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Carmarthenshire County Council Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Forward Plan Jan 2020- Dec 2022

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Foreword by Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Carmarthenshire County Council and other local authorities in Wales play a crucial role in addressing the nature emergency. As important stakeholders of our respective communities and environments, we are well positioned to understand and respond to the unique ecological challenges faced at a local level. Through strategic planning, resource allocation, and policy implementation, Carmarthenshire County Council can actively protect and enhance the natural habitats and biodiversity within our jurisdictions. By collaborating with partners, including community groups, conservation organisations, third sector, public sector and businesses, can foster partnerships that promote sustainable land management, habitat restoration, and wildlife conservation. Additionally, local authorities can engage in public awareness campaigns, educating and empowering residents to contribute to nature conservation efforts. This proactive involvement is vital in safeguarding the natural heritage of Wales, ensuring a healthy and resilient environment for present and future generations.

Sign Off

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Director's Foreword

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides a clear direction for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems. This is welcomed. The Council's first Transformation Strategy 2022 – 2027 confirms its declaration of a Nature Emergency in 2022 and supports the delivery of the Authority's response to the climate and nature emergencies. We understand the links between the Nature and the Climate Change Emergencies, and we understand how in promoting ecosystem resilience we will be contributing to climate adaptation. Not only is a biodiverse resilient natural environment important for these reasons, as the Covid pandemic has reminded us, nature and biodiversity are for our well-being.

The Council recognises the need to prioritise and resource actions that will maintain and enhance the varied, and in some cases unique, ecosystems within Carmarthenshire, and actions that will result in nature recovery. I consider that this review of the Council's Jan 2020– Dec 2022 Forward Plan demonstrates how we are working collaboratively to embed biodiversity and ecosystem resilience into our decision-making processes, our plans and policies and our day to day working practices. Over the next 3 years we will continue to develop this approach and monitor our progress.

Sign Off

A. Williams

Director, Place and Infrastructure

1. Executive Summary

This review has been published to comply with the Authority's legal obligation under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Under Section 6 of this Act all public bodies '*must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems*'. This is referred to as the S6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.

To evidence delivery of this duty, under the Environment Act, it is a statutory duty that all public bodies in Wales must have prepared and published a plan on how they intended to comply with the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty by March 2017. The legislation also requires them by December 2019, and every 3 years thereafter, to review their plan and publish that review. The review of the Jan 2020 to Dec 2022 plan will be published in early January 2023 on the Council's website, consistent with Welsh Government guidance. This is Carmarthenshire County Council's second Environment Act Forward Plan, and it covers the period January 2020 to December 2022.

Carmarthenshire's approach to developing and delivering its Forward Plan has been to engage officers in looking at their working practices, plans and projects and integrate and deliver opportunities for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting ecosystem resilience into these, alongside the delivery of their other obligations and objectives.

During the Covid pandemic and the resulting disruption during this plan period, it was decided that the focus of the Forward Plan should be on actions that could be delivered largely by Place and Sustainability and on a smaller number of actions that could be delivered by other divisions in the Environment Department. The actions CCC has taken to deliver its Section 6 duty over this period are set out in Table 1 see page 10. Delivery of these actions has been monitored via CCC's Performance Improvement Monitoring System (PIMS) and reported to its Scrutiny Committee.

2. Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21st March 2016. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and integrated manner and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change. The Act supports the Welsh Government's wider remit under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. (WFG Act, see below), so that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment, and vibrant, cohesive communities.

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act requires that all public authorities '*must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.*'

The intention of the legislation is to ensure that in carrying out their functions, public authorities will:

- Place biodiversity as a natural and integral part of policy and decision making within public bodies, embedding it in its plans, policies and projects and day-to-day activities.
- Address biodiversity decline, through positive actions that will result in maintenance or enhancement of our biodiversity.
- Develop ecosystem resilience through maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

What is a resilient ecosystem?

A resilient ecosystem is one that is healthy and can respond to pressures and demands placed on it, while maintaining its characteristic functions. This includes the delivery of the ecosystem services which help to meet our social, economic, and environmental needs. Our ecosystems provide us with a wide range of services and benefits. We need to take all of these into account when we make decisions about how we use them, so that they will continue to provide multiple benefits for future generations, nor should we overlook their intrinsic value. Resilient ecosystems are more likely to be able to adapt and provide nature-based solutions to some aspects of climate change.

3. Strategic context

3.1 Council Plans and Policies which link to Environment Act (Wales) 2016

The Council's Corporate plan 2018 – 2022 and the Well-being objectives it refers to set out the direction for local authority over this period. In April 2021 the Well-being objectives were updated (they have also been revised in mid-2022, but the objective below applied during the majority of the period covered by this Forward Plan):

Well-being objective 10: Look after the environment now and in the future.

Why is this objective important?

- The Natural Environment is a core component of sustainable development. [The Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) expands the duty placed on public bodies, requiring them to maintain & enhance biodiversity & promote ecosystem resilience.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. It is a major factor which attracts people, both young and older to live and work in the county, and others visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is vital in our response to climate change and key ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination, clean air, and water.

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic showed the strong relationship between residents' well-being and their surrounding natural environment from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.
- CCC has declared a climate emergency as a Council and were the first in Wales to have published our Route Towards becoming a [Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030](#). In July 2020 public services across Wales [pledged to ensuring decarbonisation](#).

NB a new set of Well-being objectives was published by CCC in 2022. The previous Objective 10 is closely reflected in the new objective 3:

Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)

Why is this important...

9. A biodiverse natural environment is good for well-being, with healthy functioning ecosystems supporting social, economic and ecological resilience.

3.2 How the action plan was developed and reported on

The 2020-2022 Forward Plan has been developed during the Covid pandemic. The pandemic disrupted working patterns and practices over this period, and we have focused on actions that can be delivered largely by Place and Sustainability. Some actions are being delivered by others in the Environment Department.

4. Additional action CCC has delivered that was not included in its Environment Act Forward Plan Jan 2020 – Dec 2022

Raising awareness on the Environment Act: Place and Sustainability has delivered workshops to elected members highlighting the duties the Environment Act places on public bodies in Wales and explaining what this means in terms of determining planning applications. We have developed guidance notes for those making planning applications on Surveys for Bats and Birds and Biodiversity Enhancements. We have also run seminars for Elected Members on Ash dieback and the importance of planting new trees into the Carmarthenshire landscape.

Grant aid for Biodiversity related work: The Rural Conservation Section has secured grant aid that will deliver biodiversity related work. As well as the Glastir Woodland Creation grants that will fund the planting of 4.5ha of CCC land in Winter 2022, grant aid has been gained from Welsh Government's ENRAW (Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being) grant and its Local Places for Nature grant. These grants have funded the management of the Council's Local Nature Reserves, the management of sites that are part of the Carmarthenshire Bogs Project, and the enhancement of a number of Public Rights of Way. By replacing stiles with gates, we are making it easier for people to access the countryside. Welsh Government's Local places for Nature grant is funding habitat management at Kidwelly Quay and on CCC land at Tregib Sports fields. Both grants have also funded the purchase of cut and collect machines making it easier to manage amenity grassland for pollinators (see Table 1).

4. Review of action delivered

4.1 Is the approach to the Forward Plan achieving the objectives?

CCC's approach to developing and delivering its Forward Plan has been to work towards embedding biodiversity and delivery of CCC's S6 duties across its decision-making processes, its projects, plans and working practices. This is being achieved by engaging officers in looking at their individual and service areas of responsibility and helping them to identify where there are opportunities for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting ecosystem resilience, alongside the delivery of their other obligations, and in some cases making biodiversity a new priority. The agreed Forward Plan actions, as set out above, have been monitored via CCC'S Performance Improvement Monitoring System (PIMS) and will be reported on by the responsible officer in at the end of September 2022. They have also been presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee in October 2022.

Perhaps the overall achievement of the Forward Action Plan has been to raise awareness of CCC's legal obligation to investigate and be fully aware of the impact of any plan or project on biodiversity at the outset.

4.2 Monitoring delivery of the Forward Plan by CCC

The Council has adopted a practical approach to delivering its Forward Plan. Using its PIMS it is monitoring the actions this plan contains, ensuring that its S6 duty is recognised and understood across the authority, and that appropriate actions are being put in place, delivered, and reported on.

4.3 What biodiversity issues have occurred 2020 - 2022?

- The Welsh Government declared a Nature Emergency in June 2021. CCC declared a Nature Emergency in July 2022 and in recognition of the links between the two emergencies, CCC has setting up a member-led Climate Change and Nature Emergency Advisory Panel. The first meeting of this panel was in September 2022. The aim of this panel is to bring these two agendas together. We are aware that neither can be solved in isolation, and of the benefits in addressing both agendas simultaneously.
- In January 2021 NRW provided advice to planning authorities for planning applications affecting phosphate sensitive river Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Resources Wales, Version 3, July 2022. The objective of bringing in this guidance is to improve the water quality and the conservation status of our SAC rivers. In Carmarthenshire this guidance applies to much of the catchments of the Taf, Teifi and Tywi. The Council is working in partnership to manage the impact of this advice on development in the affected catchments.
- Ash dieback is continuing to affect a significant proportion of the trees in our landscapes and impact on our woodlands. Part of CCC's approach to managing ash dieback is to identify and deliver new tree and woodland planting to compensate for these losses. In winter 2022 we planted 4.5 ha of new woodland and c. 300 individual trees. It is developing a Tree and Woodland Strategy for the management of existing trees and woodland on its land and new planting.

- Welsh Government have introduced their Local Places for Nature funding, and it has continued with its ENRAW (Enabling Natural Resources) funding. Delays in confirmation of the funding and issues with the overall administration of ENRAW and Local Places for Nature Grant has resulted in a considerable amount of Rural Conservation Section staff time being spent managing these grants.

4.4 Conclusions and recommendations regarding the delivery of the 2016–2019 Forward Plan

CCC has taken a pragmatic approach to developing and delivering its 2020 - 2022 Forward Plan. It has relied on officers in Place and Sustainability, and some others to deliver the individual actions in the plan. As we approach the formulation of the 2023-2025 plan it is recommended that:

- Place and Sustainability continues to raise awareness of the Council's Section 6 duty and broadens its focus of activity.
- Conversations and awareness raising activities continue with Elected Members and officers in CCC, with the aim of embedding further the S6 duty into working practices. These conversations will facilitate the development of new more ambitious actions. One of the overall aims of the Forward Plan is to demonstrate continuing improvement in the way CCC addresses its S6 duties.
- That the contribution which the Conservation and Green Infrastructure Ranger post in Leisure which manages CCC's Local Nature Reserves makes to delivery of the Council's Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and which has been funded via the ENRAW grant, is recognised, and that a longer-term solution to its financing is secured for these reasons.
- Forward Plan PIMS actions are integrated into all Divisional Business Plans, and individual divisions take on full responsibility for the delivery of these.
- The Environment Act Forward Plan remains on the agenda of Departmental and Corporate Management Teams and Scrutiny Committee, and that these teams and committees scrutinise the evidence that CCC is continuing to improve in the way it delivers its S6 duties.

5. TABLE 1: Actions delivered during the plan period Jan 2020 – Dec 2022

Glossary of terms:

WG – Welsh Government

ENRAW – Welsh Government’s Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant which will run up to May 2023.

NRW – Natural Resources Wales

NBGW – National Botanic Garden of Wales

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
|--------------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---|
| THEME | DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE FOR BIODIVERSITY WITHIN CCC | | | | | | Actions below set out the progress in delivering against this action. In addition, training of officers across CCC on a variety of biodiversity related issues has or is being delivered. 34 officers in housing maintenance teams are receiving training on Bats as European Protected Species in October 22. Training has been provided to Development Managers on biodiversity enhancement, on hedgerows and planning and there will be a further training session on Dormice as European Protected Species for Communities in November 2022 |
| 16081 | Working in/adjacent to SSSI and other sensitive | 01/04/2022 | 31/03/2023 | 80% | Ongoing | Yes | Guidance has been drafted and now needs to be reviewed with Highways officers/project ecologist. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | habitats for Highways and Transportation. | | | | | | |
| THEME | FACILITATING THE CARMARTHENSHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION | 01/04/2022 | 31/03/2023 | 100% | 21/12/2022 | Yes | The sub actions relating to this action set out in detail what has been achieved by the partnership over the last 6 months. Outdoor meetings have been held at Burns in Kidwelly and at Cynghordy (Carbon Trust woodland planting). With the West Wales biodiversity Information Centre, we are progressing the production of maps of resilient ecosystems networks across Carmarthenshire which will form part of the State of Nature report. We are progressing the Local Places for Nature grant, which is extremely time consuming. |
| 16085 | Prepare with CNP partners a State of Nature Report for Carmarthenshire, that will inform the actions required to address the WG Nature Emergency | 01/04/2022 | 30/11/2023 | 75% | Ongoing | Yes | Work on going but delayed due to limited time. Draft could be completed fairly soon and sent to Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership Steering Group for comment. Still working with species/ecosystem experts to complete draft. Progress has been slower than expected due to delivery of Local Places for Nature grant in 2022/23 |
| 16086 | In partnership identify and publish the actions required to deliver nature recovery across Carmarthenshire and ensure ecosystem resilience | 01/04/2022 | 30/11/2023 | 20% | Ongoing | Yes | As part of preparation of State of Nature Report actions will be considered and then as a Partnership exercise at the end of the process – October 2023. Overarching objectives are already established. Specific action will likely depend on grant funding and assessment of opportunities for partnership working - likely the most effective way forward. |
| 16159 | Continue to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity e.g., Carmarthenshire Nature Notes and | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | Nature Notes are produced and circulated four times a year. They highlight Carmarthenshire nature to encourage us all to take a closer look around us – even the common is special. Annual report 2022 for Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership produced and circulated. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | Carmarthenshire's Wildlife on your Ward profiles | | | | | | Both are available here: Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (gov.wales) |
| THEME | S.6 BIODIVERSITY DUTY TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY AND PROMOTE ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE CCC Rural Conservation section with others | | | | | | |
| 16161 | CCC Planning Services - Through the planning system ensure Section 7 Habitats and Species of Principle Importance and designated sites are protected. The Planning Ecologists will be consulted on sites that support S7 interest. All recommendations received will be incorporated into CCC's decision making | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | Consultation with Planning Ecology is being undertaken where S7 habitats have been identified as being present on development sites. Responses are being fully considered in decision making. Planning Ecology are consulted and reply on c 600 planning applications p.a. |
| 16162 | CCC Planning Services - Ensure developers deliver biodiversity enhancement consistent with local and national policy. All | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | Planning Ecology are being consulted on planning applications to ensure that biodiversity interests are fully considered during the planning process. Compliance checking has not been part of the planning system in Carmarthenshire or across Wales, and in 2023 CCC Development Management will be working to review this |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | decisions made will reflect the LA's duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience | | | | | | |
| 16163 | CCC Planning Services - Improve information available on CCC Planning web pages for developers regarding biodiversity and planning requirements. Provide post validation ecological guidance to all applicants, as appropriate. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 50% | Ongoing | Yes | Information has been drafted for the website especially in relation to bat survey requirements. Information needs to be translated into Welsh before it can be uploaded. |
| 16164 | CCC Mineral Planning Service - Produce a protocol for managing peat on minerals and development sites that can be used by all those LAs using CCC's Minerals planning. Ensure CCC adopts this protocol and raise awareness of the benefits of its use by other LAs in Wales | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 80% | Ongoing | Yes | The protocol has been drafted in consultation with Planning Ecology |
| THEME | CCC STRATEGIES: ADOPTION OF CCC | | | | | | |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | <p>STRATEGIES THAT WILL BENEFIT BIODIVERSITY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>DELIVERY OF ACTIONS SET OUT IN THESE STRATEGIES CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION</p> | | | | | | |
| 16166 | <p>Pilot a new approach to managing CCC's amenity grassland for pollinators at 30 sites in summer 2022. Review and develop an overarching policy for future years</p> | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 31 sites put forward, 1 was withdrawn at the start due to local issues, so the pilot consisted of 30 sites. • Of the remaining 30 sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - management at 16 went as planned - management at 9 sites was not instigated as planned – the majority of these sites were housing sites. Two sites have been withdrawn due to ground conditions or minimal potential - management at 5 sites was partially implemented or issues identified/different area managed – these are being reviewed and amended. - there were minimal adverse comments. • All sites were visited in May/June 22 (some on 2-3 occasions) and a list of flowering plants/photos taken. Some of the issues were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistically managing a small number of areas, spread around the county was challenging - moving the equipment around the county on a trailer is a practical challenge due to weight. There is now a suitable tractor available to tow the “cut and collect machine” purchased with ENRAW grant aid. Consideration for purchase of |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | | | | | | | <p>additional units to better serve our logistical/geographical challenges to serve other depots could be an option for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the sites was time consuming and meant additional travelling. • Cost of taking arisings to Waste centre could be prohibitive. • Some housing sites with extensive grass areas within the estates could be considered for amenity tree planting/benches - which would create an of public amenity which people could sit in and enjoy rather than just regularly mown grass • Discussions with managers that control the land will need to be undertaken in future to look at changes to current service level agreements. The Grounds Maintenance teams have identified sites under their control. <p>Where it worked it worked well and some sites really benefited from revised management.</p> <p>Conservation and GM officers met in December to discuss 2023 management. A total 32 sites will be managed as a continuation of this pilot in 2023.</p> <p>Presentation planned to PS&CC Scrutiny Focused Development session 15/5/2023</p> |
| 16167 | Progress the development of a Tree Strategy for CCC | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 80% | Ongoing | Yes | <p>Officer group met 21/11/2022 to review the actions proposed in the draft strategy and are feeding back comments on these at present. Scrutiny will be provided with an update on it on 24th Feb 2023 and the strategy will be discussed by the Climate Change and Nature Emergency Panel in March 2023 (the date of the latter is</p> |

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| | | | | | | | being reviewed). The draft strategy will now be reviewed against guidance on Strategies received from the Tree Council in Dec 2022. Delivery of some actions is also progressing -Planting of 3 CCC sites in winter 22/23 - selection of further sites for planting and grant applications including plans for a community woodland using the WG Woodland Improvement Grant which covers all capital costs, and a WG Small Woodland planting grant for a CCC field in Abergwili. All sites proposed for planting incorporate plants for public access and will provide multiple benefits. |
| 16169 | Sites managed as part of the Carmarthenshire Bogs project. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 70% | Ongoing | Yes | Using WG ENRAW funding, fire breaks have continued to be cut each year on 3 S45 commons with lowland raised bog and heathland habitat. This is to protect the sites from illegal acts of arson and in a targeted way restore the heather habitat on the wider site. This improves public access to these areas as the firebreaks are easier to walk on than the uncut areas. The planned installation of a contour peat bund in Q4 at Figyn bog, one of the commons with deep peat, was postponed as ground conditions were unsuitable. We will aim to complete this work in future years. This project will help retain water within the bog so it can continue to build peat and so store carbon. |
| 16170 | Pembrey Canal Management Plan being prepared that will deliver multiple benefits, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, active travel and the | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 80% | Ongoing | Yes | An internal project group has been established and the maintenance needs of the area documented. We have commissioned a tree and biodiversity survey of the 5km of canal. A management plan, costed for each year will need to be developed, pulling together all the collated data and then implemented accordingly (subject to resources) |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | necessary flood defence etc. | | | | | | |
| 16171 | Kidwelly Quay Management plan to be updated with partners and winter work programme with PROW and Kidwelly TC to be developed. Funded by WG ENRAW grant or Local Places for Nature grant | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | Local Places for Nature grant-funded work. The pond has been opened up and an otter holt built on island. Access put into adjacent field which has been fenced to allow some tree planting and grazing of this area in future years. A scrape has been created to allow a water supply for grazing animals to be used to restore spp.-rich meadow. Grassland areas have been cut. Management plan to be considered for whole site with Kidwelly Town Council as they manage the Public Right of Way. |
| 16172 | Commissioner's Bridge, Kidwelly Installation of otter pass. Funded by National Grid via NRW agreement. The necessary Flood risk Activity Permit has been granted by NRW | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Completed Feb 2023 | Yes | With permission to work on their land by Kidwelly Town Council, the necessary Flood risk Activity Permit from NRW and the funding from National Grid and WG's ENRaW grant CCC Highways have installed a dry pipe under the road for safe passage of otters at a known road death hot spot. Otter fencing was completed by a specialist fencing contractor. |
| 16173 | St Clears Wetland and cycle way mgm plan developed for the wetland area. WG ENRaW funding/ Local Places for Nature will fund habitat management works. | 01/04/2022 | 31/03/2023 (Revised) | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | WG ENRAW funding is in place for planting of 150 native trees and shrubs alongside the cycle way which will improve ecological connectivity and the amenity of the site. The Active Travel budget is covering the cost of the fencing that will be required to introduce grazing to the site and keep dogs out of the wetland habitat which will be managed for wildlife. |
| 16174 | CCC land adjacent Penclacwydd Continue to manage new areas of water vole habitat and | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 50% | Ongoing | Yes | We have supported the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's application for Nature Networks funding to undertake management of the CCC owned sites in the Penclacwydd/Machynys area which support water vole. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | survey for water voles to gauge success of habitat creation. Autumn/ winter 2022. Funded by WG ENRaW grant | | | | | | This is one of the key sites for this species in Wales. Vegetation has been cleared to open up outflow into Dafen. Management of scrub adjacent to ditches planned autumn/winter 2023. The site was surveyed in the summer 2022 and water vole signs found. |
| 16175 | Delivery of the project safeguards the Marsh Fritillary population associated with the Special Area of Conservations and enables development in the Cross Hands Economic Growth are to proceed in accordance with legislation; continue to deliver the CMM project which is funded 100% by developer contribution. | 01/04/2022 | 31/03/2023 | 79% | Ongoing | Yes | Purchase of 1.6ha of habitat land adjacent to Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This field has been fenced and grazing arranged for the summer. Continued habitat management and grazing across other project sites; mowing rank vegetation and scrub control, installation of fencing and grazing management facilities. Habitat survey conducted at a new project site, the results of which confirm a further 2.3ha of suitable habitat managed by the project. Steering group meeting and a useful meeting with NRW Protected sites officers held- strengthening partnership working between multiple organisations. |
| THEME | CONTINUE TO DEVELOP SYSTEMS TO ENSURE ALL CCC PLANS, PROJECTS AND WORKING PRACTICES DEMONSTRATE DELIVERY OF CCC'S ENV ACT DUTY AT THE CONCEPT, PLANNING AND DELIVERY STAGES. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | The Project Ecologist has continued to provide bat and nesting bird training for CCC staff and has continue to work closely with the engineering team providing advice on when projects are likely to require ecological input and working with new members of staff. Advice has included if a ecological specialism required – e.g., otters, the need for Habitat Regulations Assessment etc. This has included advice on whether otter underpasses would be beneficial, provision of dipper nest boxes, provision and retention of cracks and crevices for nesting birds in general and bats. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| | DEMONSTRATE HOW BIODIVERSITY INFORMS DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF PROJECTS | | | | | | Retention/translocation of hedgerows, avoiding sensitive habitats, planting recommendations. This has been provided for 12 projects through the year. |
| 16179 | CCC Regeneration - Pentre Awel - Continuation of provision of ecological guidance to project delivery team to ensure all ecological requirements are met | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Pentre Awel – Provision of ecological guidance has continued to ensure all ecological requirements are met by the contractors. For example, this has included ensuring the appropriate requirement for a water vole licence, retaining scrub where feasible, discussing the need for soil strip and the use of the topsoil material. The Project Ecologist is supporting the Ecological Consultants advising on solutions in a timely manner, and liaising with the Project Ecological Clerk of Works |
| 16180 | CCC Regeneration - Cross Hands East Strategic Site Phase 1 and 2. Delivery of dormice and marshy grassland mitigation consistent with planning conditions, and on-going management of the site | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Cross Hands East Strategic Site Phase 1 and 2 – The scheme is now complete, and all development platforms are in place. The dormouse and marshy grassland mitigation has been delivered and are consistent with the planning conditions. Continued monitoring of those habitats has been undertaken and where required remedial action necessary has been identified, for example control of Himalayan Balsam to prevent it spreading throughout the site, management of grassland areas to promote a diverse grassland sward. Project Ecologist is completing the annual monitoring of the dormice population as required by NRW licence |
| 16181 | CCC Education - Ysgol Gwenllian Kidwelly, design of dormouse mitigation as required by NRW plus design of biodiversity enhancement to | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Ysgol Gwenllian Kidwelly – Successful design and completion of the dormouse mitigation as required by NRW and biodiversity enhancement incorporated within the scheme has been achieved and full planning permission granted on 30 November 2022. This has required a considerable input from the Project Ecologist and innovative off-site ecological mitigation on land |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
|-------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---|
| | progress planning application | | | | | | owned by Kidwelly Town Council and CCC, this is a landscape scale mitigation solution. New woodland planting at Pendre in Kidwelly on CCC land with WG grant aid will provide some of this mitigation. The NRW dormouse licence application is the next stage in this project, and the Project Ecologist will advise on this. |
| 16182 | CCC Highways and Transportation - Road safety improvements on the A 484, provide advice and guidance regarding ecology requirements into planned improvements | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Highways and Transportation Road Safety improvements A484 – Advice and guidance provided for the planned improvements. This has included otter surveys, inspection of cracks and crevices in structures and trees to be disturbed for bats, minimising tree felling, and using soft felling techniques where appropriate – where trees have been required to be removed this has been undertaken outside of the nesting bird season, coppicing trees rather than complete removal of the stumps, advice on invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. The A 484 project has been completed. |
| 16183 | Delivery of CCC's Ash Dieback Plan – Summer 2022 repeat survey of A and B roads. Use Section 154 highway Act letters to ensure that trees in private ownership that pose a risk to highways are removed. Tree safety surveys of 50 schools. Up to 30 bat boxes installed. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 80% | Ongoing | Yes | September to December Just over 4500 diseased ash trees have been tagged by the Highway Inspect on our A and B road network as part of the 2022 summer surveys. Following these surveys 4 out of 10 highway areas have had landowner searches carried out so far and 55 landowner letters have been posted. 3 Bat boxes have been installed on CCC owned trees In 2022 181 Council owned sites had a tree survey carried out, this included 65 school sites. We are currently exploring software to help map trees on CCC sites to help with efficiency in report writing and storage of information. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
|-------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--|
| 16184 | Cwmoernant Reservoirs Carmarthen. Delivery of mgm plan actions to address tree safety, and safety of the reservoirs, public access, and ongoing woodland management. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Diseased ash removed in early Spring and Autumn 2021. Funded by Ash Dieback budget and WG grant aid (Green Recovery). Further Tree safety survey undertaken in 2022 and no further work required at that time. Management plan circulated to Grounds Maintenance and Flood Defence. Tree safety surveys will continue and will inform future management. |
| 16188 | CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION Persimmon site in Machynys enhancement of water vole habitat, and public access consistent with agreed mgm plan | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 50% | Ongoing | Yes | Water vole survey and management recommendations completed by WWT. Vegetation clearance carried out to allow access to ditches to the east of the site. Partnership working with WWT and Machynys Golf Club. Further vegetation management planned for drier weather. |
| 16189 | RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION and OUTDOOR RECREATION (Leisure) - Morfa Berwig LNR, Bynea Management of the habitats in the Local Nature Reserve, public access and interpretation as set out in mgm plan | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Working with CCC's Outdoor recreation Service and using both S106 and WG ENRAW funding CCC is continuing to manage this site which supports a variety of Habitats of Principle Importance and deliver and keep up to date the management plan for this local nature reserve. This year the open mosaic brown field habitat has been opened up again so as to maintain its interest for specialist plants and invertebrates. Without regular scarification, this habitat tends to become less biodiverse. Similarly, the scrub habitats on the site are managed to retain their value as nesting habitats for summer migrants. Volunteers have contributed 228 hours at the reserve this calendar year carrying out a range of tasks from litter picking, invertebrate surveys and installing an Otter holt |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
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| 16190 | RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION-Dyfed Powys Police Custody Suite, Dafen. Delivery of habitat management onsite and off-site at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park (MMWP), funded by the developer | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 8% of a 25 year costed management plan | Ongoing | Yes | We are continuing to manage the open mosaic habitat related to this planning application, both on and off site (the latter at Mynydd Mawr woodland Park where the same habitat is present). Management is being delivered in line with costed management plan that is part of the S106 agreement, and the planning permission granted for this development. |
| 16191 | CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION-Cross Hands West. delivery of mgm plan to remove invasive species | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 12% of the 25 year costed management plan | Ongoing | Yes | Habitat management of this site continues in line with the costed management plan |
| 16192 | CCC RURAL CONSERVATION SECTION- Caegaer Housing site, Bynea. Delivery of agreed off-site mitigation at Cae Pobl, Cross Hands in partnership with National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW) funded by the developer. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 5% of the 25 year costed management plan | Ongoing | Yes | Prior to receive this contribution we progress the planed project with the National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW) to collect seed from the Cross Hands area and grow on 5 different species of plant which are associated with Marshy Grassland habitat. These plants will be planted on this site in Spring 2023 to increase its botanical diversity. S106 contribution has now been received. |
| 16193 | REGULATION and COMPLIANCE The Environmental Damage | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | A register is set up should there be an incident. And the reporting mechanism for the Local Authority is directed to Environmental Protection. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
|-------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--|
| | (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009- Set up reporting system within CCC to comply with these Regulations | | | | | | |
| 16194 | REGULATION and COMPLIANCE The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009- Raise awareness of the regulations in CCC and the need to report breaches. Run briefing session for all staff involved. | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | Ongoing | Yes | A webpage on the Environmental Damage has been developed and will be published in January 2023 following translation and shared with relevant staff. |
| 16176 | REVIEW PROCUREMENT AND USE OF CLEANING PRODUCTS - use only those products that are phosphate free | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | The original plan for cleaning materials was for CCC to put in place a Framework for the supply of Cleaning Material and Workwear. This original tender was closed down due to a number of different reasons, and we decided to split the 2 exercises between Cleaning and Workwear. We are now using a Welsh Government Cleaning Suppliers Framework (NPS Cleaning Janitorial Materials and Washroom Services Framework – NPS-CFM-0099-19). As this framework was already in place, we were not able to influence the wording that has gone into the Framework Agreement and T&Cs. We have put a line into the specification that all products must be phosphate free, and this would be monitored by the lead officer during the term of the contract. |

| ID | Description | Start Date | Target date | % complete | Completion date | On target? | Progress |
|-------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---|
| 16177 | Ensure all cleaning staff understand why products that are phosphate-free are being purchased. Run briefing sessions for all cleaning staff | 01/04/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 100% | 30/09/2022 | Yes | Note on Phosphates to be circulated to all cleaning staff with email addresses and/or mobile phones, during January 2023. |