

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025

Penrice Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Penrice

Penrice Community Council represents a rural area known as Gower which has AONB status and covers three wards which include Oxwich, Horton and Penrice. PCC is a small council with a precept of £12750 and approximately 450 residents, a Clerk and 9 Councillors.

The Council owns and manages 2 greens in the area, Horton Village Green and Oxwich Green. Horton Village Green is next to Horton Beach and sand dunes that have historic value and also has common status. This area is also next to the Horton Lifeboat station a valuable lifesaving charity facility. Horton Village Green has common status and so care with correct maintenance and added protection is paramount to the open space value to the community, but maintaining the native biodiversity in this protected location. Oxwich Village Green is different and is located in the middle of the small group of houses known as Oxwich Green and is made up of grass and native trees, with an abundance of snowdrops seen in the spring which is in the unmown set aside area.

The area has a close knit community and Horton Village Green is used to host the Horton Hullabaloo, a community music event which sees local residents come together in the summer for a day long musical festival as performers and visitors to this family focused event. The Green is also used to host another annual event Horton Fireworks, a very well supported event which then has wildflowers planted in the area where the bonfire is located to support the pollinators in this area.

A selection of native trees has also been planted in this location to support the bird population in this beach side location. The Green is used by Macmillan Charity for the annual walk and many visitors to this area of AONB which also has dark sky status.

- *The Council promotes sustainable land management by leaving selected areas unmown and planting native trees. Wildflowers have been planted on Horton Village Green to enhance local biodiversity. The Council works in partnership with the CCS to support wildlife by allowing hedgerows and verges to remain uncut until midsummer. Information on the Council's website helps to educate the public about the importance of protecting wildlife and supporting native pollinators. The Council has also worked closely with NRW, whose representatives have attended public meetings to provide updates on work undertaken on the Marsh, an extremely important protected area within the Gower AONB and one of the wards covered by **Penrice Community Council** is a statutory community council in Wales and is a **public body subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.*

- *The Community Council does not deliver frontline public services but exercises its functions in an **advisory, representative, and community leadership role**. In line with Welsh Government guidance, the Council applies the Act's requirements in a **proportionate manner**, appropriate to its size, remit, and resources.*
- *When carrying out its functions, the Community Council seeks to contribute to the **well-being goals** and to apply the **five ways of working** by:*
 - *Taking account of the **long-term** impact of decisions on the community and environment*
 - *Supporting **preventative** action, including promotion of environmental and biodiversity improvements*
 - ***Integrating** well-being considerations into discussions, representations, and local initiatives*
 - ***Collaborating** with the local authority, Public Services Board partners, and community groups*
 - ***Involving** local residents in matters affecting community well-being*
- *The Council also supports delivery of Welsh Government priorities on sustainable development and nature recovery, including its duty under **Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016** to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity.*

Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to....		
1	Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	<p>Council considered the impact with all decisions made in the area, which is an important AONB that also benefits from Dark Sky Status. Cllr J Ellis monitored and brought biodiversity issues to the Council.</p> <p>Council considered each relevant item of business what implications or opportunities there are for Biodiversity and the Resilience of Ecosystems.</p> <p>Council used the same local farmer to maintain and cut Oxwich Green due to his understanding of the importance of set aside and unmown areas of grass both increasing essential habitat for wildlife and the snowdrops in this location.</p> <p>Due to the interest of Councillors in climate change and safeguarding nature in this area, all considerations were made when observing and commenting on planning applications. The OVW planning and biodiversity guide was circulated.</p> <p>A section was added on the website to show biodiversity issues. National landscape events have been attended by the Clerk and information is shared on community WhatsApp.</p>	All

	Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	<p>Biodiversity is now promoted on the website and ensure that all users are aware of the sensitive importance when using the greens in particular.</p> <p>The Council consistently engages with local land owners and businesses, especially when any verges that are not owned by the local authority to ensure they are not mown until midsummer to allow pollinators to flourish.</p> <p>The PCC has informally raised awareness of biodiversity and its importance through initiating and/or supporting activities in the community, inviting speakers on environmental matters and sharing information from the Council and other parties through its website, noticeboards and minutes.</p> <p>The NRW have attended meetings to update the community on work that has been carried out on the Marsh, an area of significant wildlife importance.</p>	Clerk and all
2	safeguard principal species and habitats	<p>The Council became involved when a local woodland had extensive tree felling and removal and worked with the owner to protect and consider the implications.</p> <p>The Clerk has raised issues with the mismanagement of the commons in the area and requested that a proper management plan be considered by the National Landscape team. This is currently ongoing.</p> <p>New trees were donated and planted on Horton Green and the Council will seek to plant a few more.</p> <p>Marram grass was planted by a team of volunteers.</p>	Clerk and all
3	restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<p>Wildflower planting has been regularly undertaken in a variety of locations throughout the wards. Following from successful firework display and bonfire, this area is cleared and raked and makes an excellent area for planting native wildflowers. The green is sandy so the grass here is sparse.</p> <p>The Council is considering installing a wildlife pond, but the area is privately owned, so work is underway to see if this is still supported and possible.</p>	Clerk and all
4	reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species.	<p>Japanese Knotweed was identified in the area that had been deposited from an unknown location. The community were invited to attend a meeting to voice their concerns and the landowner was contacted to discuss a resolution. A specialist firm was employed to deal with this before it spreads.</p> <p>Farm slurry was also a problem and the Council worked with the farmer to resolve ensuring that this did not leach into any water courses.</p>	Clerk
5	Use improve and share evidence	Information is regularly shared with the CCS.	Clerk

6	support capacity and/or other organisations	Councillors continue to engage with other organisations and individuals to help keep Council informed of relevant activities including: AONB Team, OVW, OVW (Biodiversity Network), Gower Forum, Gower Society, NRW and St Andrews.	All
Review of S6 duty actions for 2023 - 2025			
What has worked well?	<p>Engagement with the AONB Team has been extremely positive and worthwhile alongside continuing to work with NRW and local bird watching enthusiasts.</p> <p>Inviting residents to raise concerns about Japanese Knotweed that was brought into the area to connect with the local landowner to deal with and resolve the problem. Currently ongoing.</p> <p>Organising volunteers to replant Marram grass on the dunes to protect this vital habitat.</p> <p>Planting wildflowers and native trees.</p> <p>Letting areas unmown to promote local pollinators and allow snowdrops to flourish.</p>		
What have the barriers been?	Some barriers have been a dry summer, which saw the grass burn off and land become very hard and cracked.		
What will you change?	To look at further tree planting in the area and try and connect with volunteers to organise beach cleans and other activities		
How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed?	As it is now in S6 reporting year of 2025, a new plan will be written next year. Unfortunately,, due to the amalgamation of the Gower Community Councils this will only be until that time.		

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity.	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	Organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or occupy an office building only and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management. 	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or that can influence those who own or manage land. 	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6 as above NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not. 	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

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