



Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report

2025

Introduction and Context

Nature is declining rapidly, with species extinctions increasing and affecting people globally. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced a biodiversity and resilience duty (section 6 or s6 duty) for public authorities in Wales. This duty requires public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience while performing their functions. To comply, they should incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into their plans, programs, projects, policies, and daily activities.

More information about the Wales Biodiversity Partnership can be found at the following link:

<https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/>

Llanbadoc Community Council

Llanbadoc Community Council (LCC) serves South-West Monmouthshire, covering Llanbadoc, Glascoed, Monkswood, and Little Mill. The population is about 1800. The Council operates within Monmouthshire County under the local authority of Monmouthshire County Council.

The wards consist mostly of rural areas and sparse housing, except for Little Mill, a peri-urban community that constitutes approximately 33% of the electoral population. Due to the rural nature of the wards, residents primarily depend on private vehicles. The A472 bus route is the only direct form of public transport available, so visitors to the wards typically rely on private transport as well. Currently, there are very few vehicle charging points in the area.

LCC is responsible for eight areas of common land between the four wards, comprising a total of three woodlands, four commons and some parcels of roadside land totalling 54.13 acres.

Woodland comprises:

Location	Area (acres)
Twyn Y Cryn	13.13
Pantau Bushes	3.3
Jenny's Bushes	4

Common land comprises:

Location	Area (acres)
Common-Y-Fal	2.8
Trostra Common	9.7
Lower Common	15.3
Llanbadoc Island	5.9

Other key local biodiversity sites:

[Llandegfed Reservoir](#), Glascoed. Managed by Dwr Cymru and a registered SSSI

[Cwm-Ton](#), Glascoed, managed by Natural Resources Wales and a registered SSSI

[Cefn Isla](#), Llanbadoc, managed by Woodland Trust

Biodiversity

LCC consistently holds the responsibility of ensuring that all its actions have either a positive or neutral impact on local biodiversity and ecology. As a land-owning council, LCC is committed to protecting and enhancing its woodlands and common lands wherever possible. This commitment is fulfilled through a series of annual inspections and scheduled maintenance activities, addressing real-time situations such as fallen trees or flooding, and proactively commissioning long-term management reports. LCC explores various means of safeguarding and enhancing the ecology and biodiversity of its owned lands, acting as a custodian for future generations.

Common land management

1. The majority of LCC's land encompasses eight common sites located in Llanbadoc and Glascoed. They manage these areas by conducting biannual tree surveys and prioritizing necessary tree work. The goal is to ensure safety for visitors like ramblers, dog walkers, and those using public and permissive paths.
 - a. Pantau Bushes and Pergoed Woods are difficult to access and do not include any footpaths. They are subject to the same 2 yearly tree surveys and reworks identified within those surveys.
 - b. Jenny's Bushes is home to an established oak tree which is routinely monitored at his undergone a PICUS survey to ensure it's health and safety. As of April 2025, the tree does not require any work. It is of ecological benefit to protect and preserve oak trees where possible. Several ash trees have been identified on the common and are also mounted due to their close proximity to residential dwellings. As with most ash trees within the United Kingdom it is anticipated that they will need to be removed in due course, but no matters have arisen at this time.
 - c. Twyn Y Cryn woods is the largest common land owned by LCC. It comprises a beach dominant mature woodland. This woodland is subject to the same 2 yearly tree surveys as the other Commons. In 2024 LCC commissioned a long-term woodland management plan in conjunction with farming connect. The purpose of this management plan is to allow LCC to plan long term environmental enhancement projects within the woodland. This includes but is not limited to the following:
 - i. thinning mature trees for the benefit of younger saplings establishing themselves.
 - ii. Removing ivy, holly and bracken from the woodland floor for the benefit of new trees
 - iii. removing non-native species that have been planted without permission such as Laurel.
 - iv. Planting trees of assorted species to mitigate tree loss any event of a beech tree disease.
 - v. Diverting and rerouting footpaths to avoid trees of ecological importance and areas of new planting within the woodland
1. In 2023, LCC received National Lottery funding from the Welsh Assembly Government for the active travel plan. Twyn Y Cryn is part of the well-used reservoir footpath route. The funding aimed to enhance The Woodland both ecologically and aesthetically for local walkers. The active travel plan encourages people to integrate footpaths into their daily routines, such as walking to shops or neighbours' houses, not just for recreation.
1. Lower Common is mainly low-grade grassland with common wild orchids. It is managed under a cut and collect regime, making the grass suitable for haylage. LCC has collaborated with MCC for these services but sees room for further ecological improvements while maintaining resident use.
 - d. Land owned by LCC in little mill comprises the play area at little mill village hall and two small areas adjacent to the road. The trees on the play area are subject to the same 2 yearly tree surveys as the Commons. The small patches of land adjacent to the main road is seeded with wildflowers each year to promote bees.

- e. Councillors routinely visit all common land and play area sites to note any issues that require attention.
- f. Members of the council have undertaken basic tree inspection training.

747	G1	3 x beech	Mature	750-1000	20m+	5	Fair	Fair	Deadwood recently removed	-	20-40	-
748	T2	Oak	Early-mature	350-500	10-15m	8	Poor	Poor	Recently monolithed	-	<10	-
749	T3	Oak	Semi-mature	250-350	10-15m	8	Dead	Dead	Recently monolithed	-	0	-

FIGURE 1 EXAMPLE TREE SURVEYS

Verges, ditches, gulleys, banks

- g. LCC works to ensure that any ditches and gulleys that fall under its responsibility are kept clear as much as possible to ensure good water flow and to prevent localised flooding. The ecological and biodiversity effects of this work is currently unknown.

Office

- h. LCC encourages the use of energy saving light bulbs in the clerk's and councillor's home offices. The council encourages paperless documents as much as possible and tries to use as little paper as it can. Most of the council's activities are carried out electronically. Councillors and members of the public can join meetings remotely taking the owners of using a car to travel to meetings within what is largely a rural constituency.
- i. LCC is not responsible for any facilities such as a village hall but encourages its partners within the wards to use as little gas water and electricity as possible for carbon mitigation and cost saving measures.

Funding

- j. Where possible LCC will attempt to access funding and schemes that will enable it to improve ecological and biodiversity within its managed lands. LCC has provided funding to voluntary groups the carry out footpath clearing works within climatic. This is included the provision of tools, batteries and refreshments for volunteers who have given their time to improve the local ecology for the benefit of wildlife and residents.

Partners & other affiliates

- k. LCC is open to working with local groups and organisations for the continued benefit of ecology and biodiversity within its managed lands. LCC has worked with Gwent Wildlife Trust in bat counting and quantifying wildlife and fauna of ecological importance as well as accommodating Himalayan balsam bashing days which not only serves to educate local people on the damaging impact of invasive species but also sees the removal of the plant throughout Llanbadoc.
- l. LCC appoints, when required, a local specialist in the removal of Japanese Knot Weed.
- m. LCC pays for the provision and maintenance of dog bins to encourage dog walkers to pick up their dog mess.

Annual Review of S6. Duty 2025.

What has worked well?

- a) Regular site visits
- b) Maintaining survey & works timetable
- c) Working with Farming Connect
- d) Sending councillors on biodiversity related training
- e) Working with local volunteer Pathcare group
- f) Continued provision of dog waste bins

Barriers & notable issues

Llanbadoc Island

- 1. Highest level of visitors and vehicles
- 2. rubbish left by site visitors at Llanbadoc Island
- 3. Site visitors leaving using hedgerow as a toilet
- 4. Unauthorised camping leading to damage to wildflower sites
- 5. unauthorised barbecues leading to damage to plant life and equipment
- 6. Restrictions to common land do not allow areas to be fenced off to mitigate members of public damaging in parts of the site
- 7. Higher risk of vehicle damage due to vehicles entering and leaving site
- 8. Occasional flooding from river Usk

Twyn Y Cryn

- 1. Largest site to maintain
- 2. misuse by public, horse riders, motorcycles etc...
- 3. mono species Woodlands prone to disease
- 4. much of the current tree population is approaching maturity
- 5. low sun for prevents new growth due to dense tree canopy
- 6. vehicular access difficult for the purpose of carrying out work
- 7. Walker is not following signposted path may damage saplings and new growth

Other sites

- 1. Pantau Bushes and Jenny's Bushes along roadside
- 2. Common Y Fal difficult to access
- 3. Restrictions to work that can be carried out on Common Land and / or requiring authorisation through Welsh government (slow process)
- 4. Jenny's Bushes recognised a Local Wildlife Site by The Gwent Wildlife Trust
- 5. Attempts of adverse possession
- 6. Overall maintenance costs make up a large proportion of annual precept

What changes need to be made?

- 1. Improved signage on the sites
- 2. Improved community engagement and working with partners.

Further suggested improvements

- 1. Installation of benches on suitable sites to encourage visitors and wellbeing