opportunities for school children and cultivate an appreciation of nature conservation and biodiversity. The project initially started as a pilot with five schools distributed across the borough and has now expanded to include a total of 12 schools.

To date, a substantial amount of work has been carried out, working with schools to increase the biodiversity within their grounds and to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation amongst school children.

For more information about this project contact: The Biodiversity Project Officer, Blaenau Gwent CBC email: Nadine.Morgan@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



Planting a school orchard



Improving school grounds for hedgehogs by making a hedgehog box



Moth trapping and bat evening

Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership Case Study 3: Beaufort Hill Ponds and Woodlands Preservation Society- Beaufort Woodlands Local Nature Reserve, Access Improvements and Hedge laying



Green spaces designation, improvement and use	✓	Improve quality of life	✓
Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity	✓	Promote learning through biodiversity	✓
Encourage local community involvement	✓	Considering biodiversity in planning and development	

Aim:

- Improve walkways and access improvements around the woodland for the local community to enjoy the local woodlands.
- Improve access by installing steps near the Highlands Road entrance down towards Blaen Cendl.
- Improve pathways by laying woodchip
- Hedgerow management via hedgelaying a 72 meter strip of hawthorns with Keep Wales Tidy and Volunteers

Partners Involved:

- Beaufort Hill Ponds and Woodlands Preservation Society, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Keep Wales Tidy, and Environment Wales,

LBAP: By implementing these practical conservation days it benefits Hedgerows and Broadleaved woodland habitats



Installing steps

Members of Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodlands continue to improve the walkways around the woodland by completing a new set of steps near the Highlands Road entrance. This has improved accessibility down a sloping gradient for local residents and visitors alike. Woodchip was also laid along existing paths to help maintain them.

Further improvements are to be made in the future to open up or connect new footpaths around the reserve bringing a greater level of access to a far wider audience and levels of abilities so that the biodiversity of Beaufort Woodlands can be enjoyed by everyone.



Completed steps

To help maintain a hawthorn hedgerow hedge laying training was organised with Keep Wales Tidy and several volunteers. The volunteers gained some valuable techniques on how to manage a hedgerow appropriately whilst also enhancing an area not only for wildlife but also adding a visual appeal to an area for visitors to enjoy and appreciate.



Volunteers who took part in hedge laying



72 m of hawthorn hedge laid



Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership Case Study 4:
Ebbw Fawr River Clearance, Marine Colliery, Cwm in conjunction with Keep
Wales Tidy Blaenau Gwent Project Officer

Green spaces designation, improvement and use		Improve quality of life	
Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity		Promote learning through biodiversity	
Encourage local community involvement	✓	Considering biodiversity in planning and development	

Aim:

- To improve the river quality by removing litter and fly tipped waste, co-ordinated by Keep Wales Tidy

Partners Involved:

- Keep Wales Tidy, Blaenau Gwent River Rangers and McDonalds staff (Ebbw Vale)

As part of Tidy Wales Week 2014 over 40 dedicated volunteers attended a litter pick/river clean up at Marine Colliery, Cwm with 41 bags of litter being picked and lots of scrap metal collected.

LBAP: Habitats include Rivers and streams



Collecting waste from the river



Volunteers who participated in the river clean up



Bags of litter



Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership Case Study 5: **Blaenau Gwent Freshwater Invertebrate River Monitoring, contributed** **by Blaenau Gwent River Rangers**

Green spaces designation, improvement and use		Improve quality of life	
Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity	✓	Promote learning through biodiversity	✓
Encourage local community involvement	✓	Considering biodiversity in planning and development	

Aim:

- The aim of the Blaenau Gwent River Rangers is to conduct practical conservation work on river environments by monitoring the freshwater invertebrates of the rivers in Blaenau Gwent. This will indicate the quality and health of our rivers in Blaenau Gwent.

Partners Involved:

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Blaenau Gwent River Rangers, Riverfly Partnership, South East Wales Rivers Trust and NRW

LBAP: Habitats Include Rivers and Streams



Riverfly monitoring training day

16 volunteers, who attended a River fly training course that was organised by the Riverfly Partnership in collaboration with local organisations, monitor the Rivers Ebbw Fach, Ebbw Fawr and Sirhowy. Monitoring takes place once a month for two hours at different sites of the three rivers.

The river fly monitors record the abundance of river flies that inhabit the rivers, for example, mayflies, mayfly larvae, cased and caseless caddis flies. The data recorded is then collated and sent to Natural Resources Wales (formerly Environment Agency Wales). The goal is to try and improve the quality of rivers.

The Blaenau Gwent River Rangers also take part on other practical volunteer days such as river clean ups, pond clearances, soft willow revetment works, coppicing works along river corridors and otter holt creations.



Riverfly monitoring training day



Two river monitoring volunteers taking a kick test sample



Otter holt creation



Completed otter holt



Soft willow revetments

Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership Case Study 6: Gwent Wildlife Trust- Silent Valley Local Nature Reserve, Wet Woodland Enhancement Project- Conservation Grazing

Green spaces designation, improvement and use	✓	Improve quality of life	
Increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity	✓	Promote learning through biodiversity	
Encourage local community involvement	✓	Considering biodiversity in planning and development	

Aim:

- Introduce a flock of 10 badger faced sheep to an enclosed field at Silent Valley
- Encourage grazing that benefits wildlife and landscape i.e. wet woodland enhancement
- Control Scrub
- Optimize sward structure for wildflowers, invertebrates, small mammals and birds.

Partners Involved:

- Gwent Wildlife Trust, SITA funding

LBAP: Habitat includes grassland, wet woodlands and benefit species such as pollinating insects and birds.



Flock of badger faced sheep at Silent Valley Local Nature Reserve

Grazing livestock play a key role in the formation and maintenance of many semi-natural habitats including grassland, heathland and woodlands through slowing or altering the successional growth of these habitats into what would eventually be woodland cover. As a result, grazing is an essential component of many habitat creation projects.



Sheep settling in autumn 2013

Gwent Wildlife Trust applied to the SITA Trust to trial conservation grazing in an area of wet woodland on their Silent Valley Reserve in Cwm. The aim is to control scrub and enhance wildflowers, specifically the marsh violet for the benefit of the small pearl bordered fritillary butterfly.

Gwent Wildlife Trust have purchased a small flock of badger faced welsh mountain sheep and erected fencing to ensure control over grazed areas. Fencing was undertaken with a small number of volunteers who gained skills and experience, as well as better understanding of conservation grazing and how it can benefit the reserve. The sheep arrived in October and have settled in well. To check the sheep on a daily basis, Gwent Wildlife Trust have recruited and trained a group of volunteer shepherds who work on a rota system, alongside staff. This is working very well and there was a lot of response for the request of volunteers. Historically, it has been difficult to recruit volunteers in Blaenau Gwent, Particularly through the winter months.

Volunteers have received further training to increase their knowledge of sheep health and handling and have since been involved in shearing, foot trimming and monitoring for fly strike. Some of these volunteers have been involved in the butterfly survey for the site.

At the end of the project, the Reserves Officer responsible for the project delivered a talk about the purpose of the project and how it has benefited the site. This has led to potential recruitment of two new volunteers.



Volunteers helping to shear the sheep

APPENDIX 2. MEMBERS OF BLAENAU GWENT BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)
Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP)
Butterfly Conservation (BC)
Gwent Badger Group (GBG)
Gwent Amphibian and Reptile Group (GARG)
Gwent Fungus Group (GFG)
Gwent Ornithological Society (GOS)
Gwent Police (GP)
Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT)
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc)
South East Wales Rivers Trust and the Riverfly Partnership (SEWRT/RP)
Tidy Towns and Keep Wales Tidy (TT/KWT)
Valleys Bat Group (VBG)
Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP)
Welsh Government (WG)
Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru (WW)

Organisation	Contact Details
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Baldwin House Victoria Business Park Ebbw Vale, NP23 8ED Ecology/Biodiversity: Tel. 01495 356070/355702 www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)	http://www.bsbi.org.uk/
Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)	Planning Development Plas Y Ffynnon Cambrian Way Brecon Powys LD3 7HP www.breconbeacons.org/
Butterfly Conservation (BC)	Calvert Terrace Swansea SA1 6AR Tel. 01792 642972 www.butterfly-conservation.org
Gwent Amphibian and Reptile Group (GARG)	Email.gwentarg@hotmail.co.uk http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/garg.page
Gwent Badger Group (GBG)	http://www.gwentbadgergroup.org.uk/
Gwent Fungus Group (GFG)	http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/mycology/recording-network/groups/gwent-fg/
Gwent Ornithological Society (GOS)	www.gwentbirds.org.uk
Gwent Police	Gwent Police Headquarters Croesyceiliog Cwmbran NP44 2XJ www.gwent.police.uk
Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT)	Seddon House Dingestow Monmouth NP25 4DY Tel. 01600 740600 www.gwentwildlife.org/
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Sutherland House Castlebridge Cowbridge Road East

	Cardiff CF11 9AB Tel. 02920 353000 www.rspb.org.uk
South East Wales Biological Records Centre (SEWBReC)	13 ST. Andrew Crescent Cardiff CF10 3DB Tel. 02920 641110 www.sewbrec.org.uk
South East Wales Rivers Trust (SEWRT)	South East Wales Rivers Trust Former Glancynon Vestry Glancynon Terrace Abercynon Glamorgan CF45 4TG http://www.sewrt.org/
Tidy Towns/Keep Wales Tidy	33-35 Cathedral Road Cardiff CF11 9HB Tel. 02920 256767 http://www.keepwalestidy.org/index
Valleys Bat Group	http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/valleys-bat-group.page
Welsh Government	Nature Conservation Branch Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ Tel. 03000 604400 www.wales.gov.uk
Wales Biodiversity Partnership	C/O Gwent Wildlife Trust Seddon House Dingestow Gwent www.biodiversitywales.org.uk
Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru	P.O Box 690 Cardiff CF3 5WL http://www.dwrcymru.com/en.aspx

APPENDIX 3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 4. SPECIES INCLUDED IN BLAENAU GWENT LBAP

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Birds														
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifrigilla</i>			✓	✓			✓				✓		✓
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓		✓
Common linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓				✓		✓
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		✓		✓			✓						
Dartford warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓							
Dipper	<i>Cinclus Cinclus</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓				
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓					✓
Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				✓	✓		✓				✓		✓
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓				✓		✓
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					✓		✓			✓			✓
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes Coccothraustes</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Honey buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			✓	✓			✓				✓		
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbium</i>			✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓		✓
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓					✓		✓		✓
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓			✓			✓					✓
Lesser redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓		✓
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓
Long eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>			✓			✓	✓				✓		✓
Marsh tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	✓	✓					✓				✓		
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓				✓			✓	✓		✓
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓						
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		✓					✓			✓	✓		
Red grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓					✓		
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			✓	✓			✓						
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	✓	✓		✓				✓					✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Ring ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Short eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓							✓
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					✓			✓					✓
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓		✓
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>					✓	✓					✓		✓
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
Willow tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓		
Wood warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	✓	✓					✓				✓		
Fish														
Atlantic Salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>	✓	✓		✓					✓				
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	✓	✓							✓				

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Bullhead	<i>Cottus gobio</i>			✓	✓					✓				
European Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓				
River Lamprey	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	✓	✓		✓					✓				
Sea Lamprey	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	✓	✓		✓					✓				
Fungi, lichen, mosses and liverworts														✓
An earth star	<i>Geastrum pectinatum</i>			✓		✓					✓			
A lichen	<i>Peltigera neckeri</i>			✓		✓		✓						✓
A lichen	<i>Peltigera polydactylon</i>			✓		✓		✓						✓
Big Blue Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma bloxamii</i>		✓			✓								
Bog Earwort	<i>Scapania paludicola</i>			✓					✓		✓			
Bog notchwort	<i>Cladopediella fuitans</i>			✓					✓					
Bog moss flapwort	<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>			✓					✓					

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Cruet collar moss	<i>Splachnum ampullaceum</i>			✓					✓					
Compact bog moss	<i>Sphagnum compactum</i>			✓			✓		✓					
Dark purple Earthtongue	<i>Geoglossum atropurpureum</i>		✓			✓	✓				✓			✓
Date Coloured waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe spadicea</i>		✓			✓					✓			
Dwarf streaked moss	<i>Rhabdoweisia fugax</i>		✓								✓		✓	
Flexuous Bog-moss	<i>Sphagnum flexuosum</i>				✓				✓					
Forcipated pincerwort	<i>Cephalozia connivens</i>								✓					
Irish frillwort	<i>Moerckia hibernica</i>								✓	✓			✓	
Longfruited thread moss	<i>Pohlia elongata</i> var. <i>elongata</i>												✓	
Olive Earth Tongue	<i>Microglossum olivaceum</i>	✓	✓		✓						✓			
Pink meadow waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe caylptriformis</i>			✓		✓					✓			

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Serrated earth moss	<i>Ephemerum serratum</i> var <i>serratum</i>			✓					✓					
Soft bog moss	<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>			✓			✓		✓					
Smooth Stonewort	<i>Nitella flexilis</i>			✓					✓	✓				
Tooth streaked moss	<i>Rhabdoweisia crispata</i>			✓									✓	
Transparent frillwort	<i>Jungermannia hyalina</i>			✓						✓				
Violet Coral	<i>Clavaria zollingeri</i>		✓			✓					✓			
Violet crystalwort	<i>Riccia huebeneriana</i>			✓					✓					
Weedy Frillwort	<i>Fossombronina incurva</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓
	<i>Hieracium cirrhatum</i>			✓		✓					✓			
Invertebrates- Moths and butterflies														
Anomalous moth	<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓							✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Autumnal Rustic	<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Broom Moth	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓							
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrargo</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Dark Brocade	<i>Blepharita adusta</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Dark Green fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓					
Dark-barred twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	✓	✓			✓					✓			✓
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	✓	✓			✓					✓			✓
Double Dart	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	✓	✓					✓						

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Double line	<i>Mythimna turca</i>			✓		✓		✓			✓			
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Ear Moth	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	✓	✓			✓			✓					
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Flounced Chestnut	<i>Agrochola helvola</i>	✓	✓					✓			✓			
Galium Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓							
Garden Dart	<i>Euxoa nigricans</i>	✓	✓			✓					✓			
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			✓
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	✓	✓			✓								✓
Grass Rivulet	<i>Perizoma albulata</i> subsp. <i>Albulata</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
Grey Mountain Carpet	<i>Entephria caesiata</i>	✓	✓				✓						✓	

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Grey scalloped bar	<i>Dyscia fagaria</i>			✓			✓		✓					
Heath rustic	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓							
Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Knot grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						
Large ear	<i>Amphipoea lucens</i>			✓		✓								
Latticed heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	✓	✓			✓								✓
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Neglected Rustic	<i>Xestia castanea</i>	✓	✓				✓							
Northern rustic	<i>Standfussiana lucernea</i>			✓									✓	✓
Oak Hook tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						
Red sword grass	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>			✓					✓					
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Scarce silver lines	<i>Bena bicolorana</i>			✓				✓						
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Shaded Broad-Bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	✓	✓			✓								✓
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Mythimna comma</i>	✓	✓			✓			✓					
Silurian moth	<i>Eriopygodes imbecilla</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓							
	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
Small pearl bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	✓	✓					✓						
Small Square-Spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
The Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓							✓
The Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
The Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
The Sallow	<i>Xanthia ictertia</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Wormwood	<i>Cucullia absinthis</i>			✓										✓
Dragonflies and Damselflies														
Beautiful demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>			✓					✓	✓				
Black darter	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>			✓					✓	✓				
Black tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓
Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓
Emerald dragonfly	<i>Lesetes sponsa</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓
Hairy dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>			✓					✓					
Golden ringed dragonfly	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓
Keeled Skimmer dragonfly	<i>Orthetrum caeruleum</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Scarce blue tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>			✓					✓	✓				✓
Other Invertebrates														
Brown Banded carder bee	<i>Bombus humilis</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Shrill carder bee	<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Mammals														
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>			✓	✓			✓						
Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Brown hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓		
Brown long eared bat	<i>Plecotus capensis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓		
Harvest mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	✓	✓			✓						✓		

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Leislers bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Lesser horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		
Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		
Serotine bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Water vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Reptiles and Amphibians														
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Common frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			✓	✓ (sale only)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
Common toad	<i>Bufo Bufo</i>	✓	✓		✓ (sale only)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Grass snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Palmate newt	<i>Lissotriton Helvetica</i>			✓	✓ (sale only)	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓		✓
Smooth newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>			✓	✓ (sale only)	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Vascular plants														
A lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla glabra</i>			✓		✓		✓			✓			
Bird Cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>			✓				✓			✓	✓		
Black poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>			✓				✓			✓	✓		
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>			✓	✓			✓			✓			

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Blunt leaved pond weed	<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>			✓					✓					
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>			✓					✓		✓			
Brown sedge	<i>Carex disticha</i>			✓		✓								
Common butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>			✓		✓			✓					
Common cudweed	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>			✓		✓	✓							
Corn mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>			✓		✓								
Crowberry	<i>Erica tetralix</i>			✓		✓	✓							
Cyperus sedge	<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>			✓		✓								
Dwarf Thistle	<i>Cirsium acule</i>			✓		✓								
Fat duckweed	<i>Lemna gibba</i>			✓					✓					
Galingale	<i>Cyperus longus</i>			✓				✓	✓					
Goldilocks buttercup	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>			✓		✓								
Green field speedwell	<i>Veronica agrestis</i>			✓		✓								
Greater Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>			✓		✓								

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Grey field speedwell	<i>Calystegia pulchra</i>			✓		✓								
Hairy bindweed	<i>Calystegia pulchra</i>			✓		✓						✓		
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>			✓		✓								
Intermediate lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>			✓		✓								
Ivy leaves bellflower	<i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>			✓		✓								
Knotted pearlwort	<i>Sagina nodosa</i>			✓		✓								
Large leaved lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>			✓				✓			✓	✓		
Limestone bedstraw	<i>Galium sternerii</i>			✓		✓								
Many stalked spiked rush	<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>			✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Midland hawthorn	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>			✓		✓								
Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>			✓				✓						
Pink water speedwell	<i>Veronica catenata</i>			✓					✓					
Petty whin	<i>Genista anglica</i>			✓		✓	✓							

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Purple willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Shoreweed	<i>Littorella uniflora</i>			✓					✓					
Small cudweed	<i>Filago minima</i>			✓		✓								
Small nettle	<i>Urtica urens</i>			✓		✓						✓		
Small pondweed	<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>			✓					✓					
Smooth brome	<i>Bromus racemosus</i>			✓		✓								
Spiked water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>			✓					✓					
Viper's bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>			✓		✓					✓			
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>			✓				✓				✓		
White water lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>			✓					✓		✓			
Whorled caraway	<i>Carum verticillatum</i>			✓		✓			✓					
Wild mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>			✓		✓								
Wood Bitter-vetch	<i>Vicia orobus</i>		✓	✓		✓						✓		
Wood club-rush	<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓					

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/Local Importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>			✓				✓						
Yellow bartsia	<i>Parentucella viscosa</i>			✓		✓								
Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>			✓		✓					✓			
Yellow sedge	<i>Carex viridula ssp brachyrhyncha</i>			✓										
Yellow water-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>			✓					✓		✓			

APPENDIX 5. GLOSSARY

Agri-Environment Scheme- is a term used to describe national (or local) schemes that pay farmers to farm in an environmentally sensitive way.

Ancient Woodland

Woodland Known to have existed continually in a location since before 1600

Biodiversity

The total variety on Earth or within a given part of it.

Biodiversity Action Plan

A plan setting out the current status, issues and threats for a species or habitat, and a programme of specific and timed actions with identified responsible agencies to restore, maintain and enhance the biodiversity interest.

Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan

Drawn up in response to the Biodiversity Convention signed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. This document (HMSO 1994) identified the means by which the United Kingdom should contribute to global conservation of biodiversity, in particular, establishing the Biodiversity Steering Group to compile action plans for habitats and species.

Biodiversity Conservation

Sustaining and using wisely the whole variety of life.

Biodiversity Partnership- All parties helping to deliver the objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Conservation

The wise use and continuance of a scarce resource

Convention on Biological Diversity

This Convention was signed by the Prime Minister and 150 other Heads of State or Governments at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. Under Article 6A of the Convention, signatories must develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Diversity

The number of species present in a community or habitat.

Ecology

The science of the inter-relationships between living organisms and their environment.

Ecological Survey

An inventory of the attributes of a site or area, usually in terms of habitat and associated species and normally following a standardised procedure.

Environment

The external surroundings (i.e. physical and chemical conditions) experienced by influencing habitats and species.

Foraging Habitats

A place used by animals to search for food.

Habitat

A place in which a particular plant or animal lives, feeds and breeds. Often used in a wider sense, referring to major assemblages of plants and animals found together such as woodlands and grasslands.

Habitat Action Plan (HAP)

A conservation plan for a habitat based upon the knowledge of its ecological and other requirements that identifies actions needed to maintain and improve its status.

Habitat Creation

Land management actions aimed at establishing a habitat on a site where it has not occurred before.

Habitat Enhancement

Land management actions aimed at improving the quality of habitat(s) that exist on a site.

Habitat Restoration

Land management actions aimed at restoring a habitat on site where it has previously existed, but subsequently been lost.

Hibernation

A period of dormancy in winter when an animal's temperature and other body processes drop to a low level.

Invertebrates

Animals without a backbone

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Local Authorities may establish Local Nature Reserves in consultation with Natural Resources Wales under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Management

The manipulation of a site to maintain or increase the habitats and populations of species, through recognised techniques, such as coppicing or grazing.

Mitigation

Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts e.g. changing the way the development is carried out to minimise adverse effects through appropriate methods or timing.

Monitoring

The process of repeated observations of one or more elements of the environment such as populations of species over time.

Natural Green Space- Is classed as, land, water or geological features that have been naturally colonised by plants and animals.

Population

A collection of individuals (plants or animals), all of the same species and in a defined geographical area.

Priority Habitats

Those threatened habitats identified nationally and locally as being in greatest need of conservation action in order to ensure their future survival in the county or country.

Priority Species

Those threatened or declining species that have been identified, nationally or locally, as being of greatest need of conservation action in order to ensure their future survival, in the county or country.

Protected habitat

Habitat within a designated International, National or Local site.

Protected Species

Species protected by law e.g. the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and the Habitats Regulations 1994.

Riparian

The edge of streams or rivers

Semi-natural

Vegetation that has been modified by humans but still of significant conservation interest because it is composed of native plant species.

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

A site regarded to be of local importance for wildlife. cSINC stands for Candidate SINC that hasn't yet qualified as a SINC. Also, referred to by some bodies as Wildlife Sites.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

An area of land or water notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as being of national importance for nature or geological conservation. The statutory designation applies throughout Great Britain.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

A site of international importance designated by the UK Government under the EU Habitats Directive on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

Species

A group of organisms of the same kind who reproduce amongst themselves.

Species Action Plan (SAP)

A conservation plan for a species based upon knowledge of its ecological and other requirements, which identifies the actions needed to maintain and improve its status.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

A site of importance designated by the UK government under the EU Birds Directive of the Conservation of wild birds.

Sustainable Development- The concept and practice of development that ensures use of a resource or environment does not degrade the usefulness of the resource over time.

APPENDIX 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

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Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) HMSO, London

APPENDIX 7. OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

The following websites are additional to those listed under Appendix 1.

Organisation	Website
Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)	www.algae.org.uk/
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	www.arc-trust.org.uk
Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)	http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk
British Herpetological Society	www.thebhs.org/
Butterfly Conservation	http://butterfly-conservation.org/
CIRIA (Biodiversity Benchmarking for construction projects and working with wildlife: training pack)	www.CIRIA.org
GB Non Native Species Secretariat	www.nonnativespecies.org
Natural England	www.naturalengland.org.uk
Flora Locale	www.floralocale.org
Freshwater Habitats Trust	www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
RSPB	www.rspb.org.uk
The Barn Owl Trust	www.barnowltrust.co.uk
The Bat Conservation Trust	www.bats.orgs.uk
The Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs	www.defra.gov.uk
The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)	www.cieem.org.uk
The Mammal Society	www.mamml.org.uk
The Wildlife Trusts Partnership	www.wildlifetrusts.org
Wales Biodiversity Partnership	www.biodiversitywales.org.uk