



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

Y Cabinet

Lleoliad: Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad - Ystafell Gloucester, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams

Dyddiad: Dydd Iau, 19 Hydref 2023

Amser: 10.00 am

Cadeirydd: Cynghorydd Rob Stewart

Aelodaeth:

Cynghorwyr: C Anderson, A Anthony, R Francis-Davies, L S Gibbard, H J Gwilliam, D H Hopkins, E J King, A S Lewis, R V Smith a/ac A H Stevens

Gwyllo ar-lein: <https://bit.ly/3RK0qvY>

Gweddarlledu: Gellir ffilmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich ffilmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

Mae croeso i chi siarad Cymraeg yn y cyfarfod.

Dywedwch wrthym erbyn canol dydd, ddeuddydd cyn y cyfarfod.

Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

2. Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.

www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau

3. Cofnodion.

Cymeradwyo a llofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol fel cofnod cywir.

1 - 6

4. Cyhoeddiadau Arweinydd y Cyngor.

5. Cwestiynau gan y cyhoedd.

Gellir cyflwyno cwestiynau'n ysgrifenedig i'r Gwasanaethau Democratiaid Democratiaeth@abertawe.gov.uk hyd at ganol dydd y diwrnod cyn y cyfarfod. Bydd cwestiynau ysgrifenedig yn cael eu blaenoriaethu. Gall y cyhoedd ddod a gofyn cwestiynau'n uniongyrchol os bydd amser. Rhaid i gwestiynau fod yn berthnasol i'r eitemau ar ran agored yr agenda ac ymdrinnir â nhw o fewn cyfnod o 10 munud.

6.	Hawl i holi cynghorwyr.	
7.	Cynllun Gweithredu Adfer Natur Lleol (CGANLI) ar gyfer Abertawe.	7 - 92
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12.	Proses Cau Prosiect Oracle a Newid i Fodel Gweithredu Newydd.*	182 - 196
13.	Llythyr Blynyddol Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru 2022-23.	197 - 209
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** Gweithdrefn Galw i Mewn - Testun Craffu cyn Penderfynu: Mae'r penderfyniad hwn yn rhydd o Weithdrefn Galw i Mewn yr awdurdod gan fod "y penderfyniad wedi bod yn destun Craffu Cyn Penderfynu ac ni fu unrhyw newid pwysig i wybodaeth/dystiolaeth berthnasol".*

Cyfarfod Nesaf: Dydd Iau, 16 Tachwedd 2023 ar 10.00 am



Huw Evans
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Dydd Mercher, 11 Hydref 2023

Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - Ffon: (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 3.



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the Cabinet

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor R C Stewart (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
H J Gwilliam
A S Lewis

Councillor(s)

R Francis-Davies
D H Hopkins
R V Smith

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
E J King
A H Stevens

Officer(s)

Huw Evans
Martin Nicholls
Ben Smith
Debbie Smith
Ness Young

Head of Democratic Services
Chief Executive
Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer
Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Director of Corporate Services

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A Pugh

33. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

- 1) Councillor R V Smith declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 38 "Local Authority Governor Appointments" and stated that he had dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay, speak but not vote on matters relating to the Appointment of Local Authority Governors.
- 2) Councillors L S Gibbard, A S Lewis & R C Stewart declared a Personal Interest in Minute 42 "Shared Cost AVC Pension Arrangements for LGPS Members".
- 3) Ben Smith declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 42 "Shared Cost AVC Pension Arrangements for LGPS Members" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.

Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting(s) listed below be approved and signed as a correct record:

- 1) Cabinet held on 20 July 2023.

35. Announcements of the Leader of the Council.

The Leader of Council made no announcements.

36. Public Question Time.

No questions were asked.

37. Councillors' Question Time.

No questions were asked.

38. Local Authority Governor Appointments.

The Local Authority Governors Appointment Group submitted a report, which sought approval of the nominations submitted to fill Local Authority (LA) Governor vacancies on School Governing Bodies.

Resolved that:

- 1) The following nominations recommended by the Director of Education in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning be approved:

Gwyrosydd Primary School	Reverend Ben Smith
Parkland Primary School	Lydia Fasham
Pontybrenin Primary School	Lloyd Selby
Dylan Thomas Community School	Sybil Smith

39. Quarter 1 2023/24 Performance Monitoring Report.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance submitted a report which detailed the corporate performance for Quarter 1 2023/24.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Council's performance achieving the Council's wellbeing objectives in Q1 2023/24 be noted.

- 2) The use of this information to inform executive decisions on resource allocation and, where relevant, corrective actions to manage and improve performance and efficiency in delivering national and local priorities be endorsed.

40. Capital Outturn and Financing 2022/23.

The Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer presented a report which detailed capital outturn and financing for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Resolved that:

- 1) The net underspend of the increased capital budget of £28.8m is carried forward to 2023/2024.

41. Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme 2023/24 – Transfer of Budget.

The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation presented a report which detailed the Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme in 2023-24 and sought approval to return unused funding from Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) and Homefix loans budgets to the Corporate Centre.

Resolved that:

- 1) The transfer of £460,519 from DFG budget and £712,556 from Homefix loans budget to the Corporate Centre be approved.

42. Shared Cost AVC Pension Arrangement for LGPS Members.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance presented a report which sought approval to introduce a shared cost AVC pension arrangement to LGPS members.

Resolved that:

- 1) The introduction of a shared cost AVC pension arrangement for LGPS members be approved.
- 2) Earnings related payments such as overtime, pay increases, contractual allowances, occupational maternity pay, occupational sickness pay and redundancy are calculated on the notional salary before applying the salary sacrifice reduction be approved.
- 3) The inclusion of a new discretion in the Council's LGPS Employer's Pension Discretionary Policy to permit LGPS members to participate in a Shared Cost AVC scheme be approved.
- 4) Partnering with an external provider to deliver a fully managed service covering Shared Cost AVCs be approved.

43. Future Plans for Special Schools in Swansea.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Learning submitted a report which sought approval to consult on amalgamating Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn and Ysgol Crug Glas into one special school in September 2025 and relocate to a new purpose-built school whilst increasing capacity from April 2028.

Resolved that:

- 1) Approval is given to consult on amalgamating Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn and Ysgol Crug Glas into one special school in September 2025 and relocate to a new purpose-built school whilst increasing capacity from April 2028.
- 2) Responses following the consultation period be considered by Cabinet.

44. Quality in Education (QEd)/The Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme – Band B.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Learning submitted an update report on the progression of Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme, the financial and inflationary pressures impacting the remainder of the programme and endorse an uplift to the programme envelope.

Resolved that:

- 1) The remaining capital investment priorities for Band B of the QEd / Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme are noted.
- 2) The local funding contribution is increased by £9m to £46.7m, based on a solely capital contribution.
- 3) Either a change request is submitted to Welsh Government seeking an uplift in the Band B programme envelope to £176m or depending upon the timing and progression of business cases, this will form part of the revised Strategic Outline Programme submission.

45. Welsh Government Bus Transition Fund.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure presented a report which sought approval, in retrospect, of the Council entering into Welsh Government Bus Transition Fund agreements and the entering into agreements with multiple bus operators in the region.

Resolved that:

- 1) The decision of the Leader of the Council on 24 July 2023 authorising the Council to enter into the Welsh Government's Bus Transition Fund (BTF) agreements be endorsed and approved.

- 2) The Council as regional lead authority has entered into BTF agreements with relevant bus operators, to secure (conditional) financial support for the bus sector and to establish a relationship with their constituent local authorities that ensures that the ongoing funding meets those authorities' priorities and is delivered on their behalf.

46. Proposed Freehold Sale or Lease Restructure of 254 – 260 Oxford Street In Order To Facilitate Refurbishment of Ground Commercial Units and Repurposing of Upper Floor Accommodation Into Residential Units.

The Cabinet Members for Corporate Services & Performance and Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism presented a joint report which provided several landowner options to Cabinet regarding 254 – 260 Oxford Street to facilitate the redevelopment of the block, including the refurbishment of ground commercial units and repurposing of upper floor accommodation into residential units.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Council deviate from the current policy of retaining freehold interests in the city centre and the disposal of the freehold interest be approved.
- 2) The Section 151 Officer be authorised to make an appropriate amendment to the revenue budget to offset the loss of annual income with this pressure reflected as part of the budget process in 2024/25.
- 3) A further report be prepared for Cabinet consideration on the policy of freehold retentions / disposals in the City Centre.
- 4) No further freehold disposals will be considered until the policy review is presented in line with recommendation 5 alongside a future report on a review of the City Centre Strategy.

47. Exclusion of the Public.

Cabinet were requested to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the item(s) of business identified in the recommendations to the report(s) on the grounds that it / they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 relevant to the items of business set out in the report(s).

Cabinet considered the Public Interest Test in deciding whether to exclude the public from the meeting for the item of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant as set out in the report.

Resolved that the public be excluded for the following item(s) of business.

(Closed Session)

48. Councillors' Question Time.

No questions were asked.

49. Proposed Freehold Sale or Lease Restructure of 254 – 260 Oxford Street In Order To Facilitate Refurbishment of Ground Commercial Units and Repurposing of Upper Floor Accommodation Into Residential Units.

The Cabinet Members for Corporate Services & Performance and Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism presented a joint 'for information' report which provided a number of landowner options to Cabinet regarding 254 – 260 Oxford Street in order to facilitate the redevelopment of the block, including the refurbishment of ground commercial units and repurposing of upper floor accommodation into residential units.

50. Swansea Central Phase 1 Land Disposal.

This item was withdrawn.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am

Chair

Call In Procedure – Relevant Dates	
Minutes Published:	21 September 2023
Call In Period Expires (3 Clear Working Days after Publication):	23.59 on 26 September 2023
Decision Comes into force:	27 September 2023

Agenda Item 7.



Report of the Cabinet Member of Corporate Services & Performance

Cabinet - 19 October 2023

Local Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea

Purpose:	The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet endorsement of the draft Local Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea.
Policy Framework:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate priority for Climate Change & Nature Recovery• Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales.• Environment Wales Act (Section 6 Biodiversity Duty).• Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Resilient Wales Objective
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1. Approves the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) and notes its importance as an overarching partnership framework to deliver on Nature Recovery.
Report Authors:	Christina Derrick/ Deb Hill
Finance Officer:	Peter Keys
Legal Officers:	Jonathan Wills/Sally Ann Evans
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background

Policy background

- 1.1. Local Nature Recovery Action Plans (LNRAP) are non-statutory partnership plans produced by Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) in the relevant Local Authority or National Park in Wales. LNRAPs are aligned with and informed by Welsh national biodiversity policy which is currently the [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales](#).

- 1.2. The NRAP for Wales is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Wales and sets out how the United Nations Environment Programme’s Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-20 in Wales) is addressed in Wales. It was originally published in 2015 and then updated in 2020/21. The NRAP for Wales will be updated in line with changes in global biodiversity policy, most recently the ratification of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which solidified global so-called ‘30x30 targets’. This includes [Target 2 in the global framework states to “ensure that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas \[...\] are effectively conserved and managed \[...\]”](#) The Welsh Government has also committed to a ‘30x30’ target, announcing in the Biodiversity Deep Dive recommendations that they aim to protect [“at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea by 2030.”](#) The NRAP for Wales has not yet been updated to reflect global policy changes, but when this happens it is likely that ‘30x30’ will be incorporated in some manner.
- 1.3. The NRAP for Wales as it currently stands sets out 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales and is complemented by 5 themes of action aimed at addressing issues that are driving decline in biodiversity, and to support recovery (Table 1).

Table 1. NRAP for Wales objectives and themes of action.

Objectives	Themes of Action
1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	1. Maintaining and enhancing resilient ecological networks.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.	2. Increasing knowledge and knowledge transfer.
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	3. Realising new investment and funding.
4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.	4. Upskilling and capacity for delivery.
5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.	5. Governance, mainstreaming and reporting our progress.
6. Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery.	

- 1.4. Local NRAPs are one of the delivery mechanisms to meet the six objectives for nature recovery set out in the NRAP for Wales at a local level. The Swansea LNRAP is a plan produced by the Swansea LNP, which is an active group of over 50 member organisations including relevant public sector bodies, third sector conservation organisations,

voluntary conservation groups, landowners, and professional and amateur naturalists.

Nature Emergency

- 1.5. Outside of policy drivers for LNRAPs there is also a real need for them as a tool in delivering nature recovery as we are in a nature emergency. The [Senedd](#) and [Swansea Council](#) declared nature emergencies in 2021, [species are declining in abundance and distribution](#), habitats and [protected sites are in poor condition](#) and overall ecosystem resilience is poor. There is therefore the urgent need for coordinated and cohesive action at all scales to achieve nature recovery.
- 1.6. Collaborative landscape scale action is required as well as the need to spread awareness and facilitate access to and engagement with nature. The Swansea LNRAP as a tool, and in its content, aims to do just this.

2. Report Overview

- 2.1. The Swansea LNRAP identifies priorities for achieving nature recovery in Swansea as so-called action themes. These are guided at the top level by the six objectives and five themes of action in the NRAP for Wales, but they are underpinned by local knowledge and priorities, as well as the themes highlighted in the [South West Wales](#), and [Marine Area Statements](#) (Table 2).

Table 2. South West Wales and Marine Area Statement Themes

South West Wales Area Statement Themes	Marine Area Statement Themes
1. Reducing health inequalities.	1. Building resilience of marine ecosystems.
2. Ensuring sustainable land management.	2. Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast.
3. Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity.	3. Making the most of marine planning.
4. Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate (cross-cutting theme).	

- 2.2. In the draft Swansea LNRAP there are 25 action themes. It is intended that the action themes be narrower in focus than the six objectives in the NRAP for Wales to effectively guide LNP partner actions, but also broad enough to act as an umbrella for partner actions, as the Swansea LNP is a diverse partnership. Table 3 below provides two examples to illustrate the linkages between Swansea LNRAP action themes and the 6 objectives.

Table 3. Relationship between NRAP for Wales objective and Swansea LNRAP action themes.

NRAP for Wales Objective	Swansea LNRAP Action Theme
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Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	1.1. Provide accessible educational and awareness raising events in-person and/or online, especially focussing on expanding the reach of initiatives outside of people/groups already engaged in nature recovery and conservation.
Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	3.3. Ensure that at least 30% of Swansea County is protected and effectively managed for nature by 2030, including marine*, terrestrial and freshwater** areas

* Marine habitats between high and low mean water springs **terrestrial and freshwater land/habitats down to high mean water springs within the county boundary.

2.3. The Swansea LNRAP has been created with:

- Engagement and feedback from Swansea LNP members through one-to-one and group workshops, presentations, LNP quarterly meetings, plus written feedback, and suggestions.
- Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies, and plans in mind, as well as relevant public consultations.
- Regard to relevant evidence reports.
- Consideration of data regarding nature in Swansea, including habitats, species, and ecosystem resilience.
- Consultation with the Climate & Nature STC Committee.

Table 4 below details the timeline of development for the Swansea LNRAP thus far.

Table 4. LNRAP development timeline.

April – June 2022	Initial framework written from review of other LNRAPs, relevant evidence reports, and advice from LNP Cymru mentors.
July – September 2022	Initial framework sent for review to Swansea LNP (18 th July), deadline 9 th September 2022.
September – October 2022	Written feedback collated and summarised. Responses to feedback written and issued to LNP (26 th September 2022).
	Two workshops held with LNP members to discuss themes arising from written feedback on first draft, 30 th September, and 28 th October.
November 2022 – June 2023	Feedback from first review and workshops incorporated into the redraft, as well as relevant local community consultations, plus follow up discussions with relevant LNP members.
June – July 2023	Second draft report sent out to LNP partners (6 th June) for comments, deadline 10 th July 2023.

July – August 2023	Second draft presented and shared with Climate & Nature recovery STC on 17 th July and members were to provide feedback. Deadline 10 th August 2023. Informal workshop held with STC members on 31 st July.
4 th Sept 2023	Final Draft Local Nature Recovery Action Plan(LNRAP) formally approved by the Local Nature Partnership at its meeting on 4 th September.
4 th September 2023	Final draft of LNRAP endorsed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee on 4 th September

- 2.4. The Swansea LNRAP was endorsed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee at its meeting on the 4th September and is now forwarded to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.5. The Swansea LNRAP can be divided into four broad sections, with the first focussing on introducing key concepts such as the importance of nature, ecosystem services, ecosystem resilience, and the relationship between these concepts. It also provides an overview of nature and ecosystem resilience in Swansea and the main barriers to nature recovery.
- 2.6. The second section focusses on the action themes. Firstly, identifying global, regional, and local influences and then introducing the action themes in six tables organised by the six objectives for nature recovery in the NRAP for Wales (table 1). For each action theme a brief case study of a project is provided, that gives a real-life example of how LNP members have, had, or are planning to undertake actions that align with the action theme.
- 2.7. The third section provides further detail on nature in Swansea. This is achieved through descriptions of Habitats of Principal Importance (Section 7) and other habitat groupings including woodland, wetland, open water, heath & grassland, coastal habits, the marine and urban environment. As well as pages that give examples of 11 species and 12 sites that are 'special' in Swansea, for example chough, horseshoe bats, Atlantic grey seals, Whiteford National Nature Reserve, Swansea Bay Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and Pluck Lake SINC. It is intended that an audit summary of Species of Principal Importance (Section 7) will also be included, but this is currently incomplete.
- 2.8. The fourth and final section focusses on awareness raising and provides suggestions for what members of the public rather than the LNP per say can do for nature recovery in Swansea. These are provided by the way of eight infographics. These are not fully comprehensive lists but rather some ideas to help lead people in the right direction. The ideas and suggestions were generated from other LNRAPS, input from Swansea LNP as well as existing biodiversity campaigns, and contain links to additional resources.
- 2.9. It is intended that the Swansea LNRAP be used to guide LNP partner actions towards nature recovery using the action themes. For example,

within the council, a Section 6 Plan¹ is currently in draft that will set out actions the council will aim to take over the next three-year Section 6 reporting cycle. These actions will be directly guided by the LNRAP action themes, and so in this way the LNRAP priorities for nature recovery will be translated into the actions as a council and partner of the Swansea LNP.

- 2.10. Please note that the Swansea LNRAP does not commit any one LNP partner to any specific actions. It is therefore the responsibility of individual LNP partners to identify where and how they can contribute to actions towards the Swansea LNRAP action themes.
- 2.11. Through the LNP it is intended to informally review partner actions towards LNRAP action themes, likely on annual basis. So that progress can be monitored and any action themes that are potentially being over or under actioned can be identified.
- 2.12. A formal review of the LNRAP as a plan, is intended to be carried out by 2030 in line with likely national and global policy changes around that time e.g., 30x30 targets.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, to reach both the 2030 and 2050 targets, further grant funding will be required, and any bids would be subject to the Councils standard grant procedures. For the next two financial years £1,192,300 Local Places for Nature Grant has been approved by Welsh Government.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1. This Swansea LNRAP will contribute to Swansea Council's Corporate Objective for Climate Change and Nature Recovery. It will inform Swansea Council's emerging Section 6 Plan therefore aiding the Council in its Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which places a statutory duty on the Council to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions. The Plan will also assist the Council in its Well-being Duty, especially with regard to the 'Resilient Wales Goal,' under the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

¹ The Section 6 Plan is linked to the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Swansea Council is subject to under the [Environment \(Wales\) 2015 Act](#). That is we must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of our functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- 5.2. An IIA screening report was completed, and no significant risks were identified. The cumulative impacts were deemed low but positive, and as such a full IIA strategy is not deemed necessary. Screening report attached at appendix B

Background Papers

- [Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2015 and 2020/21 Update.](#)
- [South West Wales Area Statement.](#)
- [Marine Area Statement.](#)
- [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016.](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015.](#)
- [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity \(and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-20\).](#)
- [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.](#)
- [Welsh Government Biodiversity Deep Dive.](#)
- [Swansea Local Nature Partnership.](#)
- [State of Nature 2019.](#)
- [Protected Sites Baseline Assessment 2020.](#)
- [Section 7 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance.](#)

Appendices

Appendix A - Draft Swansea LNRAP
Appendix B -.IIA Screening report

SWANSEA LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN (LNRAP)

2023 - 2030

WE ARE IN A

NATURE EMERGENCY

In recognition of this ecological crisis the Senedd became one of the first parliaments in the world to declare a Nature Emergency in June 2021. Swansea Council also declared a Nature Emergency in November 2021.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales is the national biodiversity strategy for Wales. It sets out six key objectives and five overarching themes of action to direct nature recovery action at a national level.

To address the nature emergency in Swansea, this Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) was created by the **Swansea Local Nature Partnership (LNP)**. This LNRAP replaces the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (published 2005).

It sets out local priorities in the form of 'action themes' (aligned with the six objectives of the NRAP for Wales) to address the decline of nature and achieve nature recovery in Swansea. LNP partners will use the action themes to guide their work, and progress will be recorded annually.

However **this plan is for everyone** - at home, in school, in work or in your community - whether you work in nature conservation or not!





@Josh Greatorex-Davies

WHAT IS

THE SWANSEA LNRAP?

An introduction to nature and nature recovery

In the following pages the importance of nature and nature recovery are identified and information on the state of nature at a global, national and Swansea level are provided.

A guide to coordinate nature recovery action

Next the Swansea LNRAP action themes identify local priorities for nature recovery in the context of the national objectives of the NRAP for Wales. These are intended to guide a coherent and coordinated approach to the nature emergency across the county.

A reference for information on local nature

Then information and links to further resources on habitats and species in Swansea are provided so you can learn about some of Swansea's biodiversity.

A source of inspiration

Finally, the Swansea LNRAP also provides some ideas for what you can do at home, school, work, your community, or as a nature enthusiast to aid nature recovery in Swansea.



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THE SWANSEA LNRAP WAS

CREATED WITH:

- Engagement and feedback from the Swansea LNP members through workshops, presentations, LNP quarterly meetings, plus written feedback and suggestions.
- Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies and plans in mind, plus relevant public consultations.
- Regard to relevant evidence reports (e.g. State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) and others).
- Consideration of local data including habitats, species and ecosystem resilience.

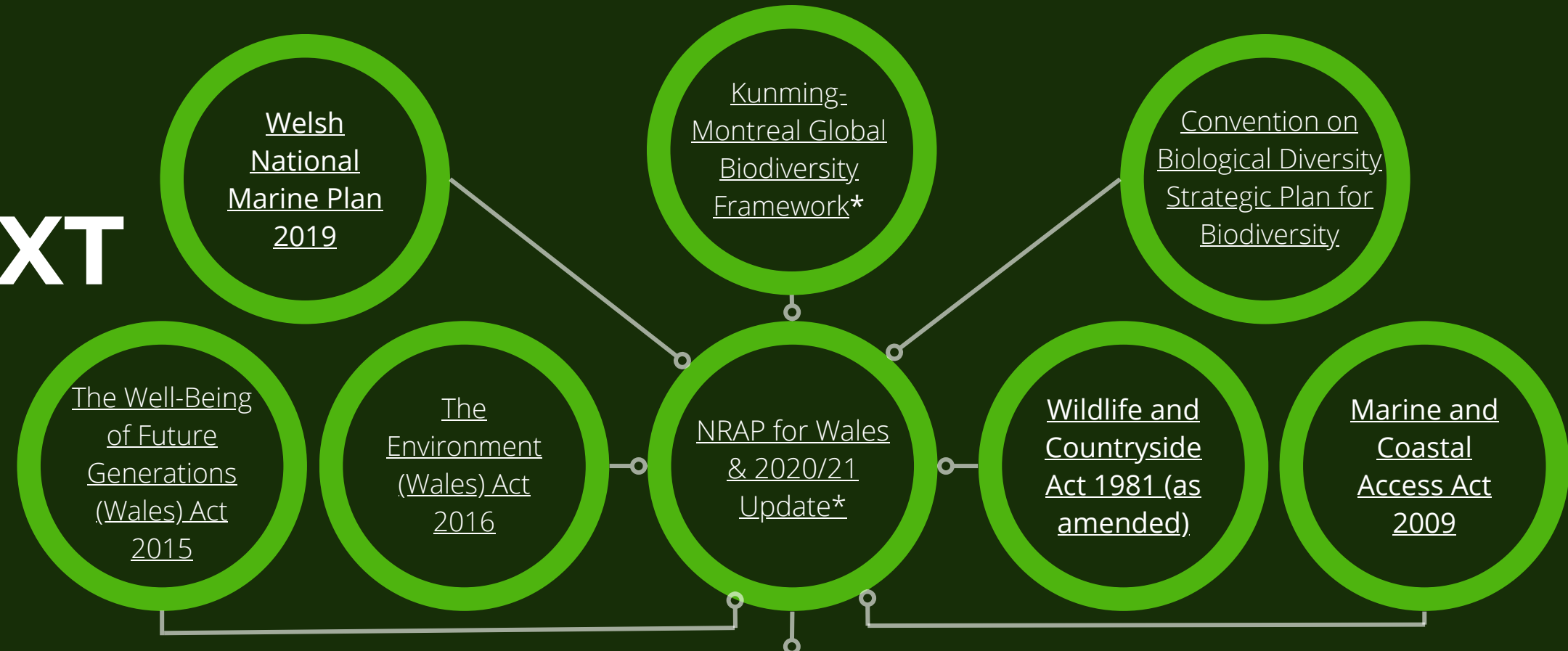
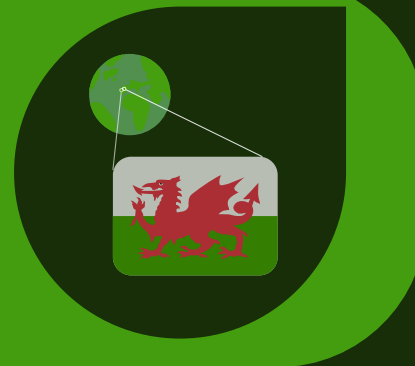
@ Aaron Davies

DRAFT

FOR REFERENCE:

WIDER CONTEXT

BROAD NATIONAL OBJECTIVES: informed and directed by national legislation and global policies/targets



REGIONAL CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES: identify key areas for actions



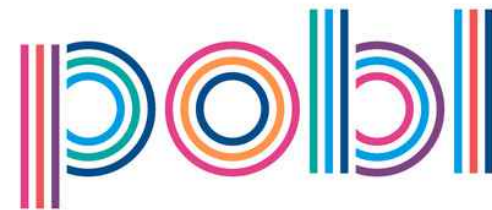
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE: directs local priorities for action towards national objectives



*The NRAP for Wales will be updated to reflect changes in global biodiversity policy including the ratification of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022. However, at the time of publication the NRAP for Wales was yet to be updated to reflect the new global biodiversity policy.

**Natur am Byth! Swansea Bay, Coasts, Commons and Communities -2022 & NRW Natur am Ni - 2022

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS...



Cadwraeth, Cymuned, Hanes
Conservation, Community, History



Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol National Trust



SWANSEA

LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Established in 1999 the Swansea Local Nature Partnership is an active group with representatives from many organisations including relevant public sector bodies, third sector conservation organisations, voluntary conservation groups, landowners, and professional and amateur naturalists. Partners and individuals are united by an interest in conserving, enhancing, and raising awareness of nature in Swansea. The Swansea LNP has over 50 member organisations and is open to anyone to join.

SWANSEA LNRAP

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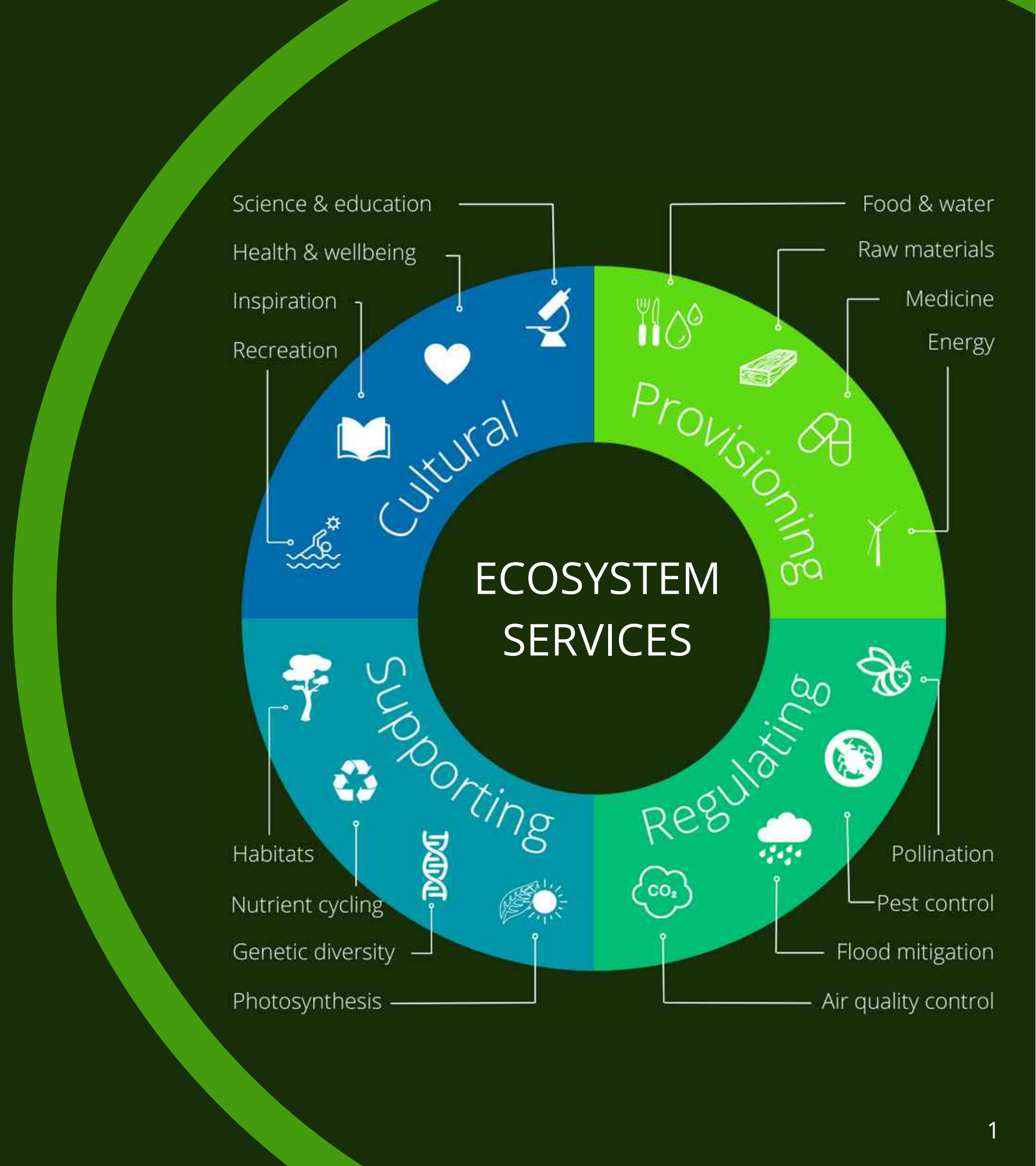
NATURE IS

IMPORTANT

A huge number of different habitats, species and ecosystems make up the natural world around us. The collective term for this is biodiversity. At an ecosystem level the more species, and the more individuals of these species the more biodiverse the ecosystem or region is. Common and widespread species are also important as well as rare species.

These building blocks of nature are valuable in their own right, but together they also provide many vital benefits and services to us as individuals and communities. These are called 'ecosystem services' and they include processes such as pollination and food production, clean air and water provision, flood prevention, carbon sequestration, as well as health and well-being enrichment, plus recreational experiences.

Ecosystem services are linked to the health of an ecosystem, which depends on the diversity and abundance of species. The healthier, or more 'resilient', the ecosystem, the better able it is to provide ecosystem services.





ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

is the capacity of an ecosystem to **deal with pressures and demands ...**

...whilst retaining their ability to **deliver ecosystem services** and benefits...

...now and into the future.



like climate change and more frequent extreme weather events



like pollination of crops, flood mitigation and food and clean water provision



we are a part of nature, not apart from it

Some ecosystem services are dependent on multiple species. Therefore fewer species or smaller, more isolated populations lead to a weaker ecosystem. Conversely, the greater the diversity and connectivity of an ecosystem, the more able it is to provide ecosystem services and continue to provide them in face of pressures, such as climate change. This is ecosystem resilience.

You can understand the concept of ecosystem resilience by thinking of the communities we live in. A healthy and resilient community is built on a diversity and abundance of people and societal roles. As communities and society depend on ecosystem services (nature) to function, resilient ecosystems thereby underpin a resilient society.

NATURE IS

DECLINING

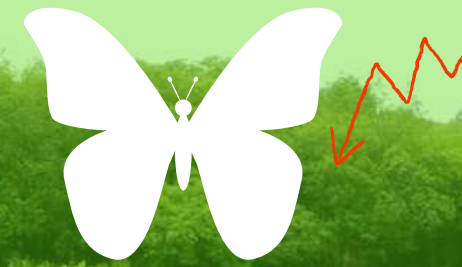
The UK, including Wales, has a long and history of industrialisation, and therefore has lost more nature, and ecological processes (such as grazing) sooner than many countries. Due to these earlier losses, some valued and protected habitats (and associated species) became associated with traditional land management practices, for example traditional hay meadow management and wildflower rich grasslands. The subsequent loss of these traditional practices plus increasing urbanisation and habitat fragmentation resulted in accelerating rates of decline in the 20th century, such that 97% of wildflower meadows were lost in the UK by the 1980s.

Globally the greatest drivers of the decline in nature on land are land-use change and habitat loss due to resource harvesting, development and agriculture, as well as pollution and invasive non-native species (INNS). At sea unsustainable practices such as over-fishing and pollution have huge impacts. The same is true in Wales, where key pressures include INNS, pests and disease, land use change, over-exploitation of resources, and pollution. At a local and global level, climate change is also having widespread and increasingly disruptive effects on terrestrial and marine species and ecosystems.

For more information on the state of nature in Wales see the [State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR\) for Wales 2020.](#)

*Habitats/species that protected sites are designated for.

**That had sufficient evidence to be assessed.



52%

decline in average species' abundance of butterflies in Wales since 1970.



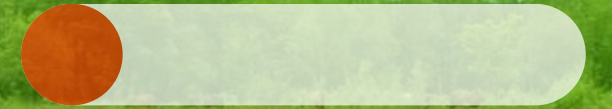
80%

of protected natural features* in Wales are in an unfavourable or undesirable state**.

In short

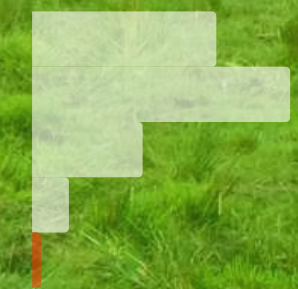
less wildlife is now found in fewer places

Only



13%

of Welsh Habitats have high diversity levels.



Wales scores

16th worst

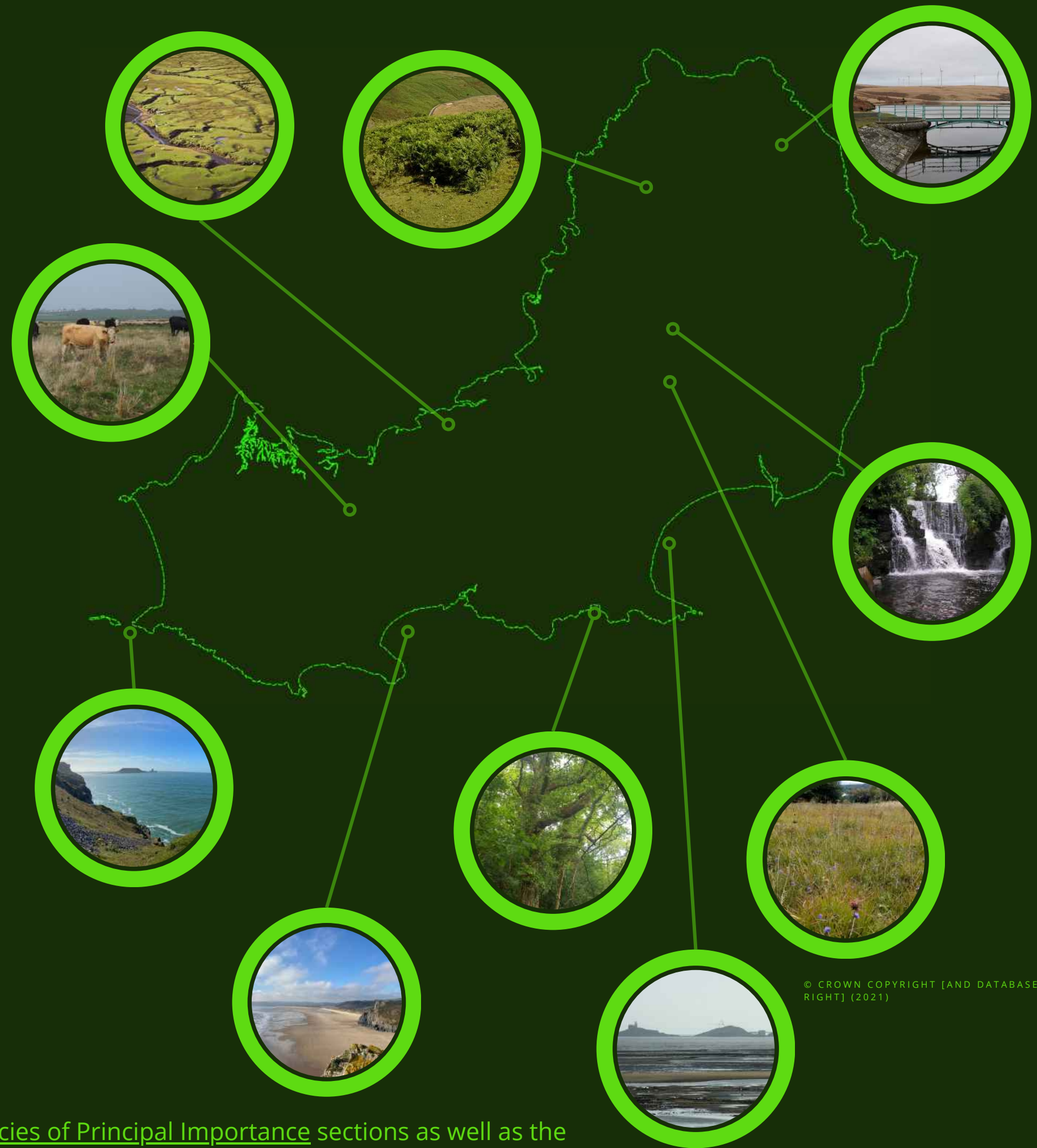
ranking of the Biodiversity Intactness Index out of 240 countries.

AN OVERVIEW OF NATURE IN **SWANSEA**

There is a huge diversity of habitats within Swansea that support a wide variety of species. These include upland moorland, grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, estuaries, coastal cliffs as well as sand dunes and heathlands, and many of these are often only minutes from the city or other urban centres. The marine environment around Swansea supports intertidal boulder communities, honeycomb worm reefs, peat and clay exposures, subtidal sands and gravels, as well as blue mussel beds.

Nestled amongst the urban sprawl of Swansea there are habitats intimately linked with the city's industrial past, such as the rare metal tolerant calaminarian grassland found in Six Pit, Swansea Vale and White Rock Site of Special Scientific Interest, just west of Bon-y-maen. This and other metal loving species have reclaimed soil that was once the site of copper works. Similarly, old tunnels and shafts in the Clyne Valley and Dunvant brickworks, once used for mining are now home to bats including rare horseshoe bats.

The coastline of Swansea is iconic and diverse. Ranging from the 5 mile expanse of Swansea Bay, through to the south Gower limestone coastal cliffs intercut by sand dunes and beaches, culminating in the famous Worm's Head Causeway. In contrast the north Gower coastline is dominated by salt marsh, fragile dune and estuarine environs. Inland on the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the hills of Cefn Bryn and Rhossili Down dominate the landscape of traditional small fields, wooded valleys, and open commons.

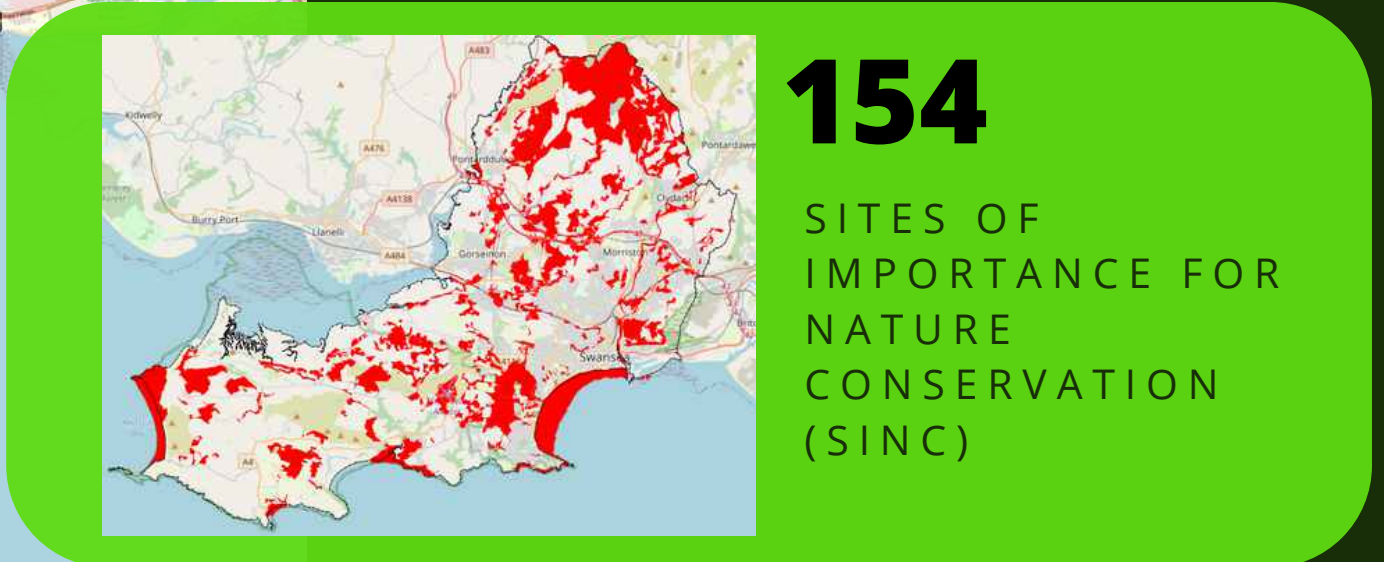
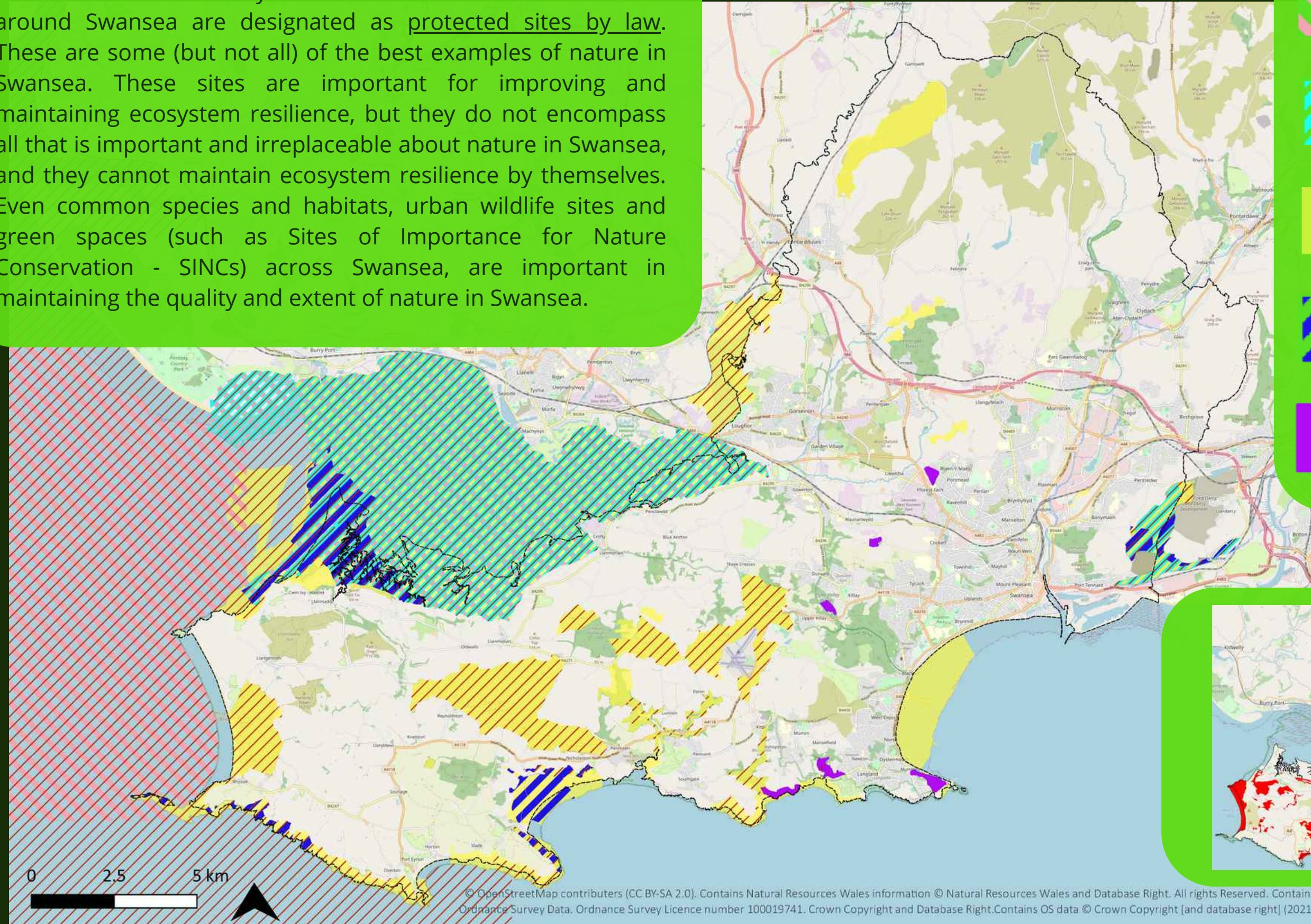


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For more information on habitats and species in Swansea see the [Habitat](#) and [Species of Principal Importance](#) sections as well as the [spotlight on Swansea's species](#).

Over 20% of the county's land area and much of the seas around Swansea are designated as protected sites by law. These are some (but not all) of the best examples of nature in Swansea. These sites are important for improving and maintaining ecosystem resilience, but they do not encompass all that is important and irreplaceable about nature in Swansea, and they cannot maintain ecosystem resilience by themselves. Even common species and habitats, urban wildlife sites and green spaces (such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - SINCs) across Swansea, are important in maintaining the quality and extent of nature in Swansea.

-  **7** SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)
-  **2** SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)
-  **2** RAMSAR SITES
-  **28** BIOLOGICAL (OR MIXED) SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)
-  **4** NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES (NNR)
-  **6** LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNR)



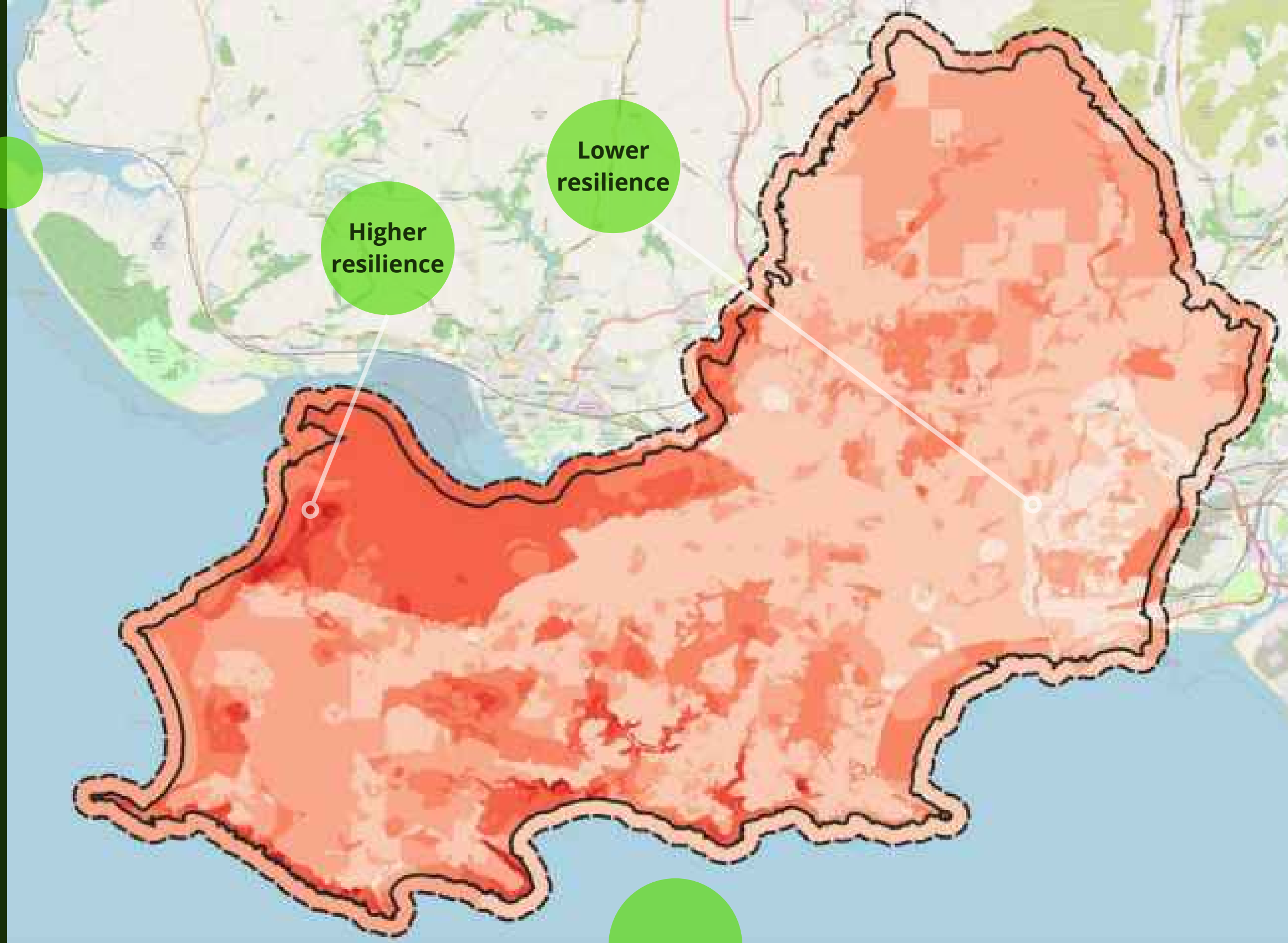
ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

IN SWANSEA

The Swansea Ecosystem Resilience report produced by the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) in 2022, maps ecosystem resilience across the entire county of Swansea, taking into account 11 different factors. While ecosystem resilience mapping is still in its infancy the output is useful nevertheless and indicates areas of **higher (darker shades)** and **lower (lighter shades)** resilience throughout Swansea.

It indicates that the majority of Swansea is of lower resilience. Predictably the lowest ecosystem resilience is indicated around the city centre while the areas of highest ecosystem resilience tend to correspond with existing protected sites.

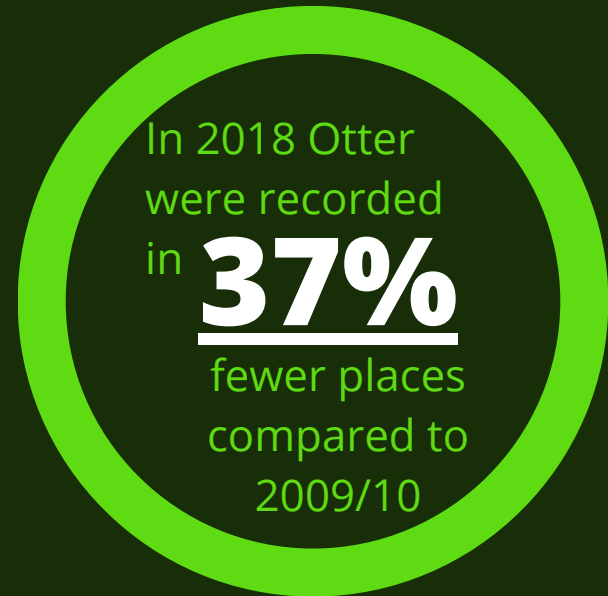
It is important that ecosystem resilience is improved across the county and that areas of high resilience are connected to provide essential services to the people of Swansea.



Data @ SEWBRc Ecosystem Resilience Report 2022

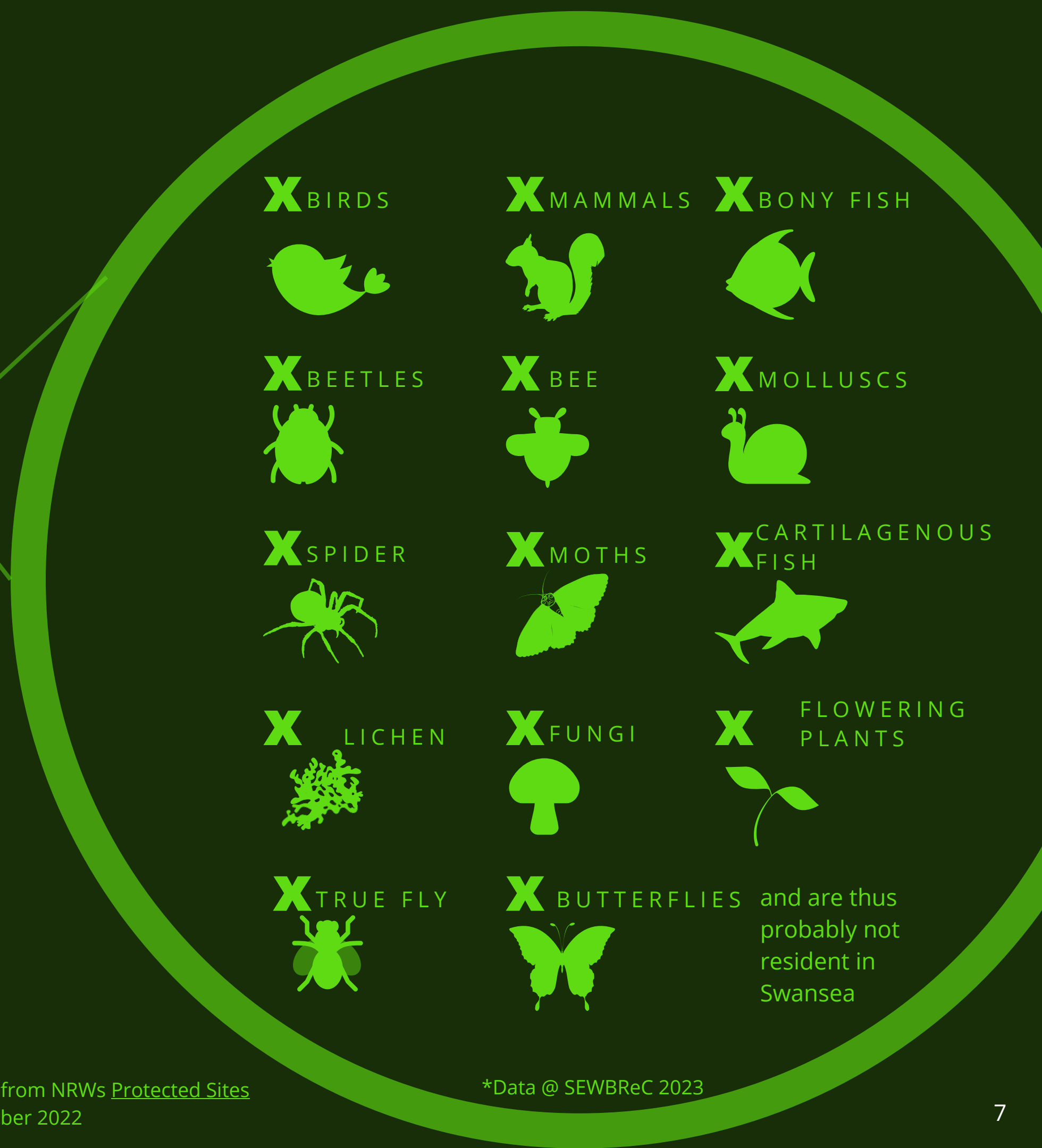
NATURE IN SWANSEA IS

STRUGGLING



The exact state of nature in Swansea is unknown due to a lack of data. What we do know paints a worrying picture. Diversity and abundance of species are declining, the majority of protected features* are in unfavourable or unknown condition, and most of Swansea is of lower ecosystem resilience.

Some of the biggest barriers to nature recovery in Swansea*** are INNS (e.g., Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam), a lack of connectivity, and habitat loss due to competition for development, poor awareness and understanding of nature issues, as well as an absence of long-term investment (funding or otherwise) in nature recovery.



Habitats/species that protected sites are designated for. Swansea site data available from NRW's [Protected Sites Assessment 2020](#). *Identified at Swansea LNP LNRAP Workshops, September & October 2022

*Data @ SEWBReC 2023

SWANSEA LNRAP

ACTION THEMES

The Swansea LNRAP Action Themes are informed by a variety of global and national policy drivers and legislation, including the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP), which is the national biodiversity strategy for Wales. The plan, published in 2015 and updated in 2020/21, sets six key objectives and five overarching themes of action in order to reverse the decline in biodiversity.

It is these national objectives that set the overarching framework for the Swansea LNRAP action themes, but they are underpinned by local knowledge and priorities, as well as the themes highlighted in the South West Wales and Marine Area Statements.

The Swansea LNRAP has 25 Action Themes. For each Action Theme one case study is provided to show how Swansea LNP partner's work has, is or will contribute to that nature recovery priority. Please note these case studies only provide a small snapshot, and they do not encompass the entirety of the varied work undertaken by the Swansea LNP.



@ Evelyn Gruchala

For a visual representation of the linkages between the Swansea LNRAP Action Themes (and the plan itself) and other global, regional, and local policies, legislation and knowledge see [here](#).

FOR REFERENCE:

NRAP FOR WALES THEMES OF ACTION & AREA STATEMENT THEMES

NRAP for Wales: Themes of Action

1. Maintaining and enhancing resilient ecological networks
2. Increasing knowledge and knowledge transfer
3. Realising new investment and funding
4. Upskilling and capacity for delivery
5. Governance, mainstreaming and reporting our progress

South West Area Statement: Themes

1. Reducing health inequalities
2. Ensuring sustainable land management
3. Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity.
4. Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate (cross-cutting theme).

Marine Area Statement: Themes

1. Building resilience of marine ecosystems
2. Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast
3. Making the most of marine planning



NRAP FOR WALES

OBJECTIVE 1:

Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

Swansea LNRAP Action Themes

For Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

NRAP for Wales Theme of Action Addressed

South West Area Statement Theme Addressed

Marine Area Statement Theme Addressed

1.1. Provide accessible educational and awareness raising events in-person and/or online, especially focussing on expanding the reach of initiatives outside of people/groups already engaged in nature recovery and conservation.

2 & 4

-

1 & 2

1.2. Work with the public, private, and third sector to increase awareness of biodiversity issues, challenges, and opportunities for making nature-positive* decisions.

2 & 4

-

1 & 2

1.3. Engage with communities, schools, and landowners to promote understanding of biodiversity in their area and work together to encourage appropriate management and actions to achieve nature recovery.

2 & 4

2

1

1.4. Embed evidence-led nature positive*decision making at all levels and advocate for changes that support nature recovery.

2, 4 & 5

-

3

*Nature Positive as defined in the [Nature Positive 2030](#) report means reversing the current declines in biodiversity, so that species and ecosystems begin to recover. This is an essential step to achieve nature recovery. Thus making nature positive decisions means you actively consider your impact on biodiversity and take steps to support recovery.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 1.1



@ Swansea Community Farm

Swansea Community Farm has been providing free activities and volunteer opportunities for over 20 years. They run Farm Clwb on a Saturday where volunteers assist with food growing, conservation work, and feeding and mucking out the animals! They also run #wellbeingwednesday once a month for young people not engaging in education due to poor mental health. As well as adult volunteer days on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to provide support for those with poor mental health or wellbeing.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 1.2



(c) Oakley Intertidal

For the past 13 years, Oakley Intertidal Marine Education has delivered free annual events across Swansea and Gower beaches, to raise awareness of marine and coastal species and habitats and the threats they face. Records are particularly gathered of climate change indicator species and marine INNS. The events also contribute to the Gower AONB management Plan, various beaches management plans and Blue Flag status of Swansea's beaches.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 1.3



Swansea Council Nature Conservation team engaged with the Parks department to develop cut and collect management trials across several parks and verges in 2021. Plug planting was also carried out with local communities in the parks, providing the opportunity for volunteers to learn about the importance and benefits of cut and collect management and wildflowers in general.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 1.4



@ Ben Sampson

Swansea University became one of the founding members of the Nature Positive Universities Partnership in November 2022, pledging not only to ensure that the land it manages makes a positive contribution to biodiversity, but to assess the impact of its entire operations on nature. It will then minimise these impacts as far as possible and compensate for those that remain.



NRAP FOR WALES

OBJECTIVE 2:

Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

<p>Swansea LNRAP Action Themes For Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</p>	<p>NRAP for Wales Theme of Action Addressed</p>	<p>South West Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>	<p>Marine Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>
<p>2.1. Monitor and survey species and habitats of principal importance in Swansea to expand current knowledge on presence and extent and thereby inform management decisions and conservation interventions.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>2.2. Develop, review, and deliver targeted actions that address threats to or improve management of species and habitats of principal importance, thereby building into a wider network of nature recovery and ecosystem resilience.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 & 4</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2.3. Deliver proactive actions that increase the abundance and expansion of the extent of species and habitats of principal importance.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 & 4</p>	<p>1</p>

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 2.1



@ Aaron Davies

The Glamorgan Bat Group has been monitoring horseshoe bat populations around Swansea since the 1980s. They conduct maternity roost counts and hibernation surveys every year. They also launched their AudioMoth Bat Project in 2023. In this scheme you can loan an AudioMoth bat detector to collect more bat records across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 2.2



Swansea Council AONB team established the Gower Places of Worship Programme in 2022. This three-year Welsh Government funded project aims to provide bespoke solutions to improve the interactions of wildlife with churches in the Gower and improve their long term biodiversity value. Species targeted include bats, swifts, barn owls, pollinators and reptiles.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 2.3



In 2022 NRW released 200 water vole in Oxwich NNR in the Gower to re-establish populations of the species that have disappeared from South Wales over the years. The release was the culmination of a three year effort to captive breed water vole and reduce American mink (an invasive non-native predator) populations in the reserve.



NRAP FOR WALES

OBJECTIVE 3:

Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

<p>Swansea LNRAP Action Themes for Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation</p>	<p>NRAP for Wales Theme of Action Addressed</p>	<p>South West Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>	<p>Marine Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>
<p>3.1. Identify location of, and priorities for, habitat restoration and creation based on current evidence including ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 & 4</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>3.2. Develop and deliver actions to improve the diversity, extent, condition, and connectivity of habitats within Swansea.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 & 4</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>3.3. Ensure that at least 30% of Swansea county is protected and effectively managed for nature by 2030, including marine*, terrestrial and freshwater** areas.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>3.4. Restore and create habitat within and outside the Welsh Marine Protected Area network to help restore ecological processes and connect marine wildlife populations.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>3.5. Restore and create habitat and green infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas, to increase access to good quality multifunctional semi-natural green and blue spaces and the associated well-being benefits for communities.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>3.6. Restore and create habitat within our river and floodplain environments to help restore ecological processes and connect aquatic wildlife, such as migratory fish.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>-</p>

* Marine habitats between high and low mean water springs **terrestrial and freshwater land/habitats down to high mean water springs within the county boundary. .

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 3.1



Swansea Council and Pennard Golf Club are working to restore Pennard Castle and two rare plants that grow there, hawkweed and yellow whitlowgrass. With Celtic Wildflowers they have developed a mitigation strategy for both plants that includes seed collection, growing in a dedicated facility and replanting in specially designed pockets in the lime mortar after restoration work finishes.

CASE STUDY

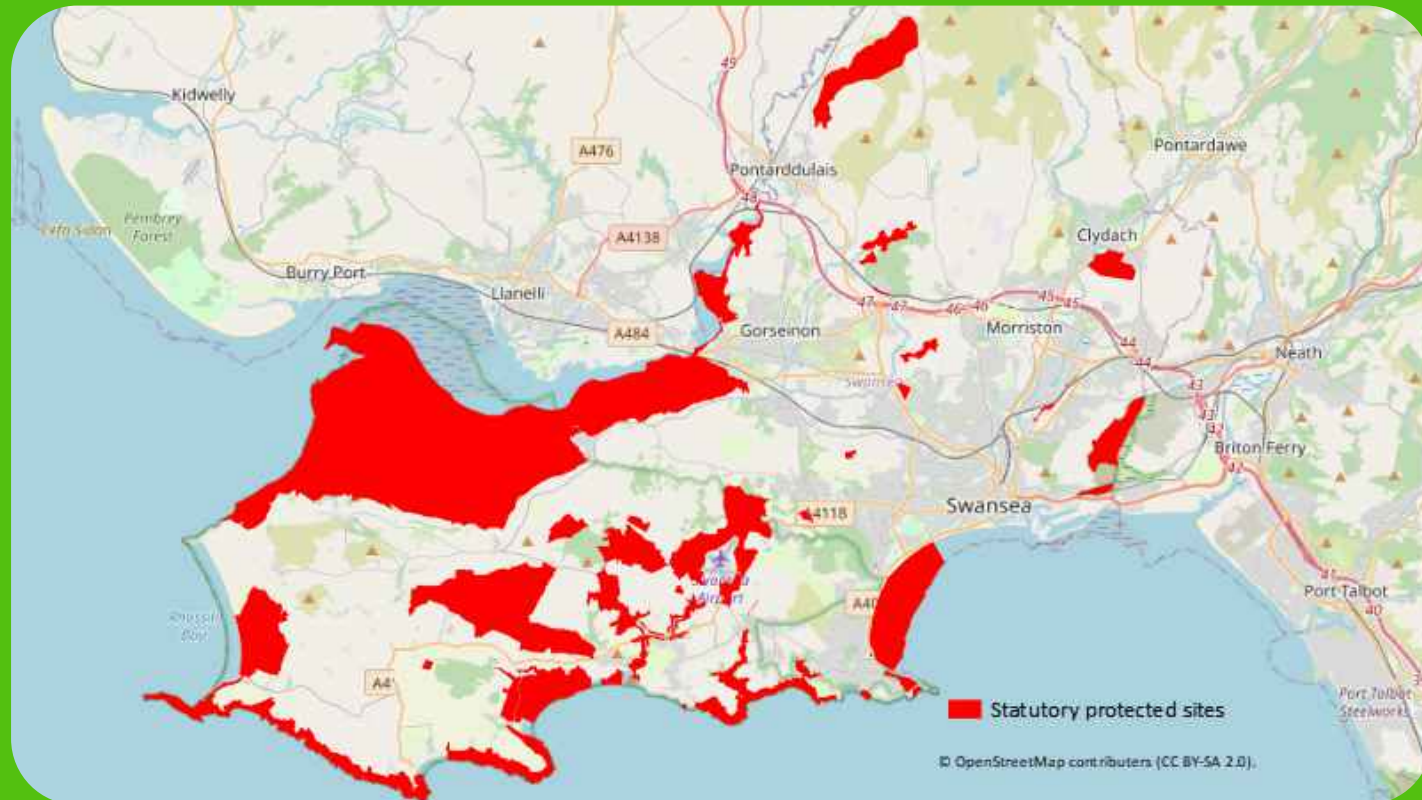
ACTION THEME 3.2



Penllergare Valley Woods are using conservation grazing to increase grassland habitat diversity in Middle Park. The botanical diversity of the grassland site at Penllergare has diminished over the years due to little or no active management. So it is hoped that by using a local herd of Highland cattle to periodically graze the site, structural and species diversity will increase in the grassland overtime. Benefiting insects, birds, and mammals as well.

CASE STUDY

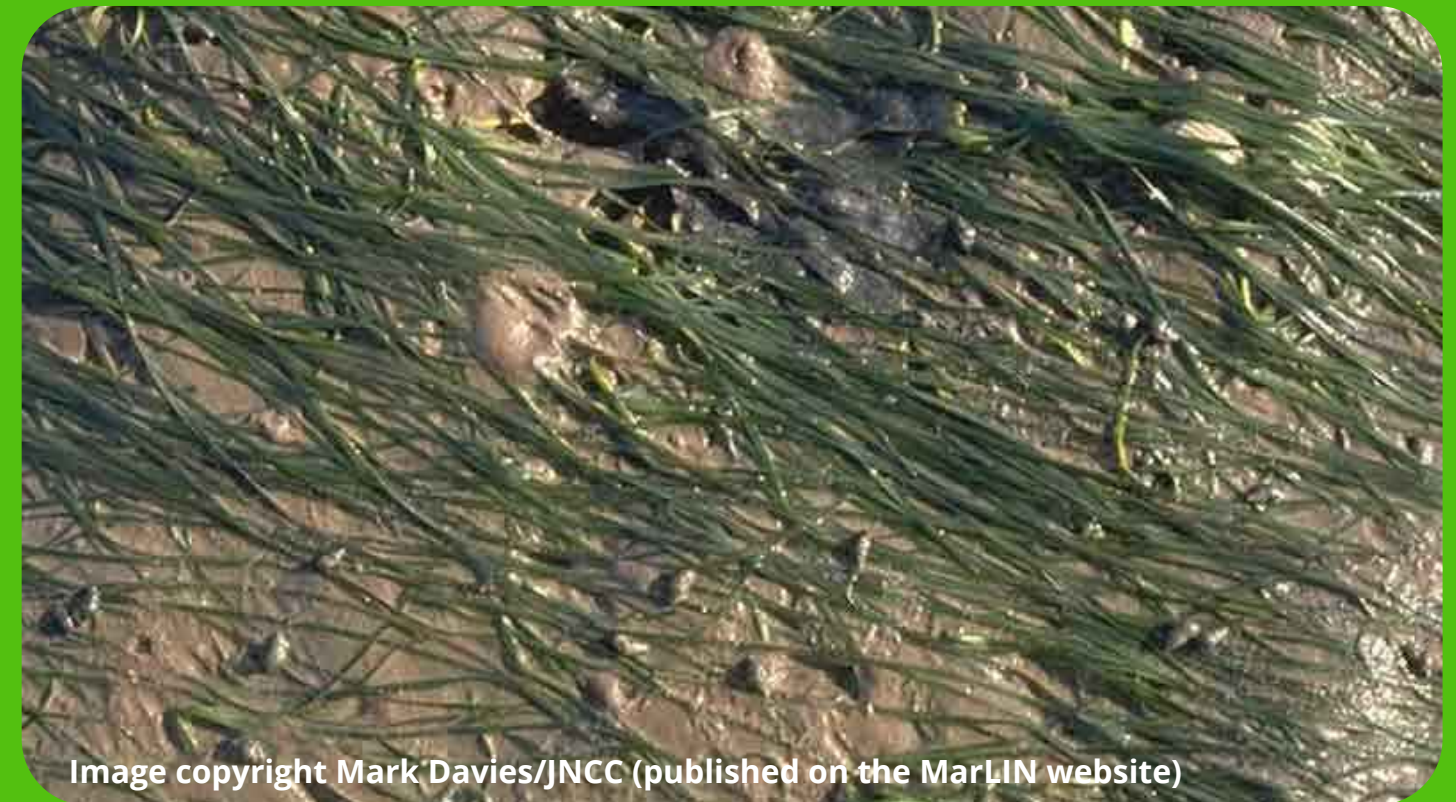
ACTION THEME 3.3



Statutory protected sites* for nature conservation, cover around 21% of the land area of Swansea county**. However not all of these sites are in good condition and/or positive management despite efforts undertaken by landowners and other organisations with the limited resources available. A baseline audit will be carried out to assess the percentage area of Swansea that is protected and managed for nature so we can work towards achieving 30 by 30 in Swansea.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 3.4



A project is proposed within Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries European Marine Site to address the potential for dwarf eelgrass restoration on north Gower through a feasibility assessment. This will determine whether restoration targets and goals can be achieved, with reference to relevant past and 'cutting edge' current seagrass restoration projects.

* Including biological or mixed SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites, and LNRs. **To low mean spring water.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 3.5



#CityNature Pier Street green corridor project aims to develop a green corridor along Pier Street. Recycled plastic planters were installed in 2021/22 offering year round native species or species which support pollinators. In 2022/23 a rain pond and rain planters were also added to create a small wildlife pond and overflow rain planters slowing the flow of rain water outside the Environment Centre. The Environment Centre also boasts a living wall and green roof.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 3.6



@ Harriet Alvis

West Wales Rivers Trust is working to remove or modify in-stream barriers such as weirs across South West Wales, including Swansea. These works allow for the free movement of aquatic species along rivers, as well as re-naturalising flows and the subsequent dispersal of sediment and nutrients.



NRAP FOR WALES

OBJECTIVE 4:

Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

<p>Swansea LNRAP Action Themes For Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</p>	<p>NRAP for Wales Theme of Action Addressed</p>	<p>South West Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>	<p>Marine Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>
<p>4.1. Reduce and, where possible, eliminate environmental pollution into terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environs in Swansea. Employing sustainable management and nature-based solutions where relevant.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1, 2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>4.2. Work collaboratively to tackle terrestrial, freshwater, and marine INNS across the county of Swansea.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>
<p>4.3. Contribute to Swansea’s Net Zero 2050 target and make globally responsible decisions to tackle climate change and its impact on species and habitats.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 & 4</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>4.4. Use visitor guidelines and promote relevant codes of conduct for reducing human impact on local marine, intertidal and terrestrial wildlife.</p>	<p>1 & 2</p>	<p>2 & 3</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>4.5. Minimise further loss and increase connectivity in key wildlife corridors throughout Swansea to reduce the effects of habitat fragmentation resulting from urban growth and historic land use impacts.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>3 & 4</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>4.6. Respond proactively to emerging research on local and national species declines, particularly those at risk of extinction.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>-</p>

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 4.1



@ Harriet Alvis

West Wales Rivers Trust is working in both urban and rural areas to reduce pollution into our freshwater environments. This includes working with farmers to reduce run-off from farmyards and farmland, work with Dwr Cymru to push forward the use of wetlands for filtering excess nutrients and also urban pollution reduction advice and the delivery of Sustainable Urban Drainage.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 4.2



@ Jessica Minett

The Wales Resilient Ecological Network (WaREN) project is working to facilitate Local Action Groups (LAGs) or volunteer groups across Wales (including Swansea). WaREN is providing training and equipment to LAGs and aims to establish a collaborative and sustainable approach to tackling invasive species at a national and local level.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 4.3

Net Zero 2030

How we're taking action on climate change across the council.

Swansea Council has an organisational target of net zero by 2030. To achieve this they are taking action across the whole council, including expanding their electric vehicle fleet, a pension fund reduction in fossil fuel investments, growing the cycle network and much more.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 4.4



The Gower Seal Group trained 'Seal Ambassadors' provide information to raise awareness of the challenges faced by seals. They frequently deliver presentations to schools, community groups and attend local events. They also promote the Operation Seabird Guidelines, a national campaign to reduce disturbance to all marine wildlife and actively support 'Gower Safe' a local multi agency initiative to protect the community and environment.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 4.5



Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust have been undertaking pond creation and restoration across Gower since 2012. This has been focused around an important isolated population of great crested newt that requires a network of connected ponds across the landscape. These works have provided more, and connected existing, habitats, benefiting a whole host of species as well as great crested newt.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 4.6



@ Phillip Croft

Gower Ornithological Societies [Saving Swansea's Swifts](#) project is addressing severe declines (58% between 1995 and 2018) in swift numbers nationally. With the help of local volunteers they are conducting surveys to add to limited data on where swifts breed in Swansea, and identifying opportunities to increase breeding opportunities through the installation of nest boxes on a variety of privately and publicly owned buildings.



NRAP FOR WALES

OBJECTIVE 5:

Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

<p>Swansea LNRAP Action Themes For Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring</p>	<p>NRAP for Wales Theme of Action Addressed</p>	<p>South West Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>	<p>Marine Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>
<p>5.1. Use baseline surveys, monitoring, and other initiatives to develop a high-quality local evidence base for Swansea and ensure data is accessible through SEWBreC, and other relevant organisations (e.g. NRW).</p>	<p>2 & 4</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>5.2. Support the development of new tools that use local environmental data to identify and target nature recovery opportunities.</p>	<p>2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>5.3. Ensure that the Swansea LNP has broad and wide-ranging skills and expertise needed to deliver nature recovery projects.</p>	<p>2, 3 & 4</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 5.1

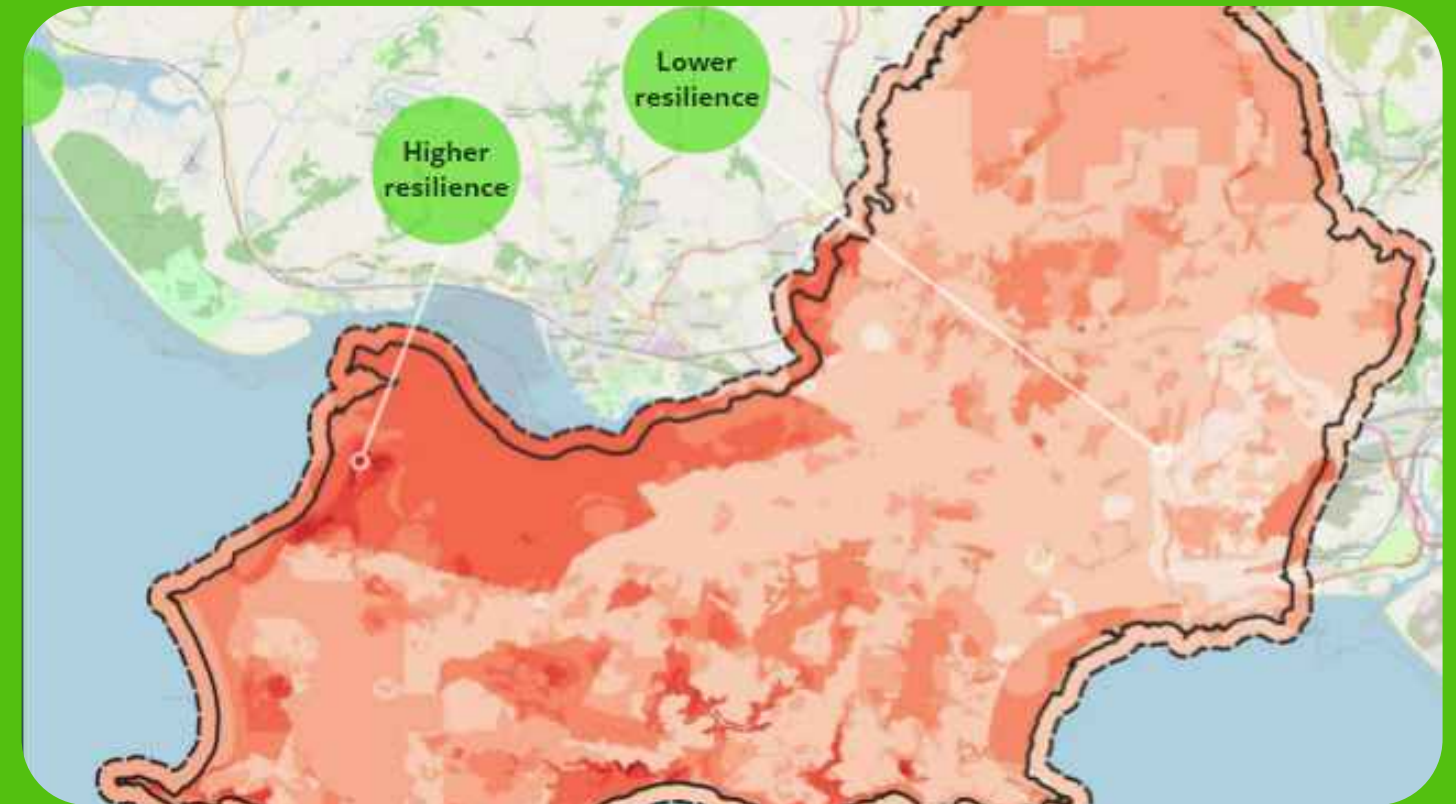


@ Steve Bolchover

Natur Am Byth development phase funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund commissioned a range of surveys to inform species recovery actions for Swansea's most important species. This includes the strandline beetle, which is currently present in Whiteford NNR. This is one of only three extant UK sites, all of which are in Carmarthen Bay.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 5.2



The outputs of the Swansea Ecosystem Resilience report produced by SEWBRc in 2022 can be used in many ways. This includes identifying locations for restoration work to be undertaken, as well as identifying higher resilience sites that could be considered for site designations, and to inform strategic land allocations.

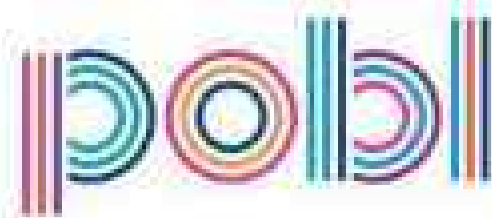
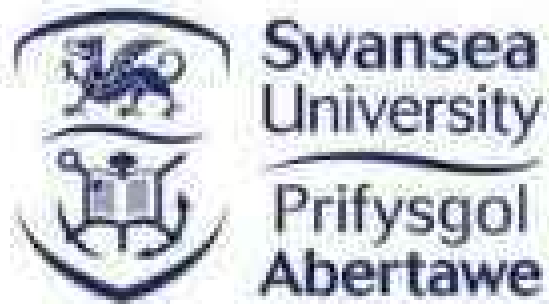
CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 5.3



Swansea LNP currently (2023) consists of over 50 member organisations working in nature conservation, community food growing and/or community engagement, as well as individual members. An audit is being undertaken by LNP coordinators to identify any missing key partners and knowledge gaps. This is aided by Welsh Government Local Places for Nature funding which currently funds the LNP co-ordinator role in Swansea LNP (until at least 2025).

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS...



NRAP FOR WALES

OBJECTIVE 6:

Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery

<p>Swansea LNRAP Action Themes For Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery</p>	<p>NRAP for Wales Theme of Action Addressed</p>	<p>South West Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>	<p>Marine Area Statement Theme Addressed</p>
<p>6.1. Continue to provide a strong and active local partnership (Swansea LNP) to act as an interface between local delivery partners and the Welsh Government/NRW.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>6.2. Embed the Swansea LNRAP within partner organisations to guide actions.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>6.3. Encourage collaborative action in the delivery of the Swansea LNRAP, including project development, funding, and participation in landscape scale or national projects.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 6.1



Swansea LNP meets quarterly to share knowledge, network, and discuss ongoing projects. Additionally Swansea LNP Coordinator(s) attend biweekly liaison meetings with LNPs from other counties, Welsh Government and NRW. The forum facilitated by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership allows a two way flow of information and ideas from the field to the heart of Government and back again.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 6.2



Swansea Council is developing a Section 6 Plan that will set out actions and projects the council will undertake over a three-year period to meet their Section 6 (biodiversity) duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This plan is aligned with the Swansea LNRAP and actions directly address local priorities for nature recovery identified in the LNRAP action themes.

CASE STUDY

ACTION THEME 6.3



The Swansea LNP facilitates collaborative action through knowledge exchange, joint partner projects, and shared funding. For example Welsh Government Local Places for Nature funding managed by the LNP Coordinator(s) and other Swansea Council Nature Conservation team staff has been used to support many LNP partner projects over the years. Including the Orchard Project which has established or restored 16 community orchards in Swansea between 2021 and 2023.



A NOTE ON

REVIEWING & RECORDING

- The Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan will be reviewed again by 2030.
- Actions that partners undertake towards the Swansea LNRAP will be shared and reviewed each year, ideally in the first meeting of the New Year of the Swansea LNP. These actions will be recorded by the Swansea LNP Coordinator(s).
- If you would like to take part in the review process please contact the LNP Coordinator(s) using the email below.

Please note that the Swansea LNRAP does not commit any one LNP partner to any specific actions. The Swansea LNRAP is intended to identify priorities (action themes) that guide partner actions. It is therefore the responsibility of individual LNP partners to identify where and how they are able to contribute to actions towards the Swansea LNRAP action themes. The Swansea LNP Coordinator(s) is there to help if required.

 nature.conservation@swansea.gov.uk



FURTHER INFORMATION ON

SWANSEA'S NATURE

The following pages provide further detail on nature in Swansea in addition to the overview provided earlier on in the LNRAP. Keep reading or click on the links below to find out more about:

- [Habitat overviews](#)
- [Priority species audit](#)
- [Spotlight on some of Swansea's species](#)
- [Special sites](#)



SWANSEA

HABITAT OVERVIEWS

The following descriptions are adapted from previous work on the [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (published 2005) to give an overview of some of the different habitats found in Swansea. Swansea lacks a recent and comprehensive habitat audit, so the overviews presented here focus on [Habitat of Principal Importance](#) (as listed in Section 7 of the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#)) as there is more information available for these.

However, it should be noted that other habitats are still of great importance for nature recovery and ecosystem resilience. Given the urban nature of large parts of Swansea an overview of urban habitats is also provided.

Data used for most maps are sourced from NRW Environment (Wales) Act Section 7 [marine](#) and [terrestrial](#) habitat layers. These are not comprehensive and some habitat types in Swansea are missing. Additionally the terrestrial habitat data sets were created from layers derived from [Terrestrial Phase 1 Habitat surveys](#) conducted across Wales in the 1980s and 1990s. Given the age of this data habitat presence and extent may have changed since then in some instances.

SWANSEA'S

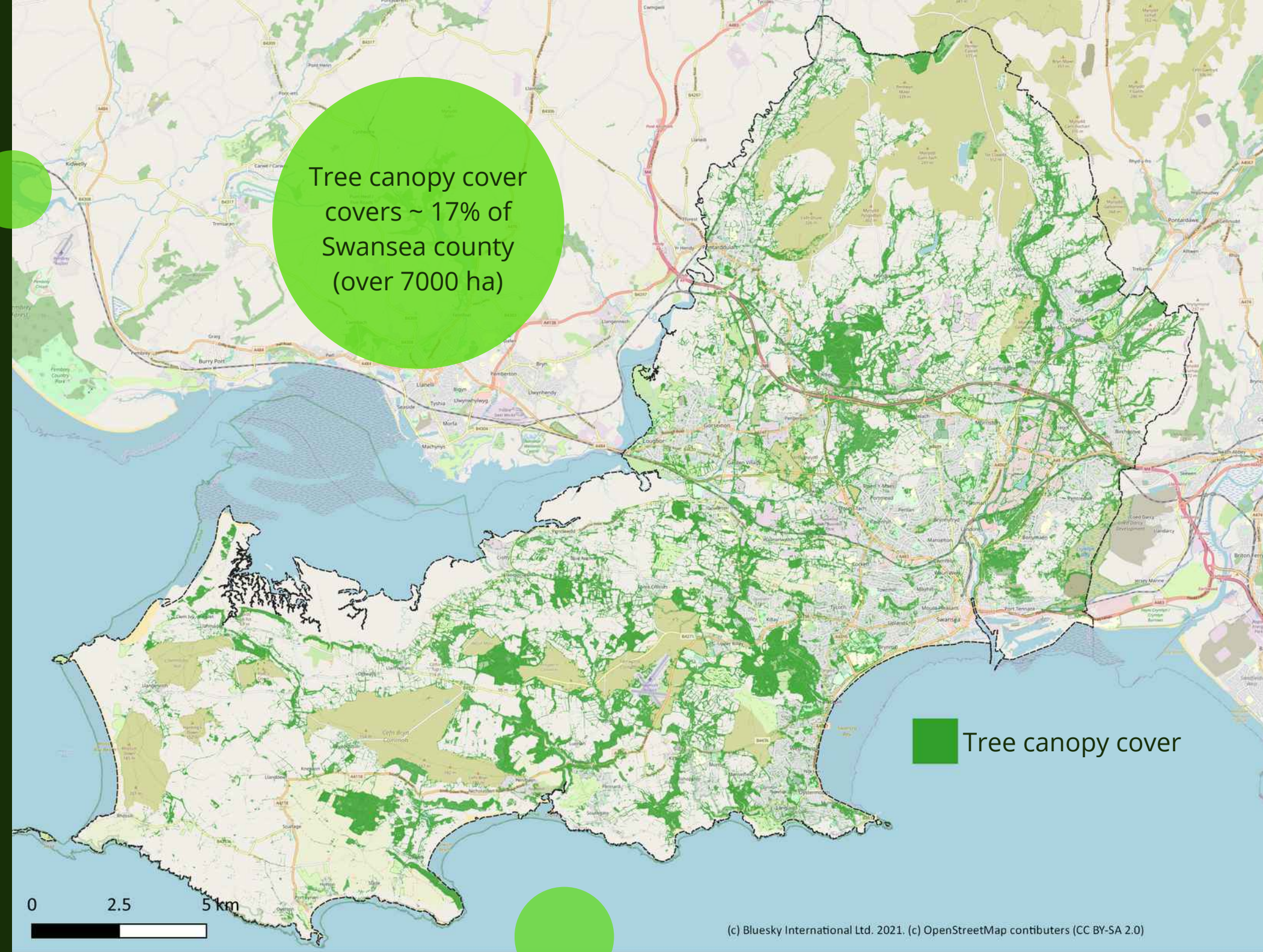
WOODLAND

Swansea has a variety of semi-natural woodland habitat, some of which is ancient. As well as plantation woodland habitats. Of these there are eight habitats of principal importance that occur in Swansea including:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Lowland beech and yew woodland
- Wood pasture and parkland
- Upland mixed ash woods
- Wet woodland
- Upland oak wood
- Orchards
- Hedgerows

Lowland mixed deciduous, upland mixed ash, and wet woodland make up most of the priority woodland in Swansea. With upland oak wood being relatively uncommon except in the north east of the county around Clydach. Lowland beech and yew woodland is rare in Swansea, with its extent limited to a few sites in the Gower. Overall though, woodland (including hedgerows and orchards) is the most connected of all of the habitat types within Swansea with networks running across the entire county and core networks covering relatively large areas. However, there are a few areas such as the north Swansea commons where the networks break or are absent.

Woodland habitats in Swansea support a variety of Species of principal importance including (but not limited to) bullfinch, barn owl, several species of bats, marsh fern and dormice.



There are many threats to woodland habitats in Swansea including fragmentation and lack of appropriate management, but one of the most pervasive is the spread of INNS such as rhododendron and Japanese knotweed plus tree diseases such as ash dieback.

SWANSEA'S

OPEN WATER

Rivers and streams, ponds and mesotrophic lakes are all open water habitats of principal importance found within Swansea.

There are a range of river types including alkaline streams rising on Cefn Bryn Common and Rhossili Down. Plus the Bury Pill a free flowing stream which crosses Gower to the tidal influenced River Loughor and River Tawe. As well as numerous smaller streams which rise within the uplands of the north Swansea catchment.

Throughout the whole of the county there are likely over 1000 ponds but the condition of most are unknown. However, there are several known key sites for ponds within Swansea, including Barlands Common, Upper Killay Pond, Mynydd Garn Goch and Penllergaer Woods. Pond habitats offer a unique opportunity as they are one of the few Habitats of Principal Importance that can be quite easily created.

Mesotrophic lakes on the other hand are relatively infrequent in the UK and Swansea and largely confined to the margins of upland areas, but there are some examples in Swansea, most notably Broadpool on Cefn Bryn.

These habitats support a variety of species of principal importance including (but not limited to) great crested newt on the Gower plus otter, three lobed water-crowfoot, grass snake, and common toad. There are many threats to open water habitats in Swansea including pollution, recreational disturbance, and INNS such as New Zealand



Pigmyweed, floating pennywort, parrot's feather, water fern and several pondweeds. However, one of the more significant threats to ponds and lakes especially is a lack of management leading to succession and the eventual loss of open water habitat. For our rivers, in addition to pollution, barriers to fish passage (such as weirs) and a lack of flow (e.g. due to historical straightening) are also major threats.

SWANSEA'S WETLANDS

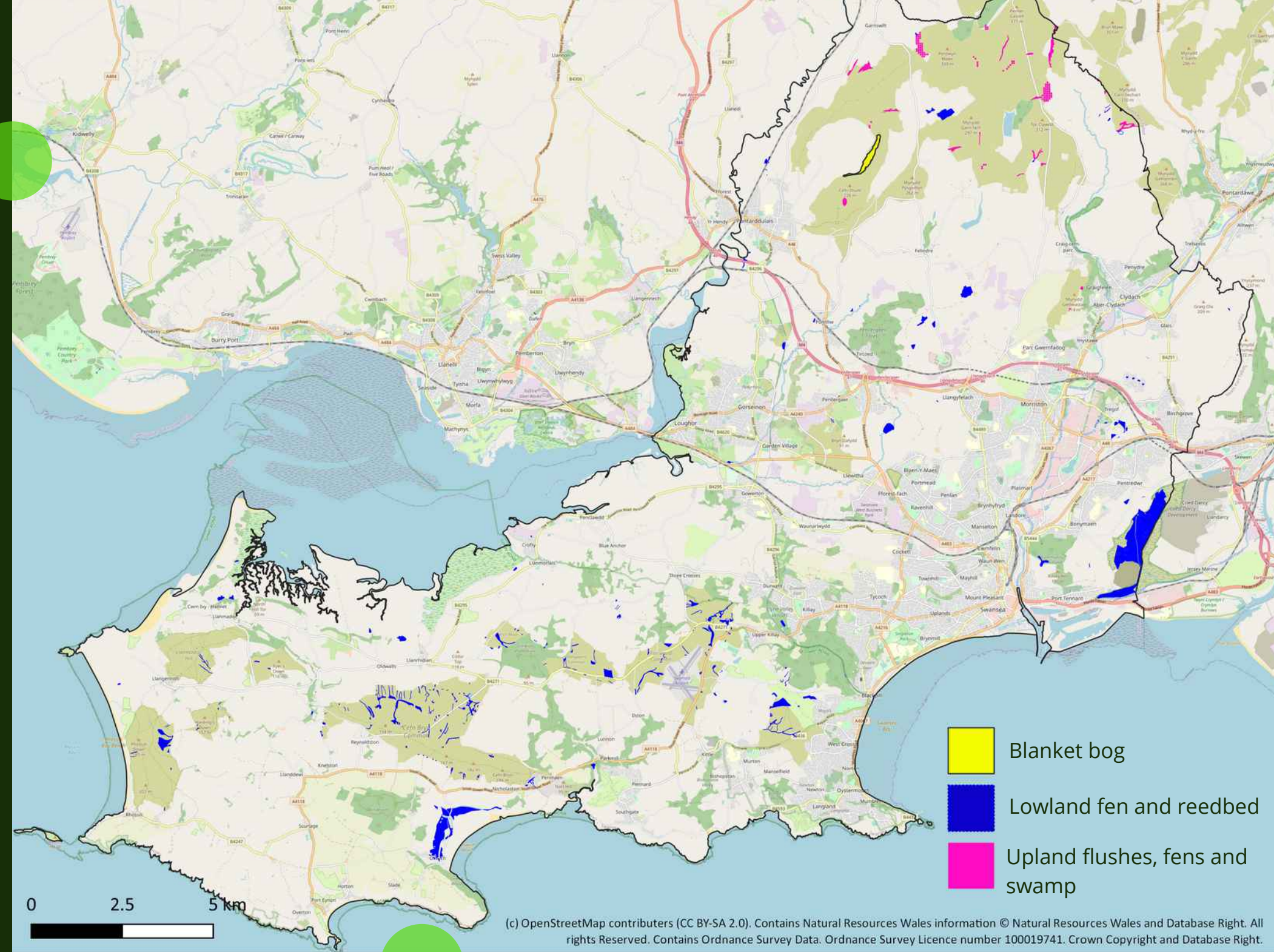
Blanket bogs, upland flushes, fen and swamps and lowland fen reedbeds are all wetland habitats of principal importance found within Swansea.

Blanket bog occurrence is very limited within the county, as well as patches of upland flushes, fen and swamp habitat, which are by their nature restricted to the upland environments of Swansea, north of Felindre.

Lowland fen and reedbed is the most extensive of the three wetland priority habitat types within Swansea, but is still limited in its occurrence and connectivity, mostly occurring in small isolated patches with the exception of larger sites at Oxwich and Crymlyn Bog NNRs.

Reedbed connectivity is also limited as the larger sites tend to be stand alone e.g. Oxwich Marsh, with little connectivity between the isolated smaller sites e.g. Pwll Du.

While relatively uncommon in Swansea compared to other habitats, the wetland habitats present do support a variety of species of principal importance, several of which are strongly dependant on these types of habitat. This includes (but not limited to) reed bunting, lapwing, southern damselfly and royal fern.



There are many threats to wetlands habitats in Swansea including lack of management leading to scrub invasion and INNS such as Japanese knotweed, but the most significant impacts are through drainage/abstraction and pollution affecting water levels and quality.

SWANSEA'S

HEATH & GRASSLANDS

Swansea has a variety of heath and grasslands including eight habitats of principal importance:

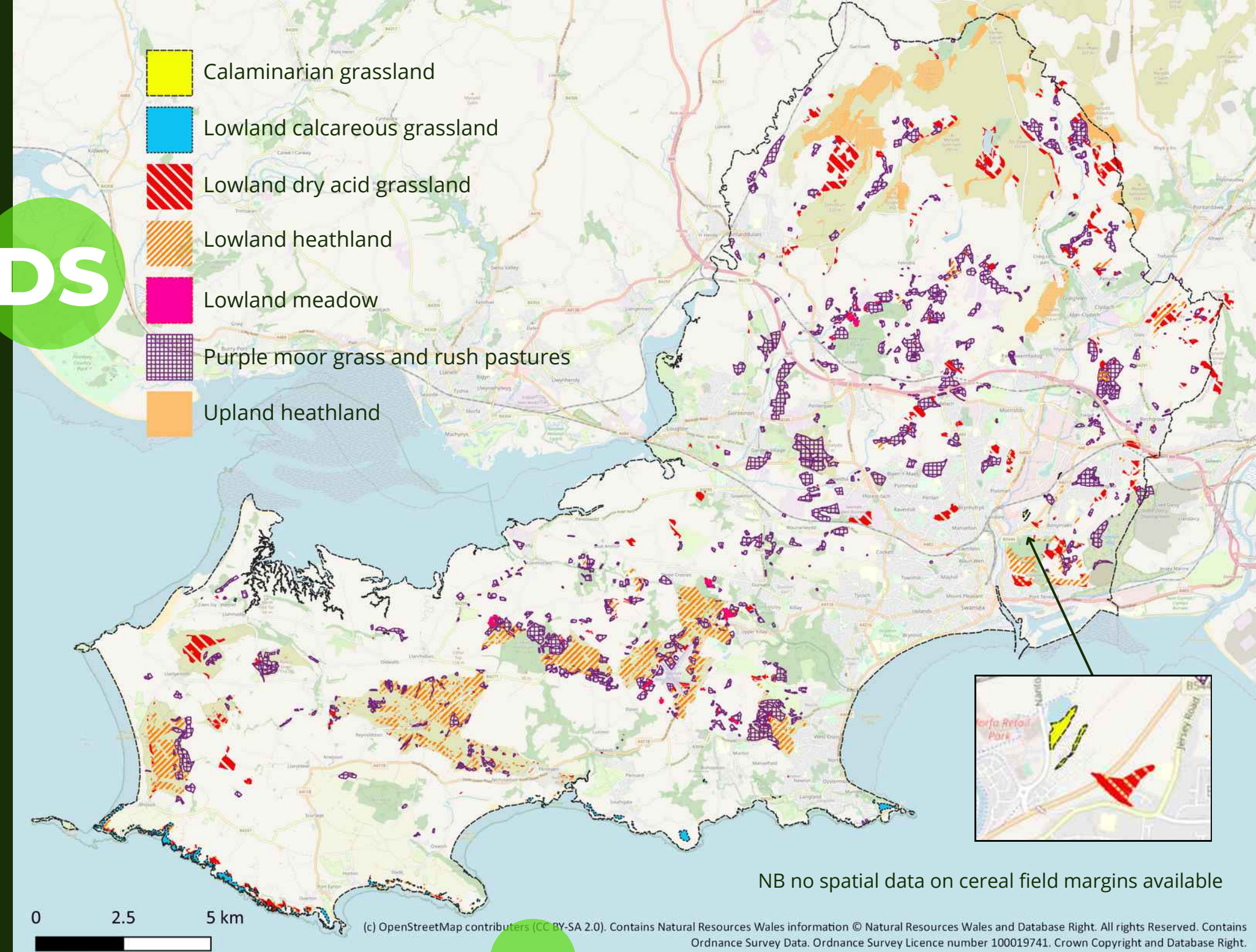
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Cereal field margins
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Calaminarian grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland heath
- Lowland meadow
- Upland heath

In general there are isolated areas of heathland mainly with large concentrated areas on the Gower commons and the Swansea uplands with only a few patches around Swansea's urban fringe in between.

The main areas of grassland connectivity are through the large areas of upland acid grasslands in the Swansea uplands. The other significant area of connectivity is the cluster of patches of Lowland dry acid grassland in west Gower; Llanmadoc Hill, Ryers Down and Hardings Down and the calcareous grassland at Rhossili.

Heath and grassland habitats in Swansea support a variety of species of principal importance including (but not limited to) marsh fritillary, skylark, yellow hammer, small heath butterfly, brown hare, and adder.

There are many threats to these habitats in Swansea including fragmentation and INNS, but a major issue is the variability of appropriate management. With many heath and grasslands being



unmanaged, and even those that are managed by grazing are often under or overgrazed due to the complexities and many challenges of grazing as a management regime. However, there are some good examples in Swansea, such as Overton Mere where Dexter cattle and Torcoed ponies are being used to manage scrub encroachment on calcareous grassland.

SWANSEA'S

COASTAL HABITATS

The coastal habitats within Swansea are diverse, including six habitats of principal importance:

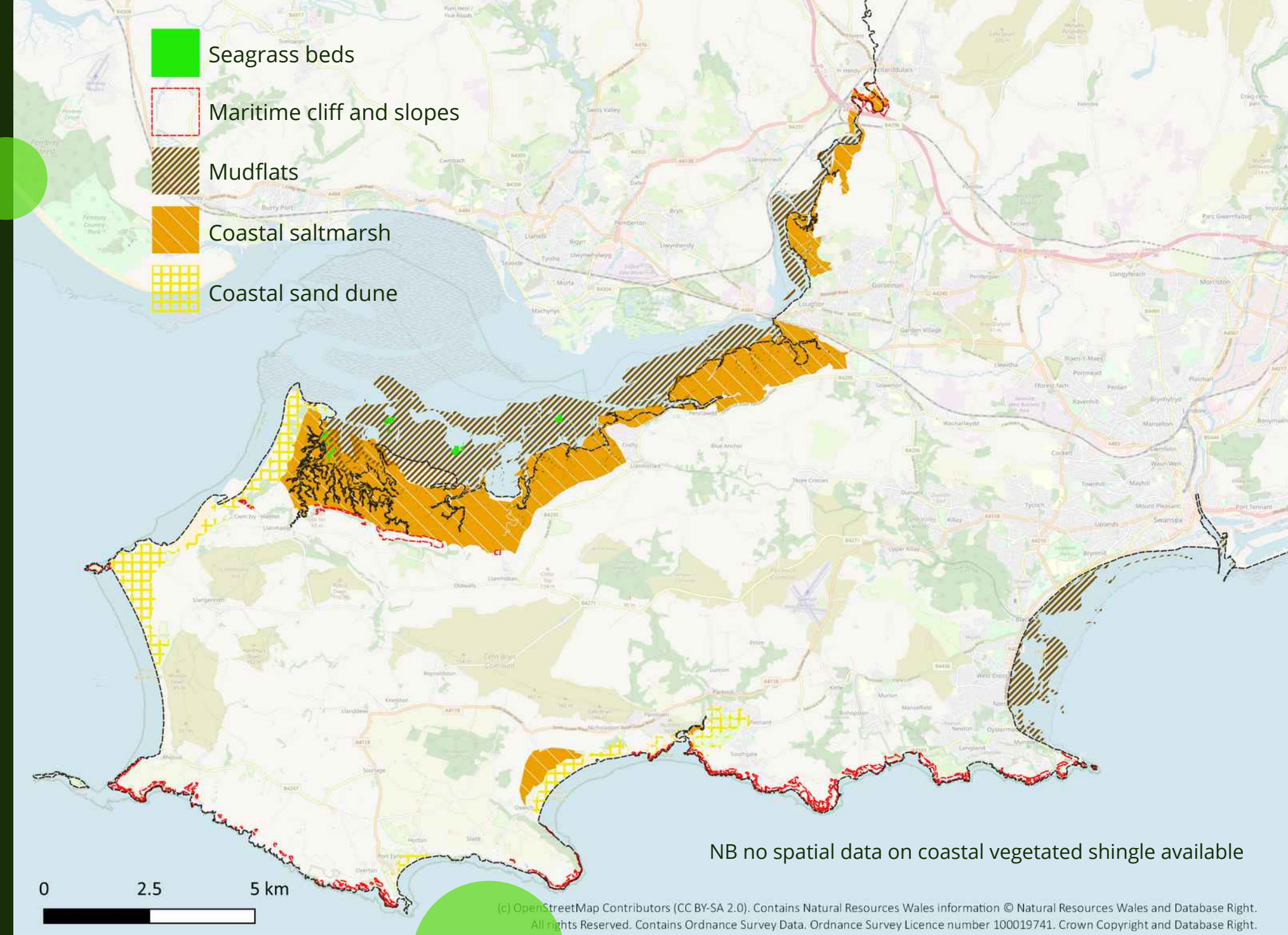
- Seagrass beds
- Intertidal mudflats
- Coastal salt marsh
- Coastal vegetated shingle
- Maritime cliffs and slopes
- Coastal sand dunes

These habitats are dynamic and rely on coastal processes for their existence and as a result, are subject to natural changes in quality and extent. Good examples of coastal sand dunes can be seen at Nicholaston Burrows, Oxwich Burrows, Port Eynon, Whiteford NNR and Penmaen Burrows. In addition, dune restoration and creation works have been ongoing in Swansea Bay over the past 10 years.

On north Gower, from Whiteford to the Burry Inlet, large expanses of mudflats and coastal saltmarsh can be found. There also smaller areas of saltmarsh at Oxwich and Pennard Valley, as well as an area of mudflats in Blackpill SSSI.

Maritime cliffs and slopes are largely confined to south and west Gower where they grade into various vegetation types such as calcareous grassland and lowland heath. Seagrass beds are the scarcest of Swansea's coastal habitats and are restricted to only a few small sites in the Burry Inlet.

Coastal habitats in Swansea support a variety of species of principal importance including (but not limited to) yellow whitlow grass, sea



stock, otter, prickly saltwort, narrow-mouthed whorl snail, Eurasian curlew, chough, shrill carder bee, and small blue butterfly.

There are many threats to coastal habitats in Swansea. Some of these include recreational disturbance, INNS, marine pollution, marine litter, over or under-grazing, nutrient enrichment, coastal squeeze, coastal developments, climate change, and erosion.

SWANSEA'S

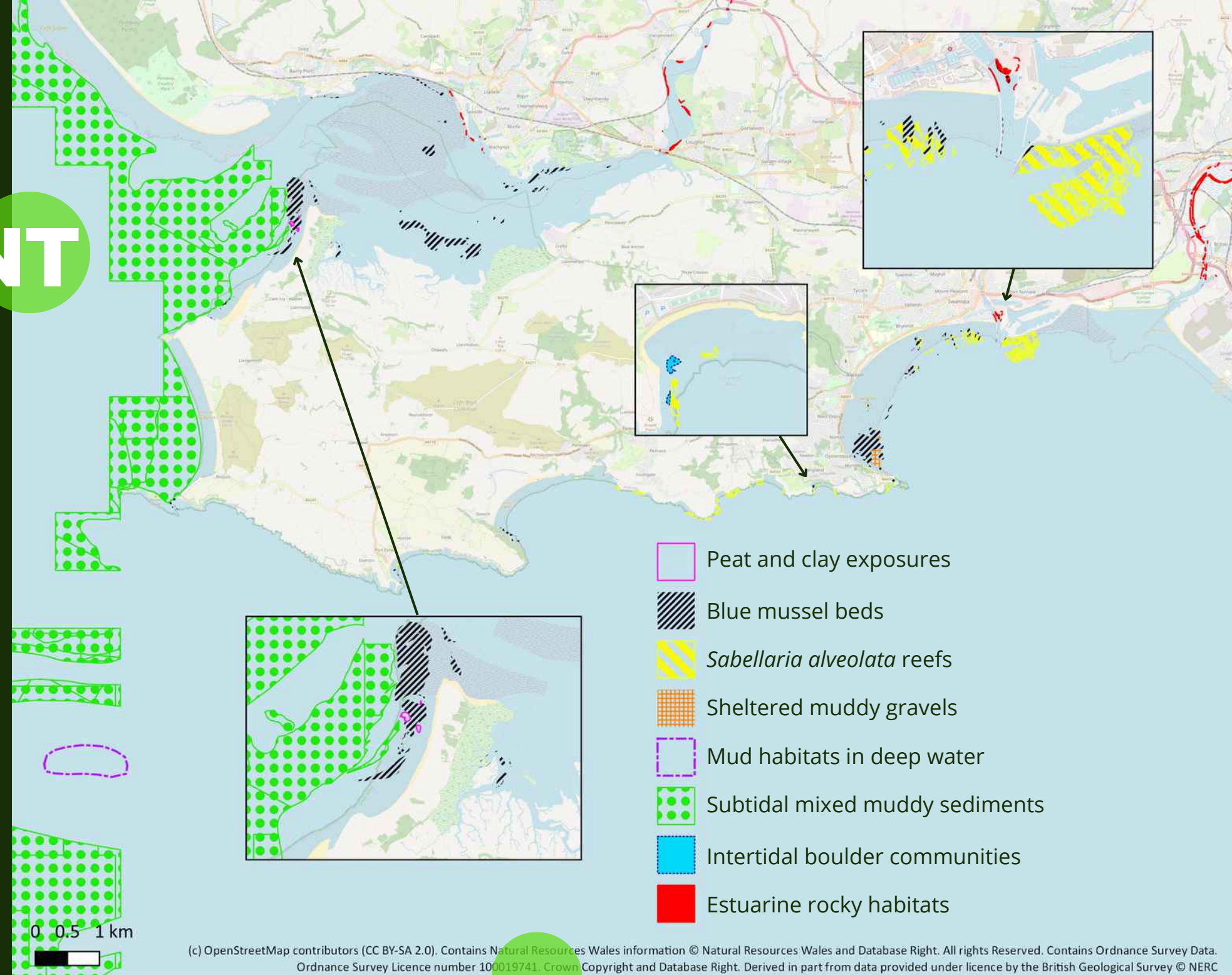
MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The marine habitats around Swansea are diverse, including eight habitats of principal importance:

- Peat and clay exposures
- Blue mussel beds
- *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs
- Sheltered muddy gravels
- Mud habitats in deep water
- Subtidal mixed muddy sediments
- Intertidal boulder communities
- Estuarine rocky habitats

Blue mussel beds are the most common marine habitat of principal importance, found in the near shore seas around much of Swansea's coastline. These include relatively large patches near Mumbles, and in the Loughor Estuary. *Sabellaria alveolata* (honeycomb worm) reefs are also present as hummocks or thin veneers, mainly restricted to the intertidal environment off Swansea's south coast, including Swansea Bay, Llangland Bay, Bracelet Bay, Oxwich, and Port Eynon. Intertidal boulder communities are widespread across Swansea's rocky shores. They can be found at Bracelet Bay, Llangland Bay, Oxwich, Port Eynon, and Worms Head Causway.

While subtidal mixed muddy sediments are found in large expanses off the west and north Gower coast, the remaining marine habitats of principal importance are only found in smaller more isolated patches. Estuarine rocky habitats occur in the River Tawe, and the Loughor estuary; sheltered muddy gravels near Mumbles, peat and clay exposures at Swansea beach, Port Eynon and near Whiteford, and mud habitats in deep waters south of Worms Head Causeway.



Marine habitats in Swansea support a variety of species of principal importance including (but not limited to) harbour porpoise, Risso's dolphin, thornback ray, lesser sandeel, leatherback turtle, stalked jellyfish, plus a rich variety of bird species. There are many threats to marine habitats in Swansea. Some of these include sea temperature rise, pollution, marine litter, INNS, disturbance, offshore marine renewable energy developments, dredging and over-exploitation of natural resources.

SWANSEA'S

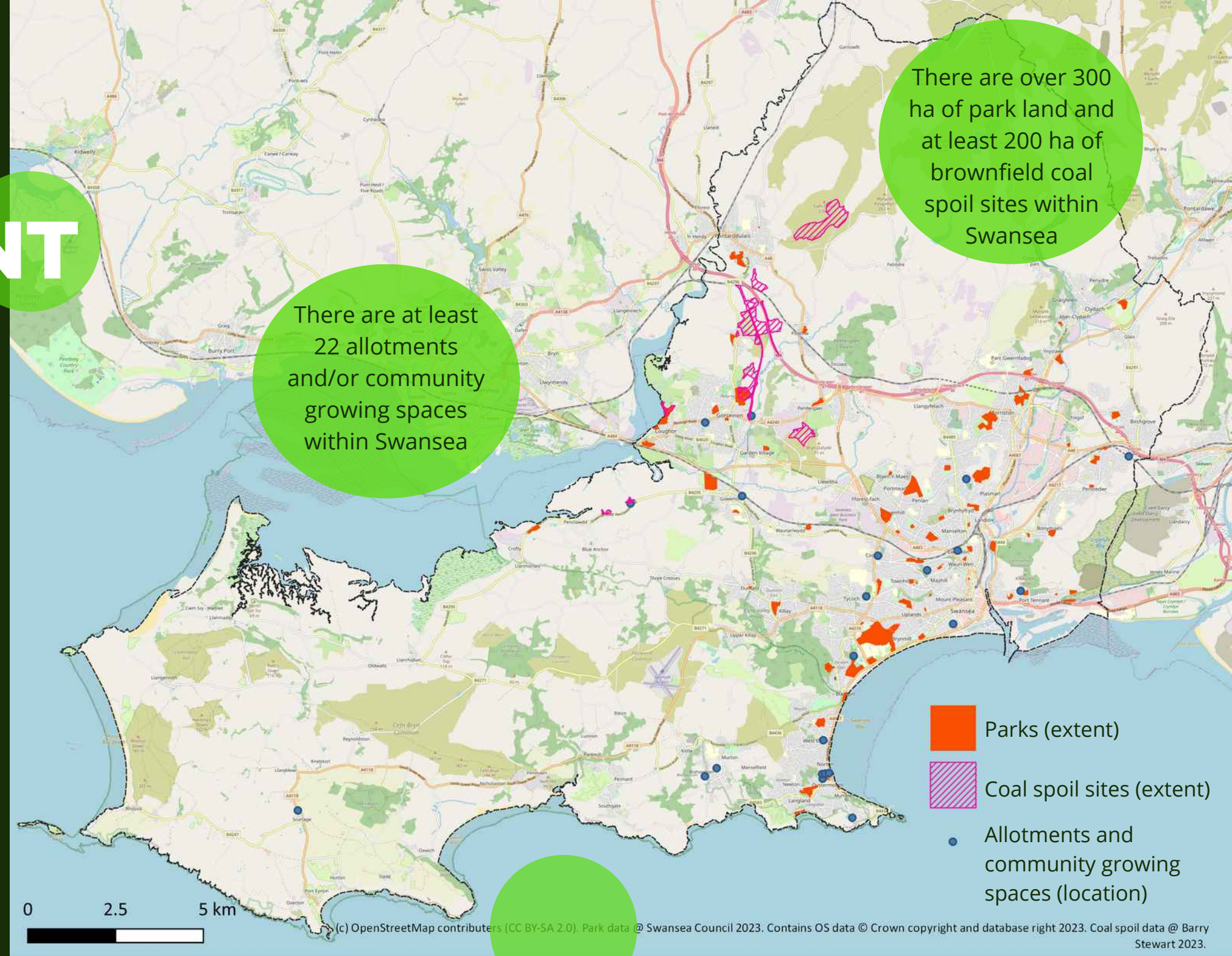
URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Urban habitats in Swansea, such as buildings, parks, gardens, and other green and food growing spaces cover large areas. Some are designated as SINCs, but even those areas that are not are still important in supporting species, and contributing to ecosystem resilience.

They are particularly important habitats for birds, such as swifts, that utilise the eaves of houses for nesting places, and bat species that make their homes in roof spaces and dilapidated buildings. Other important species such as hedgehog and slow worm are commonly associated with urban gardens and allotments.

Urban habitats can also play a significant connectivity role, e.g. parks can provide 'stepping stones' of habitat in amongst urban features, while grassy commons, verges and hedges may be important for connecting these habitats throughout urban areas. Green infrastructure installations like green roofs, living walls and rain planters provide resources and connectivity for pollinators and other species whilst addressing the impacts of climate change, by slowing the flow of surface water run off and providing summer cooling. They create multifunctional green oases in an otherwise largely 'grey' environment.

However, there is still significant scope to enhance biodiversity through the creation and management of nature-friendly networks of gardens, parkland and buildings in Swansea. There are several threats to wildlife in urban spaces including light and chemical pollution, as well as the way we manage some of our green spaces, because nature isn't neat.



Short, overly mowed vegetation (or artificial grass) leaves little or no opportunity for wildflowers to grow and provides no shelter which negatively impacts pollinators and other invertebrates, plus small mammals and birds. Even bramble, which might seem unsightly is an important winter food resource for many species and provides nesting opportunities for birds. So by letting *some* areas of grassland grow, wildflowers will flower for longer providing food and habitat for wildlife. By allowing plants to grow bigger roots they will also store more carbon in the soil and help mitigate climate change.

SPECIES OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE IN **SWANSEA**

Of the 662 individual Species of Principal Importance listed on the Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, xxx species have been recorded from the Swansea unitary authority area. Of these, xx species have not been recorded in the last 20 years. Many of these have suffered national declines and are therefore probably no longer resident in Swansea.

Table x shows the distribution of Species of Principal Importance according to taxonomic groups (excluding those not recorded in the last two decades). A full list of priority species recorded in Swansea available at xxx

PLEASE NOTE THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY INCOMPLETE.



Systematic Group	Number of species	% of Total No. S7 species in Swansea
Lichen	x	x
Liverwort & moss	x	x
Flowering Plants	x	x
Fungi	x	x
All plants & fungi	x	x
Butterflies & moths	x	x
Damselflies	x	x
Spiders	x	x
Bees, wasps & ants	x	x
Molluscs	x	x
True flies	x	x
Beetle	x	x
All invertebrates	x	x
Birds	x	x
Terrestrial mammals	x	x
Amphibians	x	x
Marine reptiles	x	x
Terrestrial reptiles	x	x
Fish	x	x
Marine mammals	x	x
All vertebrates	x	x
Total Species	x	x



YELLOW WHITLOW GRASS is a very rare plant species and in the UK found only on the limestone cliffs and old walls in the Gower. It blooms in the spring with beautifully dainty yellow flowers.



MARSH FRITILLARY is one of the UKs most threatened butterfly species, but we have a resident population on the Gower Commons SAC. In fact, this is the second most important area for the species in Wales.



HARBOUR PORPOISE is a frequent visitor to the seas around Swansea, commonly seen in Swansea Bay or off the Gower coast, so much so that part of Swansea's sea is designated as a SAC specifically for this species.



SOUTHERN DAMSELFLY has very specialised habitat requirements. There are two populations of southern damselfly in Gower Commons SAC which are the only known populations of this species in South Wales.



ADDER are a well-known feature of the Gower landscape, but their numbers across Wales are declining rapidly. They are peaceful and shy but venomous, and bites can happen by accidentally stepping on or picking them up.

SPOT LIGHT
ON SOME OF
SWANSEA'S
SPECIES



STRANDLINE BEETLE

has declined severely over the last 20 years from Welsh beaches, Devon and Cornwall as well as the French Atlantic coast. This rare coastal species is now classified as endangered, but is present in Swansea, with Whiteford being its principal site in South Wales at present.



WOOD BITTER VETCH is rare throughout West Glamorgan but there is a population present on Cadle Heath LNR, near Fforest-fach. This is one of only two populations of the species in West Glamorgan.



OTTER are present throughout Swansea and have been spotted in most major rivers including the Clyne, Loughor, and Tawe, as well as the Gower coast. However, there are worrying signs that otter have been declining in Swansea in recent years.



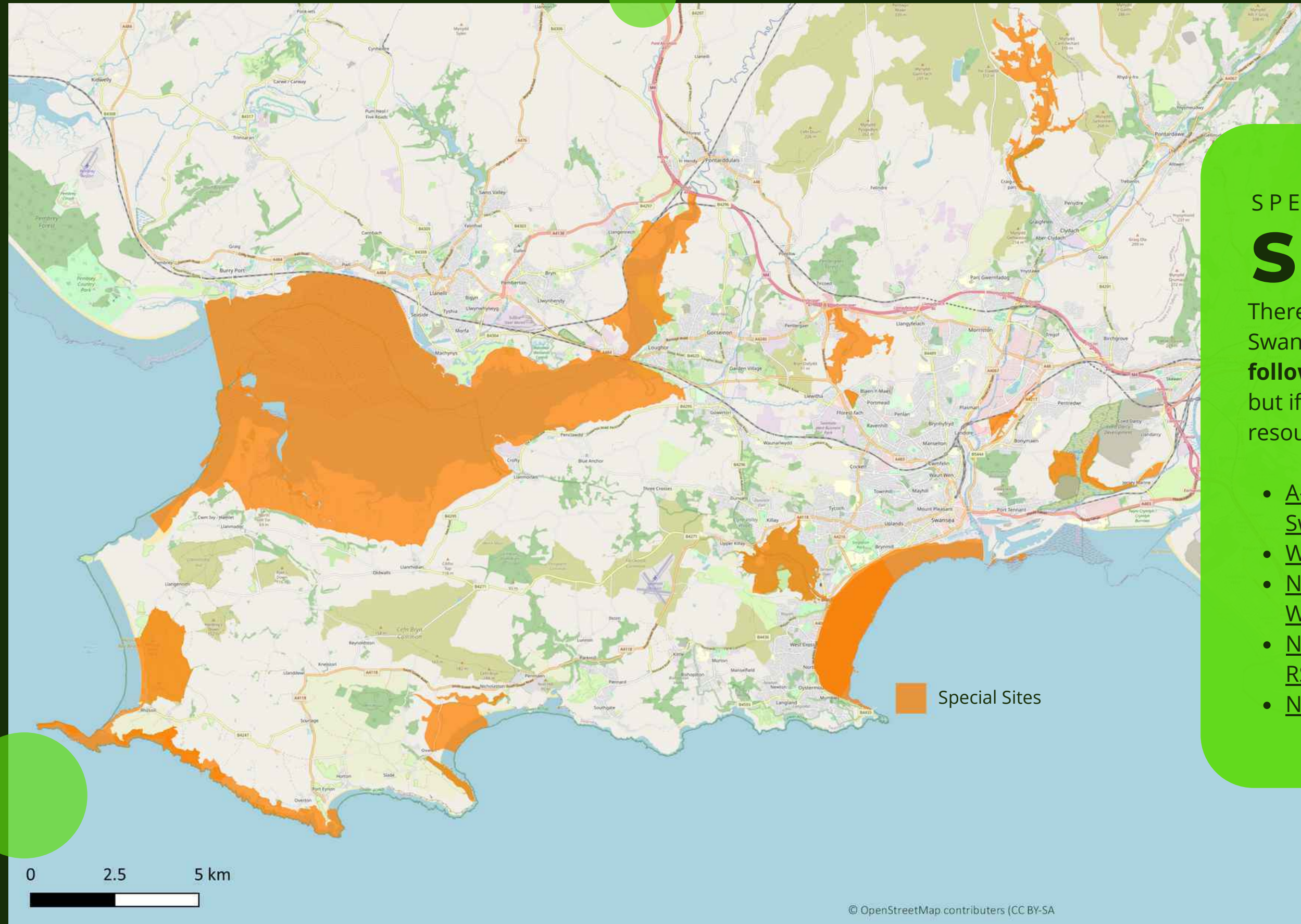
HORESHOE BATS faced catastrophic declines in the 20th century, but south Wales remains one of their strongholds and we are lucky to have both species (the lesser and the greater) resident in Swansea. The Vincent Wildlife Trust own a horseshoe roost on Gower that was a derelict building but is now a one-stop bat house! Glamorgan Bat Group monitor the horseshoe populations every year.



NORTH ATLANTIC GREY SEAL is the predominant seal species sighted on our Gower coast. The UK has around 38 percent of the global population and Gower has a very small percentage of that number. However, they do suffer from disturbance by a range of human activities. Gower Seal Group is committed to reducing such incidents by raising awareness of this globally rare visitor to our coastline.



CHOUGH populations declined sharply in the 19th century leaving them restricted to western parts of the UK. There are resident populations on the south Gower cliffs where birds are regularly spotted, however across Wales the species has declined over the past two decades.



SPECIAL SITES

There are many special sites for nature around Swansea, some protected by law and others not. **The following pages are just a few examples of these**, but if you want to find more then try some of the resources below.

- [A-Z parks, nature reserves and outdoor spaces - Swansea](#)
- [Wales | National Trust](#)
- [Nature Reserves | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)
- [Nature Reserves UK | Nature Walks Near You - The RSPB](#)
- [Natural Resources Wales / South West Wales](#)

LOUGHOR ESTUARY is a large estuarine complex comprising areas of grazed salt marsh, sand and mud flats. The site and the surrounding areas are subject to numerous designations (SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar) owing to several internationally important habitat features and species. For example the area is home to significant populations of overwintering wader and wildfowl populations averaging in excess of 46,000 birds. The marine parts of this site also form part of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine site.



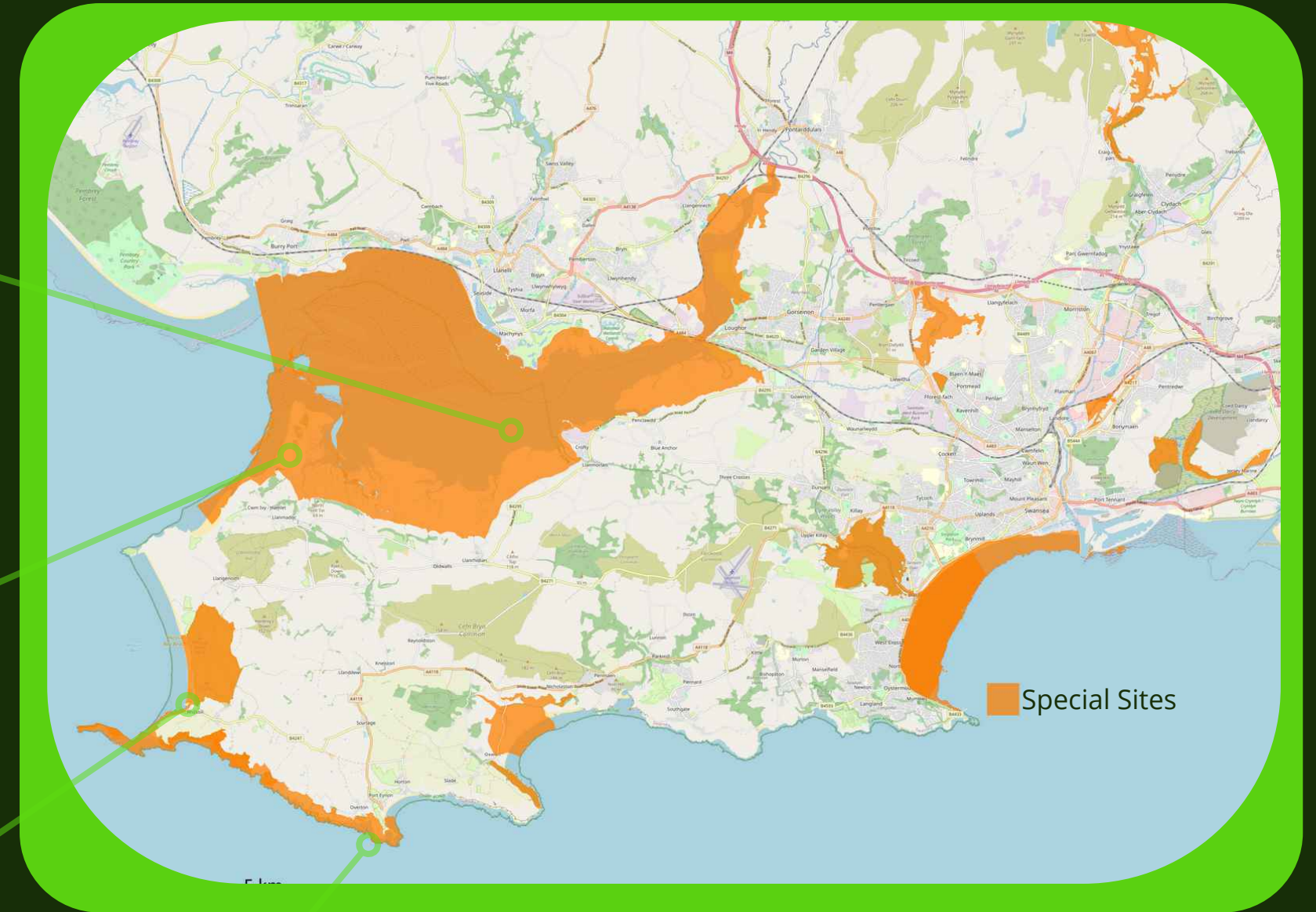
WHITEFORD NNR is an expanse of sand dunes, beach, tidal salt marsh and forest owned by the National Trust. The marshes are important for overwintering oystercatcher, knot, pintail and golden plover. Early marsh orchid, fen orchid, early sand grass, and dune gentian can also be found among the dune systems.

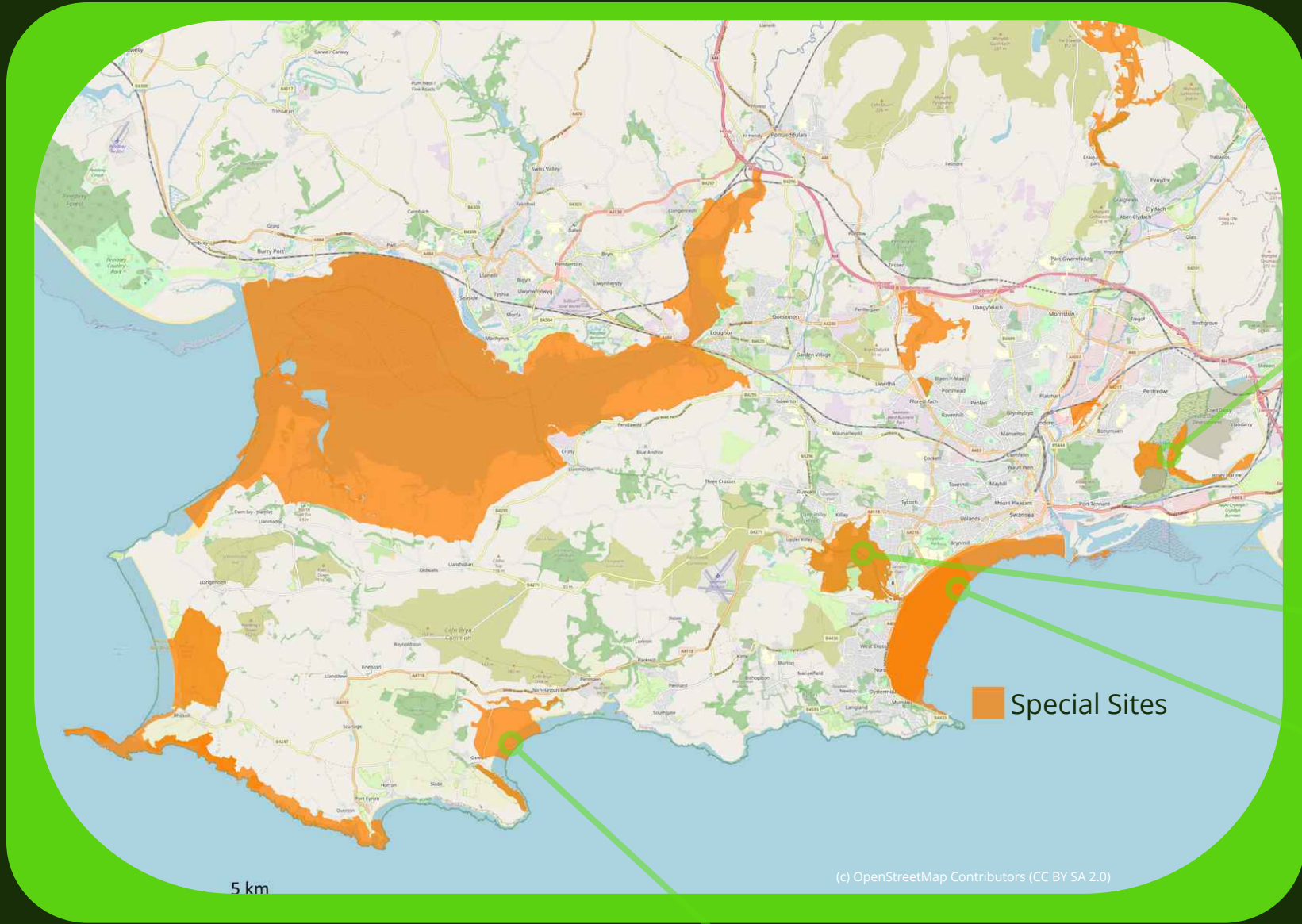


RHOSSILI DOWN SSSI and cliffs are among the largest commons on Gower covering 354 hectares. The Down consists of dry acid dwarf shrub heath with bracken dominated areas, and the site supports species such as brown hare, Dartford warbler, chough, southern damselfly, and black bog ant. The National Trust own much of this land and have been introducing wildlife friendly farming practices in some areas in recent years. They have been creating more wildflower meadows, managing hedgerows and reintroducing traditional strip field farming.



OVERTON MERE is part of the Gower Coast SSSI and has a diversity of habitats including hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, mixed gorse and heath, open limestone scree, and improved and unimproved limestone grassland. While the sea shore itself is a fossil raised beach dating back to the last Ice Age. Common rock-rose, milkwort, eyebright, linnet, meadow pipit, and stonechat are commonly observed, as well as green tiger beetle and the rare silky wave moth. The reserve is also notable for the Dexter Cattle and Welsh Mountain Ponies present that are used for conservation grazing.





CRYMLYN BOG NNR lies in the east of Swansea and is owned and managed by NRW. It is the largest expanse of lowland fen in Wales and home to a wide variety of wetland specialists including reed, sedge and Cetti's warbler, marsh cinquefoil, and royal fern. The bog is also one of seven sites involved in the LIFE Quake Project to restore quaking bogs.



CLYNE VALLEY COUNTRY PARK is the only country park in Swansea, covering 700 acres of land from Blackpill at the coast to Dunvant in the north. It has a long industrial past beginning with coal mining from the 14th century, and ironworks and a thriving brickmaking industry throughout the 19th and 20th century. The valley has since been reclaimed by wildlife, with varied oak, birch, and beech woods, providing habitat for many species of birds. Disused quarries and tunnels, provide shelter for bats, and the rare bee orchid is even found here. Access has improved over the years with the help of Clyne Valley Community Project so it's now even easier to experience nature in the park.



OXWICH NNR is managed by NRW. It is a diverse mix of beach, sand dunes, lakes, woodlands, cliffs and salt and freshwater marshes. The dunes are home to wild orchids that flower in spring and there is a nationally recognised population of the small blue butterfly. The NNR was also the site of a water vole reintroduction in 2022.

SWANSEA BAY is the longest beach in the county, stretching from the dunes near Swansea Marina to Mumbles Pier, which is home to a significant colony of breeding kittiwakes (on the old lifeboat station). The easterly part of the SINC has been the target of dune restoration works over recent years, while the westerly parts encompass **Blackpill SSSI** which is designated for internationally important numbers of overwintering sanderling and ringed plovers. These birds are sensitive to disturbance from people and pets.



PENLLERGARE VALLEY WOODS

consists of over 100 acres of woodland on an old Victorian estate. Previously the home of the Llewelyn family, today the estate is entrusted to the Penllergare Trust who have worked to protect the woods from further development encroachment and conserve and enhance biodiversity. Including most recently by using a local herd of Highland cow to increase grassland wildflower diversity. The woods on site are also carpeted with bluebell and wood anemone in the spring and the lakes are an excellent place to observe kingfishers, dippers, and otters.

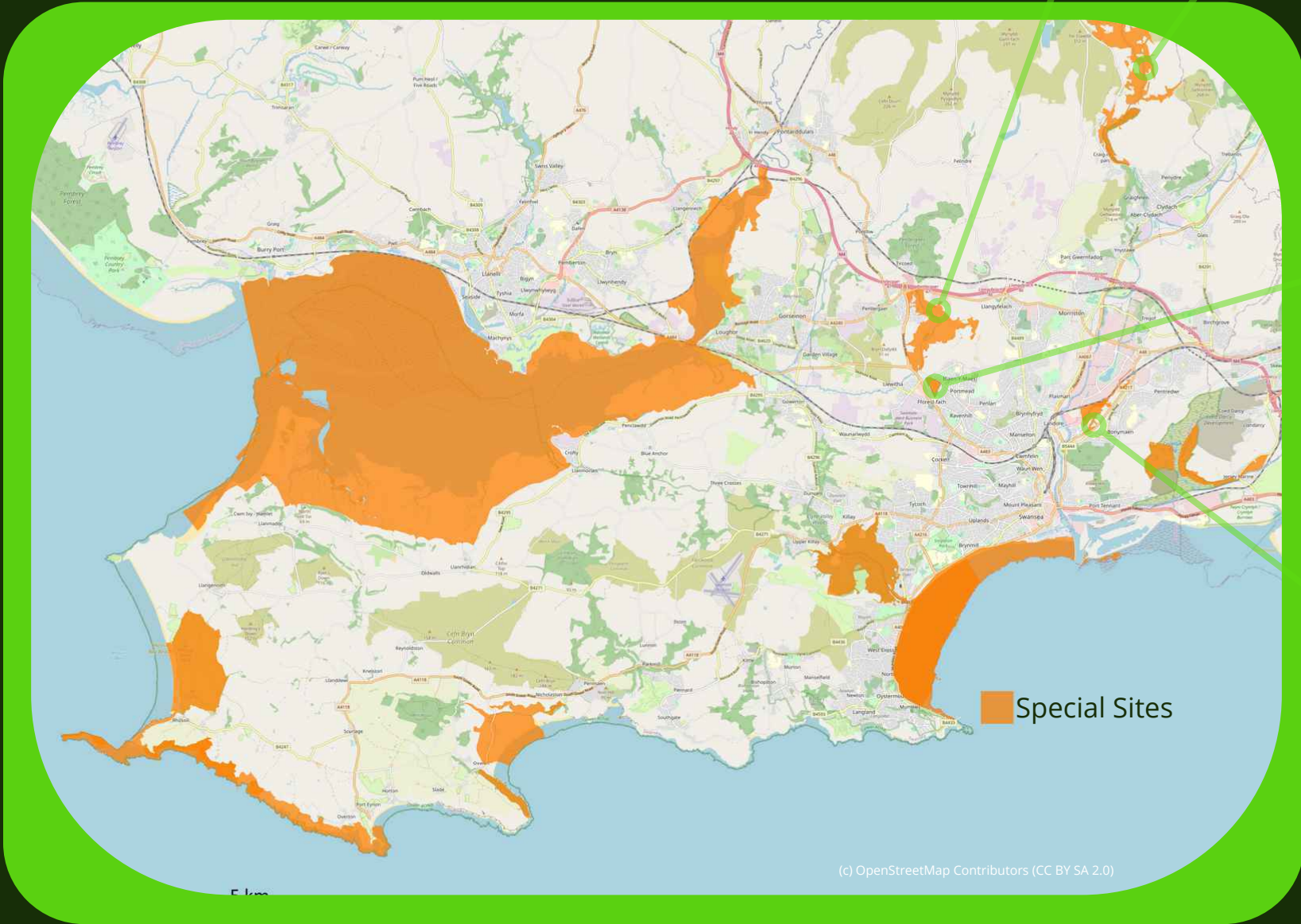


CWM CLYDACH nature reserve is owned and managed by the RSPB. The broadleaved woodland and Lower Clydach river that runs through the reserve support breeding wood warblers, grey wagtails, dippers, and spotted flycatchers. Buzzards, red kites, and ravens are also frequently spotted in the reserve.

CADLE HEATH LNR is an urban heathland. In addition to wet heath, the 11.5 hectare reserve has areas of grassland, ponds, scrub and woodland. It provides a home for a wide range of plants and animals including butterflies and dragonflies, frogs, skylarks, heather, devil's-bit scabious, southern marsh orchids and whorled caraway. There's also a significant colony of wood bitter vetch which only occurs on two sites in West Glamorgan.



PLUCK LAKE SINC encompasses Six Pit, Swansea Vale and White Rock SSSI. The industrial heritage of this site and surrounding areas are intimately linked to its protection, with the site being designated for three metal-loving species assemblages, that is calaminarian grassland, metal-tolerating lichen assemblages and spring sandwort. A successful translocation of *Scopelophila* moss was carried out on the site in the last few years, with the help of NRW and local botanists.





WHAT CAN I DO TO

HELP NATURE IN SWANSEA?

The following pages give *some* ideas for what you could do to help nature and contribute to the priorities for nature recovery (action themes) in Swansea. This is not an exhaustive list but a starting point.

To make it easier, ideas have been tagged with icons for home, school, work, your community or as a nature enthusiast to give you an idea of where you could implement them but you don't have to stick to these categories!



Home



School



Work



Community



Nature enthusiast

DRAFT

WHAT CAN I DO?

MAKE SPACE FOR NATURE!



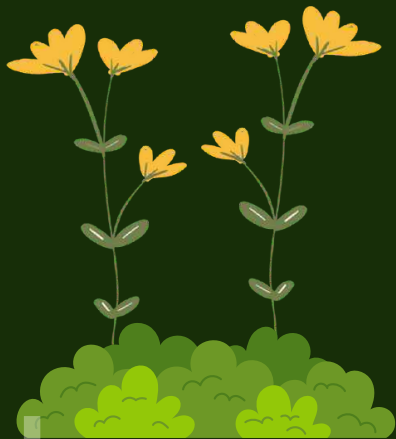
You can quickly and cheaply **make a meadow** for wildlife, by reducing the amount of times you mow your grass! Let grass grow between April and July to see what native flowers bloom. You always need to **cut and remove** the clippings in late summer or autumn, as is being done in some of our Swansea Parks. If you don't have many flowers, then you can buy native local seed or plugs to boost your lawn. Yellow rattle is especially good to plant as this controls grass growth which helps wildflowers!



You could **plant trees** as they provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for many species including insects, birds and bats. You could plant and manage a small group of trees, or stick with a single tree in a border, hedge or lawn. Evergreen (those that keep their leaves) and deciduous (those that lose their leaves over winter) trees bring different features to your garden and if it's possible then have both!. Evergreen trees will give foliage and greenery all year round, whilst deciduous ones will give a huge variety of leaf shape and colours plus a seasonal bounty of fruits and seeds. Always make sure you plant trees around 2-3 m apart, and avoid planting within 4m of buildings.

Planting more trees can be beneficial for the climate and wildlife, but the wrong tree planted in the wrong place can do more damage than good. For example, planting trees in wildflower rich meadows or peatlands can cause more carbon to be released than can be captured by the tree and it could reduce biodiversity. For more information on choosing the **right tree for the right place** see here.

Plant native wildflowers and shrubs to provide food and shelter for pollinators and other species. The flowers and berries of native plants will attract butterflies, moths, bees, and birds. Evergreen shrubs also provide food and shelter during colder months. You can even encourage bats into your garden by planting flowers that attract insects, for example, night-scented stock, evening primrose and lavender. Keep Wales Tidy offer packages for groups to improve outdoor spaces for people and and wildlife!



Consider **green infrastructure** in renovation projects including green walls, green roofs and rain planters - these help support biodiversity, reduce energy costs, and boost our health and wellbeing. They can also reduce flooding by diverting surface water run off away from our conventional drainage systems.

Additional Links for further resources

- [How to mow your lawn for wild flowers - No Mow May \(plantlife.org.uk\)](http://plantlife.org.uk)
- [How to grow a wild patch or mini meadow | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

- [Conservation - Keep Wales Tidy](#)
- [How to plant a Barcham Tree - Barcham](#)
- [How much to water newly planted trees? - Barcham](#)
- [Arboricultural Association - Guide to Young Tree Establishment \(trees.org.uk\)](http://trees.org.uk)

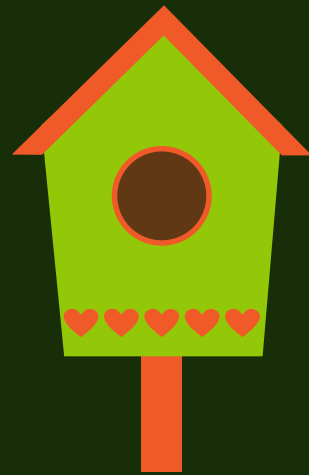
- [Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure - Trees and Design Action Group \(tdag.org.uk\)](http://tdag.org.uk)
- [Climate action - Green infrastructure strategy - Swansea](#)
- [Livingroofs.org, the leading UK green roof website](http://livingroofs.org)

WHAT CAN I DO?

GIVE NATURE A HOME!



Any **bird box** is beneficial to install on a suitable structure or tree, but swifts especially are struggling. They need a special type of box that is placed at least 5 meters up, ideally on a north facing wall no obstacles for them to swoop into. By installing swift boxes in your home in suitable locations you would be contributing to the [Saving Swansea's Swifts Initiative](#)! Bird boxes can be placed on large trees or the side of a building, so you don't even need a garden to help birds!



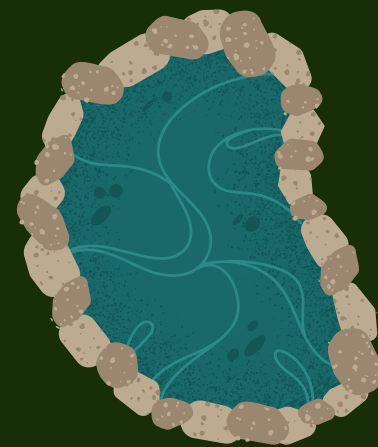
You could **install a bat box** to provide seasonal homes for bats where access to tree roosts and suitable buildings is limited. Bats need time to find and explore new roosts, and it may be several months or even years before boxes have residents – be patient! Once bats find a place they want to live they can return over and over again. Please note, as bats are vulnerable to disturbance and fully protected under UK law, **boxes must only be opened by a licensed bat worker**. Bat boxes can be placed on large trees or the side of a building.



Insects and other minibeasts need safe spaces to shelter, hide from predators, and raise their young. You can help them by leaving or **creating natural features** like standing or fallen dead wood, log stacks, or by leaving some dead vegetation over winter. All the rotting wood, flaking bark and maze of little gaps between the logs is also heaven for other wildlife including toads and newts!



You could also invest in an **owl box**. Although owls prefer quieter spaces, so you'll need the right conditions and this may be suited to homes or business with relatively large areas of land, such as farms. Barn owls love buildings, so a disused building or quiet loft (where the bird can enter at 3m+) could be a good place for a barn owl box. Tawny owls however prefer woodland habit.



You can **make a shallow pond** to create habitat for many species including insects, amphibians, and plants; as well as providing an important water resource for birds and mammals. Even a washing up bowl can be turned into wildlife wetland feature. [Do you have space for a wildlife pond or mini wetland?](#) However, make sure you are careful moving pond plants from other gardens, as there are [some nasty species which can ruin your pond](#).

Additional Links for further resources

- [Nestboxes For The Garden - The RSPB](#)
- [Tawny Owl nestboxes - The Barn Owl Trust](#)
- [Ways to help nature - Swansea](#)
- [Where's the best place for your Barn Owl nestbox? \(barnowltrust.org.uk\)](#)
- [Putting up your box - Bat Boxes - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#)
- [Create a log pile for wildlife | The RSPB](#)
- [How to build a pond | The Wildlife Trusts](#)
- [All-new resource for creating garden wildlife ponds out now | Amphibian and Reptile Conservation \(arc-trust.org\)](#)
- [Local Places for Nature - Keep Wales Tidy](#)

WHAT CAN I DO?

CHECK YOUR POLLUTION!



Think about your use of chemicals at home, the garden, the classroom and at work. Using phosphate free dishwashing detergent is one way to minimise water pollution. You could also avoid using artificial pesticides, herbicides, and fertilisers. Plus using peat free compost or trying to make your own. Another idea is to use alternatives to slug pellets like coffee grounds and eggshells.

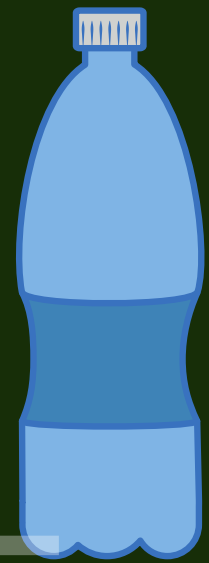


Artificial grass is a source of microplastic pollution. Some products claim to be recyclable, but this can only be done through a specialist process, so after the artificial grass has exceeded its lifetime (10-20 years) it likely ends up in landfill.

Artificial grass cannot store carbon or help with flooding like living plants can, so it also provides no climate benefit. In fact, the process of making it emits carbon meaning it is a net polluter. Artificial grass also provides no food or shelter for wildlife, and forms a near complete barrier to the soil beneath it, preventing vital food resources, such as dead leaves, from reaching the soil. This starves ground dwelling invertebrates such as earthworms. Burrowing insects, like solitary bees, are also prevented from finding homes.

If you don't have grass at your home, school or workplace, or you have a shady balcony and want to introduce some greenery, **instead of artificial grass** try potted evergreen shrubs, or shade tolerant plants such as bluebell, wild garlic, or snowdrops. These will brighten up your space without introducing harmful plastics and provide food and shelter for wildlife!

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Plastic pollution is everywhere, and it's especially damaging to marine and freshwater ecosystems. It's a huge threat to wildlife because it doesn't break down easily. Larger pieces can trap and/or injure wildlife, while smaller pieces of plastic can be ingested and build up in the bodies of animals at the top of the food chain (including us). There are many small changes you can make to **reduce your plastic footprint** like trying to buy loose fruit and vegetables that aren't covered in plastic. Or if you have the time and space you could try growing your own vegetables at home. If you do need to buy plastic, be sure to recycle it afterwards.



Check for drain misconnections . A drain misconnection is when an appliance (e.g. washing machine) or plumbing (e.g. toilet) is connected to the wrong drain or pipe so foul water is released into the surface water sewer, instead of the waste water sewer. The surface water sewer is released directly into rivers or streams, so if there is a misconnection, pollutants will be released into the surrounding water ways and beaches every time you flush or wash your clothes! It's the property owners responsibility to fix a misconnection, but you can contact Dŵr Cymru, your local authority, or a WaterSafe plumber for advise if you suspect you have a misconnection.

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Additional Links for further resources

- [Chemical-free organic gardening | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)
- [How to use less plastic | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)
- [Natural Resources Wales / Have you ever considered how you might be causing pollution?](#)
- [ConnectRight](#)
- [Drain Misconnections Threaten Our Rivers | The Rivers Trust](#)
- [Misconnected sewers | Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water \(dwrcymru.com\)](#)

WHAT CAN I DO?

FIGHT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

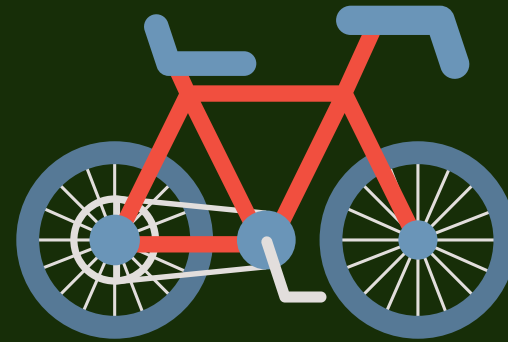


Around one-third of food is lost or wasted during the journey from field to table, which has a huge environmental footprint. If food waste were a country it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases!

Reducing the distance between where your food is produced and where you buy it can help **reduce food waste** and emissions, benefiting the climate, nature, and you! Eating seasonally will also help reduce the environmental footprint from your diet as it avoids foods grown in energy intensive greenhouses.

Everything you do to fight climate change will also help with nature recovery, so thank you! Some **simple changes** you could make around the house, classroom or business could include switching to a green energy provider, minimising wasted electricity and water use, and walking and cycling where possible.

If you're a business owner you could encourage your employees to cycle or walk to the office by participating in the cycle-to-work scheme and/or provide support for staff to commute via public transport.



Peat is commonly used in compost for gardening but it is dug out of moors, bogs and fens causing damage to extremely vulnerable and hard to replace habitat, and all the species that depend on it. In the UK more than 94% of lowland peat bogs are damaged or destroyed. Peat is slow growing (only a millimetre or two a year) so peat that is lost won't be replaced in our lifetime, our children's, or even our grandchildren's. In fact some commercial extraction can remove more than 500 years of peat growth in a single year!

Peatlands are not only important for the wildlife that depend on them but they are also huge carbon sinks, meaning they store lots of carbon underground. When the peat is damaged or destroyed this carbon is released, contributing to climate change. So by **going peat free** you can help reduce your environmental impact and prevent further damage to these delicate and unique ecosystems.

If you do eat meat, try choosing meat with lower carbon footprints, such as pasture/grass fed meat rather than grain fed meat. Especially those from local and/or **regenerative farms** which employ more nature friendly methods to grow crops and farm livestock.



Additional Links for further resources

- [Change how you travel | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)
- [The Anatomy Of Action](#)
- [Regenerative Agriculture - Innovation for Agriculture](#)
- [What is Conservation Grazing | PONT \(pontcymru.org\)](#)
- [Reduce food waste | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)
- [How to go peat free at home | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)

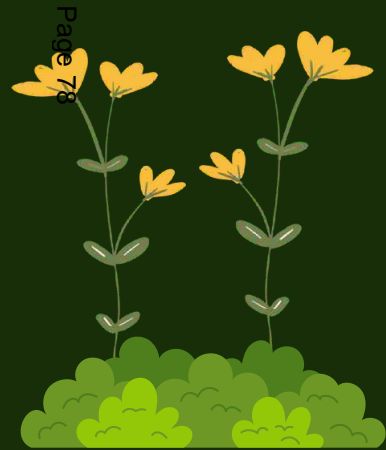
WHAT CAN I DO?

IF I'M SHORT ON SPACE?

YOU CAN STILL...

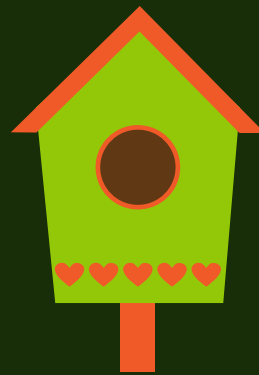


Install a **green roof** on a bin shelter, shed or balcony. You could also install a green wall or window box. Go have a look at the [Environment Centre](#) on Pier Street for inspiration.



Plant native wildflowers and shrubs. For smaller spaces, planting climbers such as honeysuckle, clematis, sweet peas, and roses provide resources for pollinators without the need for large spaces. Remember the same principles apply if you don't have any outdoor spaces, you can plant the wildflowers in window boxes or planters!

You don't have to have a garden or outdoor grounds to put up a **bird box** as you can install these on your home, school or workplace buildings (though you may need permission if you are not the owner!). Some bird boxes can even be put on trees, if you have any. The same goes for **bat boxes** too!



FOR SCHOOLS ESPECIALLY



DISCOVER NATURE

Understanding and appreciation for nature can be fostered in children from a very early age. Biodiversity is an essential component of **environmental education** and can be linked to the national curriculum in many different ways. For example you could complete a biodiversity audit of your school grounds (even if you don't have much greenspace you could be surprised at what you might find!) and record what species you find. Make sure to submit your records to [SEWBRc](#), this can be done [online](#) or via the [LERC Wales app](#). This exercise could be especially interesting if you have created/are managing wildlife areas within your grounds.



Take the children to visit one of the many [nature reserves in Swansea](#). Time spent in nature is proven to improve learning and it will give students the chance to **discover the natural world** around them. If you don't have the skills or experience to teach the students yourself you could look into courses or trips run by experienced outdoor education tutors. .

Additional Links for further resources

- [Livingroofs.org](#), the leading UK green roof website
- [Forest School training \(forestschoolsnpt.org.uk\)](#)
- [BioBlitz | School Wild Challenge - The RSPB](#)
- [A-Z parks, nature reserves and outdoor spaces - Swansea](#)
- [Eco-Schools - Keep Wales Tidy - Eco-Schools](#)

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WHAT CAN I DO?

SET AN EXAMPLE: IN SCHOOL



Become an **Eco-school** to encourage young people to make positive environmental changes to their school and wider community



Join the **Bee Friendly Scheme** to contribute to landscape scale action for pollinators.

Demonstrate good practices for the environment in the classroom by using water and energy efficiently, minimising waste, and reusing and re-cycling where possible. If you have space on your school grounds you could create a school wildlife garden, orchard or vegetable patch and use it to teach wildlife friendly gardening practices.



Additional Links for further resources

- [How to certify as a B Corp - B Lab UK \(bcorporation.uk\)](https://www.bcorporation.net)
- [Wales Biodiversity Partnership - How can I get involved \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk)
- [Business Support - Keep Wales Tidy - Caru Cymru](#)
- [Green Key - Keep Wales Tidy](#)
- [How to help wildlife at work | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](https://www.welshwildlife.org)
- [How to help wildlife at school | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](https://www.welshwildlife.org)

Bee Friendly Scheme

AS A BUSINESS



If you don't have grounds or can't manage them for nature you can **donate** to an environmental Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that looks after nature elsewhere instead. Bonus points for supporting a local scheme in Swansea!

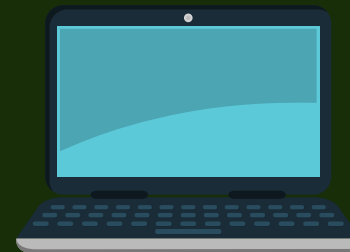


Asses the impact on nature when making decisions in your business and do everything you can to **minimise your impact** and support nature recovery!

Set up a volunteering scheme in your company. You could allow employees special leave days to volunteer with a local nature conservation organisation. This can benefit your employees, as well as the local wildlife, by allowing them to gain new skills and experiences. If you want suggestions for where to volunteer contact the Local Nature Partnership Coordinator(s) for further detail.



Share your companies nature positive actions online to encourage and inspire other business to take action for nature recovery in Swansea.



Get certified as a **B-Corp** . B-Corp businesses meet high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability.



WHAT CAN I DO?

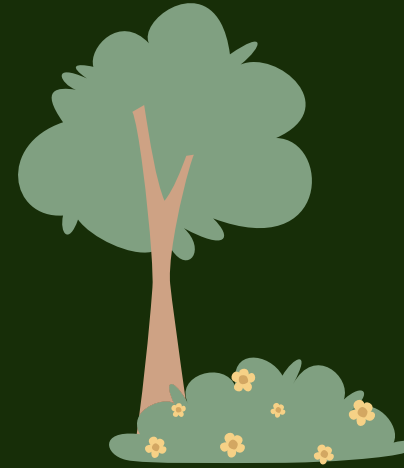
IN MY COMMUNITY



Volunteer for one of the many small grassroots **community groups** in Swansea, like the [Clyne Valley Community Project](#), [Kilvey Community Woodland Volunteers](#), [Rosehill Quarry](#), or the numerous Swansea Parks 'Friends of' groups (as just some examples), or [create your own!](#) [Contact](#) Swansea Council's Nature Conservation Team's Volunteer Co-ordinator, or your local [Keep Wales Tidy Project Officer](#) for more details.



The more people know about the nature around them, the more they might care and take actions to ensure its recovery, so shout about the nature in your community! You can **spread awareness** at community events or on social media.



Get to know nature in your community and if you think you've got somewhere on your local patch that should be protected, or if you want management advice then [contact](#) the Swansea Local Nature Partnership Coordinator (s).



Nature recovery needs **coordinated action** so you could work with neighbours to establish wildlife corridors such as [hedgehog highways](#).



Contact your councillor. Get in touch with your local politician and ask what is being done to maintain and enhance biodiversity or let them know any concerns you have. In some cases you could also see what your workplace could do to help nature in your community.

You could **organise** events such as [litter picks](#) or river cleans, or consider working together to create spaces for nature such as wildlife gardens or community orchards



If you're concerned about damage or danger to the natural environment then you can **report an incident** to the [relevant authorities](#).

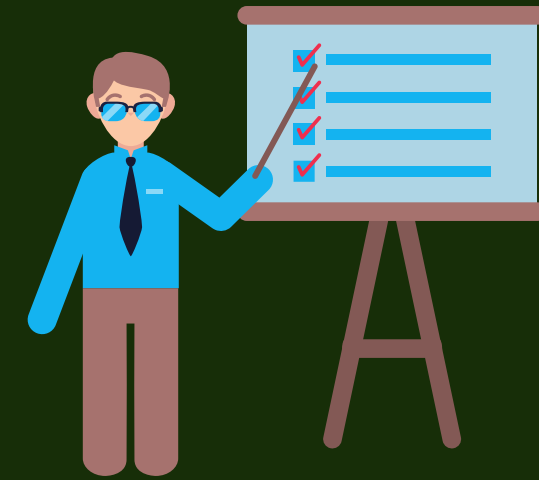
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Additional Links for further resources

- [Community Group Insurance Form - Keep Wales Tidy - Caru Cymru](#)
- [Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Swansea \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](#)
- [Create nature highways and byways | The RSPB](#)
- [Coastal And Inland Cleanup Guide - World Ocean Day - World Ocean Day](#)
- [How to organize a cleanup? | River Cleanup \(river-cleanup.org\)](#)
- [Litter Champions - Keep Wales Tidy - Caru Cymru](#)
- [How to organise a community litter pick - The Waste Management & Recycling Blog \(forgerecycling.co.uk\)](#)
- [Litter Picking Hubs - Keep Wales Tidy - Caru Cymru](#)
- [Awards - Keep Wales Tidy](#)

WHAT CAN I DO?

AS A NATURE ENTHUSIAST



One of the best things you can do with your knowledge and experience is to **share your skills** with others! You could do this through a local nature group, by attending a recording event and lending your experience, or you could even run your own nature events to pass on your skills to members of your community. If you want any help or advice contact the Local Nature Partnership Coordinator(s).

Are you a skilled birder? Or are beetles more your thing? Whether you're a specialist, a jack of all trades, a keen beginner or a life long learner you could **use your skills** by volunteering your time. You could take part in a citizen science project, a national monitoring scheme or a local BioBlitz!

You could even start your own survey. This could range from discovering the nature in your garden, or monitoring your local patch for your favourite species. **Always remember to submit your records to SEWBRcC!**



Record what you see when you are out and about (even just on your evening dog walk!) and **submit your records** to the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRcC). It is free and easy to do, you can submit your records online using SEWBRcCORD or via the LERC Wales app. If you aren't able to submit records online or using an app you can also share your sightings with SEWBRcC via email or on a recording form. **You don't have to be an expert to submit records**, and if you're not confident in your identification then try taking a picture to submit alongside your sighting. Biological records can help monitor species and habitats so by submitting your records you could be helping their conservation! You can also explore records near you online using Aderyn.



Whether you're a botanist looking to hone your existing skills, a birder looking to break into butterflies or a complete beginner hoping to learn your first tree its never too late to keep learning and **expand your skills**. There are plenty of free online resources, apps and webinars to get you started. You could also join a local nature group, or attend an event to learn from experienced naturalists.

You could also **join the Swansea Local Nature Partnership** to share your particular expertise and/or local knowledge. Contact the Local Nature Partnership Coordinator(s) for more information.

Additional Links for further resources

- National Bat Monitoring Programme - Our Work - Bat Conservation Trust (bats.org.uk)
- Big Butterfly Count (butterfly-conservation.org)
- Local Groups - The Mammal Society
- Glamorgan, v.c. 41 - Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org)
- Gower Ornithological Society - Home to The Gower Ringing Group (gowerbirds.org.uk)
- Glamorgan :: British Mycological Society (britmycolsoc.org.uk)
- Glamorgan Bat Group - glambatclub@gmail.com
- Natural History Courses - Field Studies Council (field-studies-council.org)
- Training | The Species Recovery Trust | Salisbury
- Learn | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (welshwildlife.org)
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Swansea (biodiversitywales.org.uk)
- Saving Swansea's Swifts - Gower Ornithological Society (gowerbirds.org.uk)
- SEWBRcC :: recording
- What is a biological record? | Biodiversity Projects (fscbiodiversity.uk)
- Add a record - Ancient Tree Inventory (woodlandtrust.org.uk)



TECHNICAL TERM

EXPLAINERS

Please keep reading for definitions and explanations of some technical terms used in the Swansea LNRAP.

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EXPLAINER: WHAT ARE SPECIES, HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS?

There are many technical definitions of a **species** but one of the simplest is, a group of organisms (e.g. animals, plants, fungi) that can reproduce naturally with one another and create fertile offspring. This is the biological definition of a species.

A **habitat** is where species make their home. Habitats provide all the conditions (environmental and otherwise) a species needs to survive.

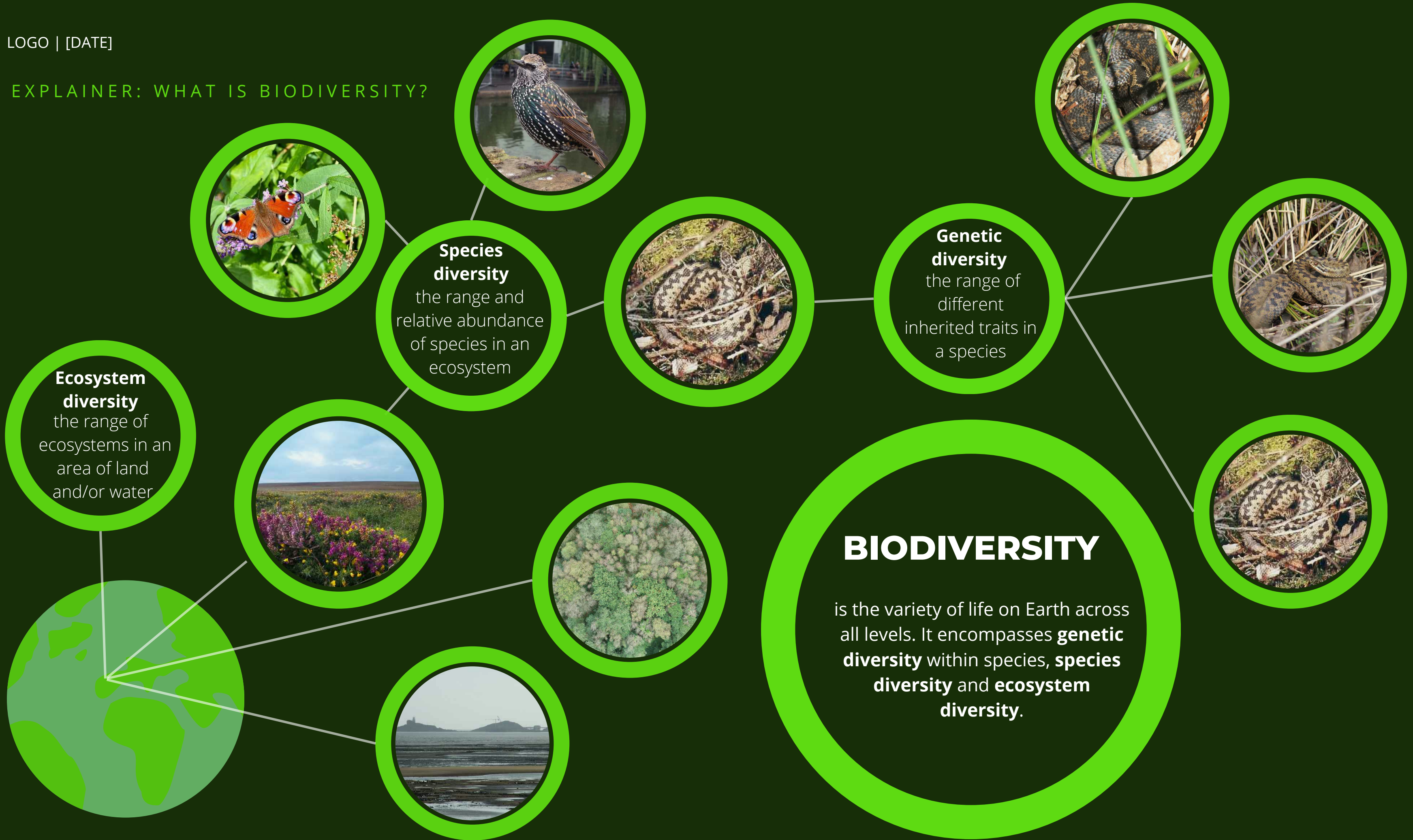
Species and their interactions with each other, as well as their habitats plus the physical environment (e.g. air, water, soil, weather) are what make up **ecosystems**.

In technical terms an ecosystem is a biological community of interacting species as well as the physical environment in a given area. The biological and physical parts of the ecosystem are linked through nutrient cycles and the flow of energy (e.g. grazing or predation).

If a habitat is a home, then an ecosystem is the street/neighbourhood where that home is situated.



EXPLAINER: WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?



EXPLAINER: WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

If you want to learn more about GI in Swansea then you can read the [Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife \(GI\) strategy](#).

Smart & sustainable

GI solutions can help save energy, and natural resources, e.g. a bio solar roof (green roof with solar panels) can boost the solar gain.



Multi-functional

GI must provide multiple ecosystem functions e.g. flood relief, increasing biodiversity, improving well-being, increasing building insulation etc..



Biodiverse

GI provides food and shelter for native species, they should also provide connectivity (e.g. green corridors and buzz highways).



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (GI)

is a network of **multi-functional** green space (urban or rural) that provides a range of **benefits** for **wildlife** and **communities**. GI can include natural habitat, as well as features like green roofs and green walls. GI installations are also called **nature-based solutions**.

Health

GI features create a sense of place and wellbeing, supporting our mental and physical health and creating spaces to play and socialise.



Adapted for climate change

GI can help towns and cities adapt to climate change by capturing water to reduce flooding, provide summer shade and improve air and water quality.

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: **Strategic Planning and City Regeneration**

Directorate: **Place**

Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP)

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- X - Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation**
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

The Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) is a partnership plan produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership (LNP). Local Nature Recovery Action Plans (LNRAP) are non-statutory partnership plans produced by Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) in the relevant Local Authority or National Park in Wales. LNRAPs are aligned with and informed by Welsh national biodiversity policy which is currently the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales.

The NRAP for Wales as it currently stands sets out 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales and is complemented by 5 themes of action aimed at addressing issues that are driving decline in biodiversity, and to support recovery (Table 1).

Table 1. NRAP for Wales objectives and themes of action.

Objectives	Themes of Action
1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	1. Maintaining and enhancing resilient ecological networks.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.	2. Increasing knowledge and knowledge transfer.
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	3. Realising new investment and funding.
4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.	4. Upskilling and capacity for delivery.
5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.	5. Governance, mainstreaming and reporting our progress.

6. Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery.	
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Local NRAPs are one of the delivery mechanisms to meet the six objectives for nature recovery set out in the NRAP for Wales at a local level. Outside of policy drivers for LNRAPs there is also a real need for them as a tool in delivering nature recovery as we are in a nature emergency. The [Senedd](#) and [Swansea Council](#) declared nature emergencies in 2021, [species are declining in abundance and distribution](#), habitats and [protected sites are in poor condition](#) and overall ecosystem resilience is poor. There is therefore the urgent need for coordinated and cohesive action at all scales to achieve nature recovery.

The Swansea LNRAP identifies priorities for achieving nature recovery in Swansea as so-called action themes. These are guided at the top level by the six objectives and five themes of action in the NRAP for Wales, but they are underpinned by local knowledge and priorities, as well as the themes highlighted in the [South West Wales](#), and [Marine Area Statements](#) (Table 2).

Table 2. South West Wales and Marine Area Statement Themes

South West Wales Area Statement Themes	Marine Area Statement Themes
1. Reducing health inequalities.	1. Building resilience of marine ecosystems.
2. Ensuring sustainable land management.	2. Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast.
3. Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity.	3. Making the most of marine planning.
4. Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate (cross-cutting theme).	

In the draft Swansea LNRAP there are 25 action themes. It is intended that the action themes be narrower in focus than the six objectives in the NRAP for Wales to effectively guide LNP partner actions, but also broad enough to act as an umbrella for partner actions, as the Swansea LNP is a diverse partnership. Table 3 below provides two examples to illustrate the linkages between Swansea LNRAP action themes and the 6 objectives.

Table 3. Relationship between NRAP for Wales objective and Swansea LNRAP action themes.

NRAP for Wales Objective	Swansea LNRAP Action Theme
Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	1.1. Provide accessible educational and awareness raising events in-person and/or online, especially focussing on expanding the reach of initiatives outside of people/groups already engaged in nature recovery and conservation.
Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	3.3. Ensure that at least 30% of Swansea County is protected and effectively managed for nature by 2030, including marine*, terrestrial and freshwater** areas

* Marine habitats between high and low mean water springs **terrestrial and freshwater land/habitats down to high mean water springs within the county boundary.

The Swansea LNRAP can be divided into four broad sections, with the first focussing on introducing key concepts such as the importance of nature, ecosystem services, ecosystem resilience, and the relationship between these concepts. It also provides an overview of nature and ecosystem resilience in Swansea and the main barriers to nature recovery.

The second section focusses on the action themes. Firstly, identifying global, regional, and local influences and then introducing the action themes in six tables organised by the six objectives for nature recovery in the NRAP for Wales (table 1). For each action theme a brief case study of a project is provided, that gives a real-life example of how LNP members have, had, or are planning to undertake actions that align with the action theme.

The third section provides further detail on nature in Swansea. This is achieved through descriptions of Habitats of Principal Importance (Section 7) and other habitat groupings including woodland, wetland, open water, heath & grassland, coastal habits, the marine and urban environment. As well as pages that give examples of 11 species and 12 sites that are 'special' in Swansea, for example chough, horseshoe bats, Atlantic grey seals, Whiteford National Nature Reserve, Swansea Bay Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and Pluck Lake SINC. It is intended that an audit summary of Species of Principal Importance (Section 7) will also be included, but this is currently incomplete.

The fourth and final section focusses on awareness raising and provides suggestions for what members of the public rather than the LNP per say can do for nature recovery in Swansea. These are provided by the way of eight infographics. These are not fully comprehensive lists but rather some ideas to help lead people in the right direction. The ideas and suggestions were generated from other LNRAPS, input from Swansea LNP as well as existing biodiversity campaigns, and contain links to additional resources.

It is intended that the Swansea LNRAP be used to guide LNP partner actions towards nature recovery using the action themes. For example, within the council, a Section 6 Plan¹ is currently in draft that will set out actions the council will aim to take over the next three-year Section 6 reporting cycle. These actions will be directly guided by the LNRAP action themes, and so in this way the LNRAP priorities for nature recovery will be translated into the actions as a council and partner of the Swansea LNP.

Please note that the Swansea LNRAP does not commit any one LNP partner to any specific actions. It is therefore the responsibility of individual LNP partners to identify where and how they can contribute to actions towards the Swansea LNRAP action themes.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

¹ The Section 6 Plan is linked to the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Swansea Council is subject to under the [Environment \(Wales\) 2015 Act](#). That is we must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of our functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

The Swansea LNRAP has been created with:

- Engagement and feedback from Swansea LNP members, including:
 - written feedback on the initial draft framework - 17 responses from at least seven different organisations².
 - two group workshops - attended by 24 LNP members from 15 organisations.
 - Several one-to-one follow up discussions and informal feedback from presentations at quarterly meetings.
 - Written feedback from the second draft review – 13 responses from at least 11 different organisations.
- Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies, and plans have been taken into account, as well as relevant public consultations³.
- Regard to relevant evidence reports.
- Consideration of data regarding nature in Swansea, including habitats, species, and ecosystem resilience.
- Consultation with the Climate & Nature STC Committee including an informal workshop.

Table 4 below details the timeline of development for the Swansea LNRAP thus far.

Table 4. LNRAP development timeline.

April – June 2022	Initial framework written from review of other LNRAPs, relevant evidence reports, and advice from LNP Cymru mentors.
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² Some feedback was given anonymously therefore it is not possible to know the exact number of organisations.

³ LNP partners shared the Swansea specific results from Natur am Byth! Swansea Bay, Coasts, Commons and Communities -2022 & NRW Natur am Ni – 2022 consultations. These were reviewed to inform the Swansea LNRAP.

July – September 2022	Initial framework sent for review to Swansea LNP (18 th July), deadline 9 th September 2022.
September – October 2022	Written feedback collated and summarised. Responses to feedback written and issued to LNP (26 th September 2022).
	Two workshops held with LNP members to discuss themes arising from written feedback on first draft, 30 th September, and 28 th October.
November 2022 – June 2023	Feedback from first review and workshops incorporated into the redraft, as well as relevant local community consultations, plus follow up discussions with relevant LNP members.
June – July 2023	Second draft report sent out to LNP partners (6 th June) for comments, deadline 10 th July 2023.
July – August 2023	Second draft presented and shared with Climate & Nature recovery STC on 17 th July and members were asked to provide feedback. Deadline 10 th August 2023. Informal workshop held with STC members on 31 st July.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes **If yes, please provide details below**

Yes, the Swansea LNRAP will impact all Council Services directly and indirectly in a positive manner. The Swansea LNRAP will provide the overarching framework to inform and direct the emerging Councils Section S6 Plan which will set out actions the council will undertake in their Section 6 Biodiversity Duty. The Swansea LNRAP will also provide background information to inform officers and members of the need for nature recovery in Swansea and how the council can contribute to the 30 by 30 nature recovery target.

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

The cumulative impact on people and communities will be low but positive. The Swansea LNRAP will help to coordinate and direct nature recovery action across Swansea which will hopefully benefit all in Swansea long term. Nature is clearly associated with improved health and wellbeing by providing access to biodiverse greenspace to exercise, socialise and play and enjoy nature. Exposure to nature facilitates social interaction and is calming and inspiring, lowering stress and improving mental health and cognitive development. So, the Swansea LNRAP will provide health and well-being benefits long term to local communities as well as benefiting nature. Alongside the environmental and health benefits of nature there are numerous well documented economic benefits.

The Swansea LNRAP will also benefit people and communities in Swansea by providing a resource for ideas and awareness raising for what members of the public can do for nature recovery in Swansea. These are provided by way of eight infographics which also contain links to further resources and ideas.

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The impacts are considered low and positive due to the nature of the plan which is designed to aid nature recovery in Swansea, thereby improving environmental, social, and economic wellbeing. As such no mitigation is required.

The Swansea LNRAP has been created with extensive involvement and input from the Swansea Local Nature Partnership. As well as with regard to relevant national, and subnational policies and legislation, evidence reports and community consultations. The plan has also been reviewed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee, with feedback provided.

The plan will contribute to Swansea Council's Corporate Objective for Climate Change and Nature Recovery, and will assist the Council in its Well-being Duty, especially with regard to the 'Resilient Wales Goal', under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Swansea LNRAP will also inform Swansea Council's emerging Section 6 Plan therefore aiding the Council in its Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

There are no significant risks associated with the plan, and the cumulative impacts are deemed low but positive. As such a full IIA strategy is not deemed necessary.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Christina Derrick/Deb Hill
Job title: Nature Conservation Team Leader
Date: 03/08/2023
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Phil Holmes
Position: Head of Strategic Planning and City Regeneration
Date: 3rd August 2023

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 8.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events and Tourism

Cabinet – 19 October 2023

Swansea Destination Management Plan 2023-2026

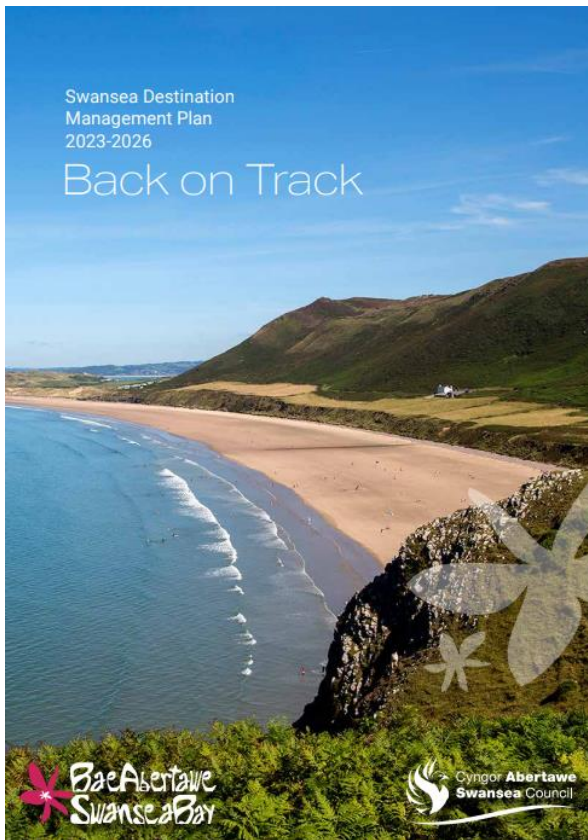
Purpose:	The report presents the Destination Management Plan (DMP) 2023-2026 for Swansea
Policy Framework:	Swansea Council Corporate Plan Priority: 'Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure' Swansea Wellbeing Plan Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal Economy and Infrastructure Service Transformation Committee
Recommendation:	It is recommended that: 1) Swansea Destination Management Plan is approved for the period 2023-2026
Report Author:	Steve Hopkins
Finance Officer:	Peter Keys
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In this report we give an overview of the Destination Management Plan (DMP) for Swansea for the period 2023-2026, including the research that informed the DMP, its strategic priorities and delivery mechanism.
- 1.2 We are seeking approval of the DMP to be presented to Cabinet on 19 October 2023.

2. Swansea Destination Management Plan 2023-2026

2.1 Setting the scene



What is a Destination Management Plan?

A Destination Management Plan (DMP) is best described as ‘the process of leading, influencing and coordinating the management of all the aspects of a destination that contribute to a quality visitor’s experience, taking account of the needs of visitors, local residents, businesses and the environment.’ (Source: VisitBritain.org)

Great destinations are great places to live, work and visit. A well-managed destination can bring long-term growth to the local economy, attract new investment as well as safeguard and create employment opportunities.

Our Destination Management Plan 2023-2026 is a combined response by Swansea Council and its private and public sector partners. It offers renewed hope for economic recovery following the successful re-opening of the tourism and hospitality industry and focusses on the strategic priorities for the next 4 years.

Visitor economy recovery in Swansea

Throughout the pandemic, we continued to engage with our customers and to support local tourism businesses. In 2022, signs of recovery were evident in

terms of consumers' confidence to return (4.2M visitors), continued inward investment in the destination and optimism amongst tourism operators – despite new economic challenges around rising costs and staff shortages.

This DMP is informed by three strategic pieces of research: a 7-month long visitor survey (1,000 face-to-face interviews), our largest ever survey of local tourism businesses (120+ responses) and a Hotel Demand Study commissioned to assess the current supply and future demand drivers for hotel developments in the city centre.



2.2 Strategic Priorities and Outcomes

1. **Driving Quality:** to build on success and further enhance the destination in order to deliver a distinctive and high-quality visitor experience.
2. **Breaking free of seasonality:** to develop creative, targeted marketing campaigns to enhance the area's appeal to the UK and wider world and build a stronger tourism offer outside the summer months.
3. **Encouraging Sustainability:** to nurture a more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally, to the benefit of the environment and the wellbeing of all.
4. **Working Partnerships:** to continue to support the private sector directly and work with our public and third sector partners in order to achieve growth and prosperity for the local economy.

Priorities	Actions	Impacts	=	Outcomes
Driving Quality:	Protect and enhance natural environment	Well-managed natural environment		A distinctive, high-quality visitor experience
Breaking free of seasonality:	Develop high quality tourism product	Thriving city centre		A stronger tourism offer outside the summer season
Encouraging Sustainability:	Improve visitor experience	Reduced seasonality		
	Improve tourism offer	Improved tourism offer		
Working Partnerships:	Continue to deliver targeted marketing campaigns	Increased visitor spend		A more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally
	Improve infrastructure and facilities	Skilled workforce ready to meet future opportunities in the sector		
	Develop strong partnerships between public, private and third sector	Strong destination brand		
	Identify relevant funding and attract further investment	More tourism businesses accessing relevant training and funding		Growth and prosperity for the local economy

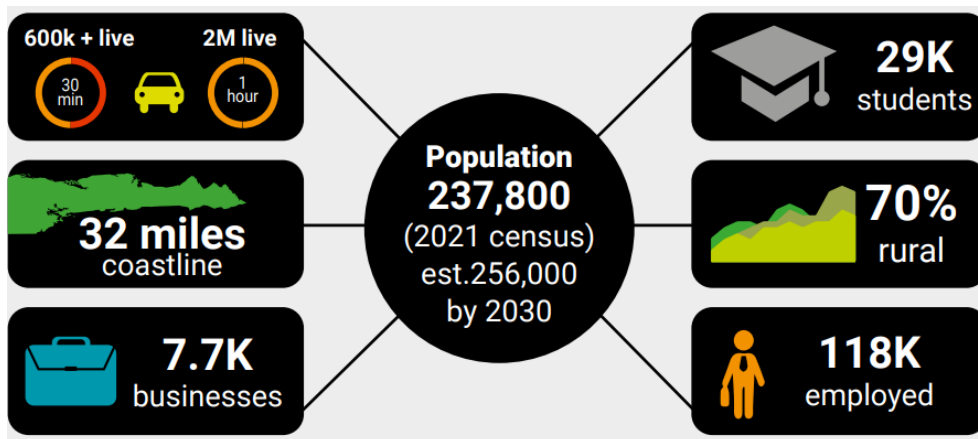
2.3 The Bigger Picture

- Swansea City Centre undergoing a major transformation into a premier destination to live, work, study and visit.
- Completed projects:
 - Swansea Arena in the new Copr Bay district
 - Amy Dillwyn coastal park
 - Landmark bridge connecting city centre with waterfront
 - £3m improvement of Wind Street into greener and more family-friendly hospitality and leisure destination
 - Redesign of the Kingsway with more public spaces, better pedestrian and cycle routes
 - Opening of Penderyn Swansea Copperworks Distillery
- In development
 - New public sector hub on Oxford Street – Y Storfa
 - Refurbishment of Palace Theatre and Albert Hall
 - Enhancement of Castle Square and Swansea Amphitheatre
 - New entrances to Swansea Market and Quadrant Shopping Centre
 - New high-tech office development at 71/72

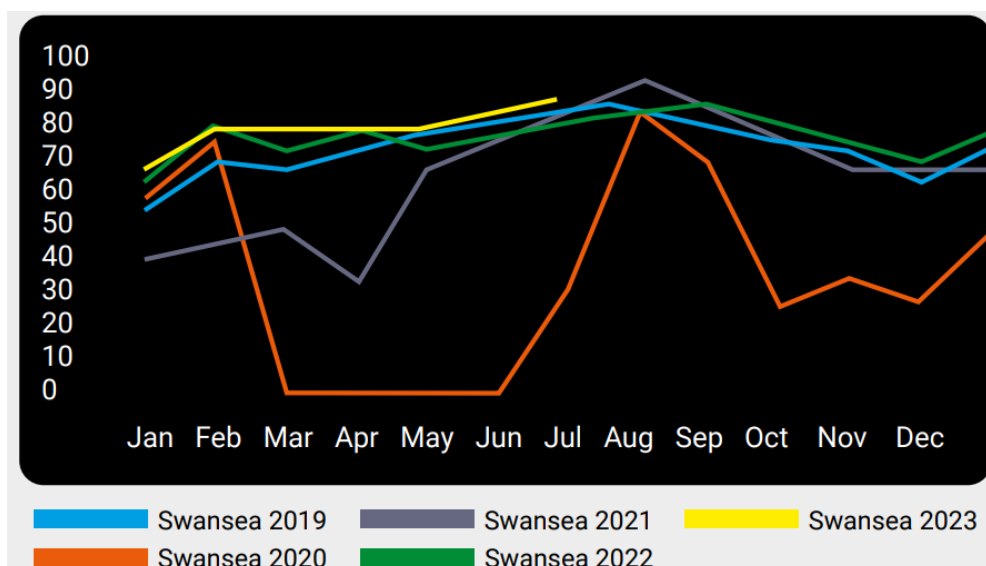
- Hafod Morfa Copperworks transformation into a leisure destination with new outdoor attraction Skyline planned for 2025 and floating pontoons
- Partnership with private sector developers Urban Splash for the mixed-use transformation of Civic Centre site and former St David's Shopping Centre
- Major hotel developments
- Early discussions about a visitor attraction and an aquarium for the Civic Centre / Paxton Street development sites
- Major events programme: Swansea is home to the Wales Airshow, IronMan 70.3, World Triathlon Para Series, Swansea Bay 10k and headline concerts in Singleton Park
- A planned programme of projects backed by Shared Prosperity Fund

2.4 Swansea Visitor Economy

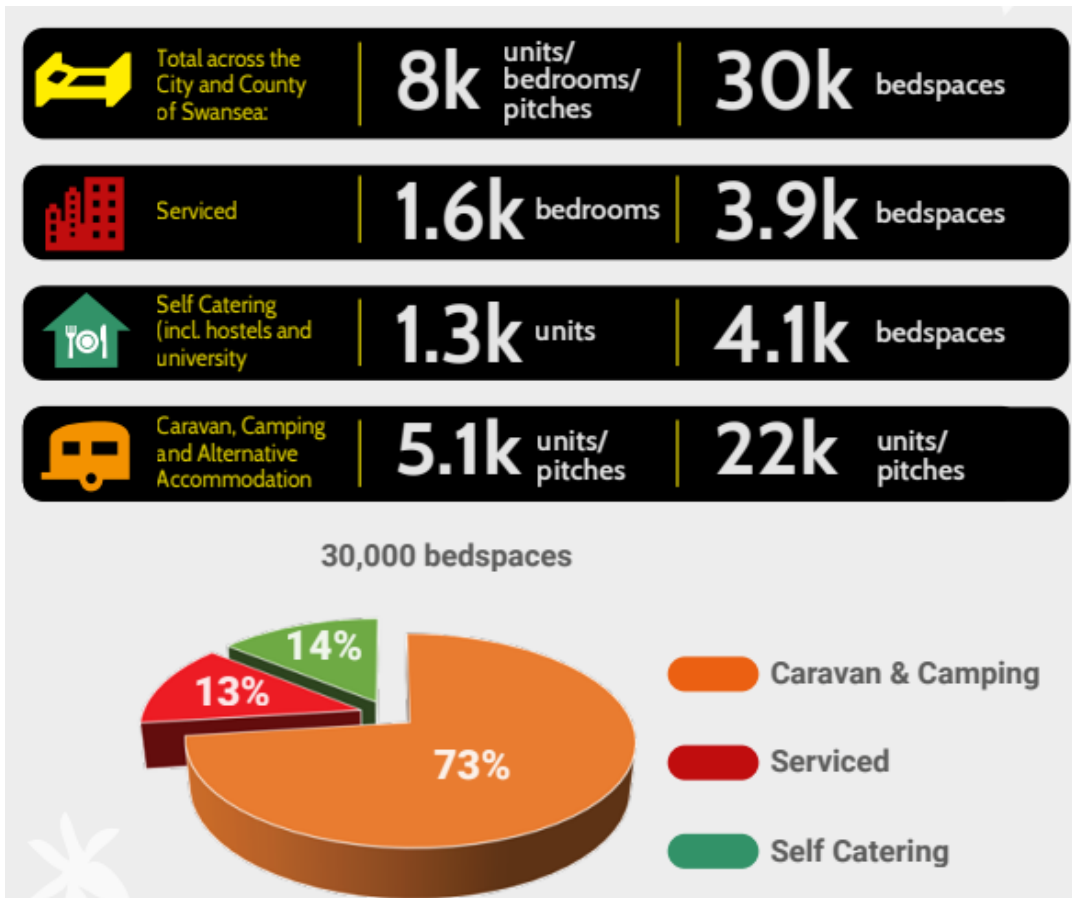
About Swansea



Hotel room occupancy figures (STR %)



Bedstock figures



Value of tourism



2.5 Visitor Survey 2022

Key facts about our visitors

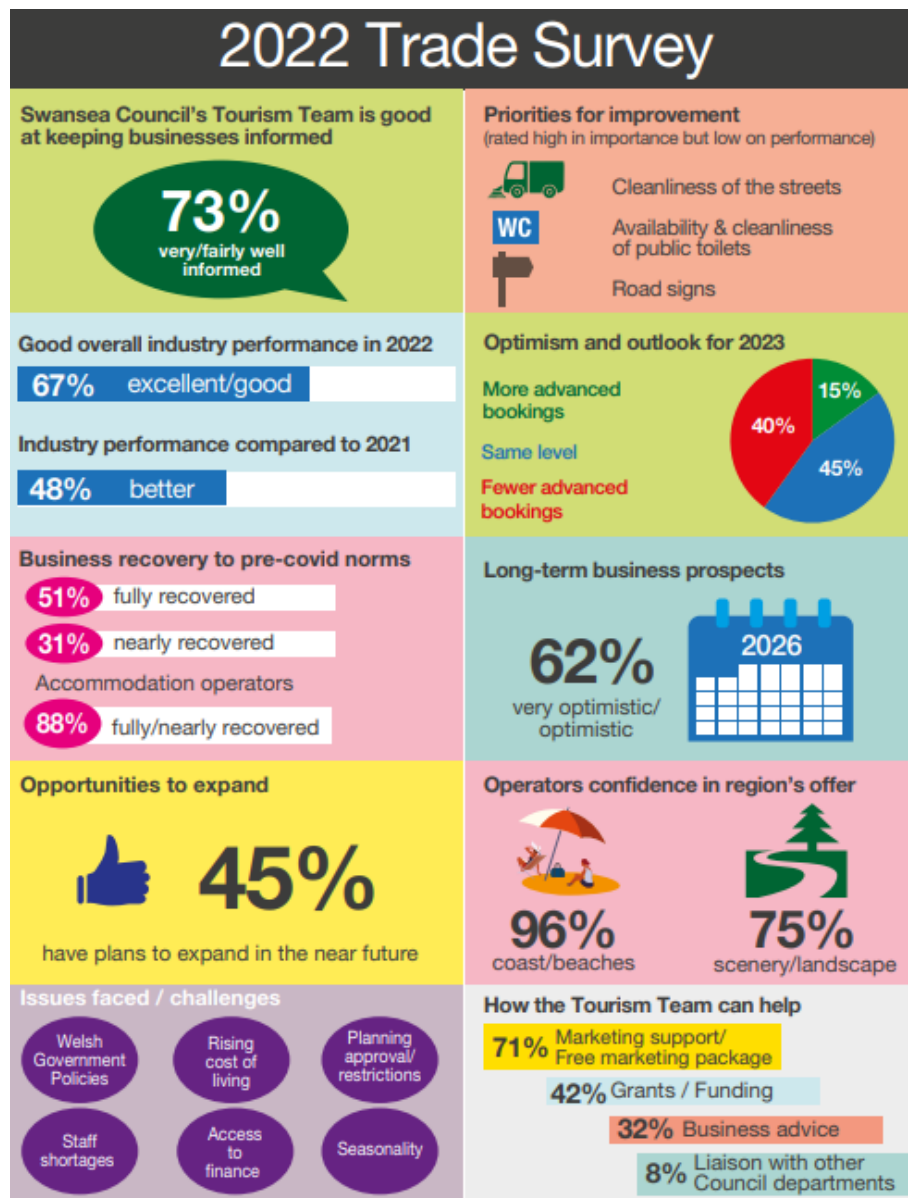
- Mostly from higher ABC1 social grades: affluent 'empty nesters' aged 45+, affluent early retired couples aged 45+ and younger affluent professionals aged 25+
- Mainly from the Midlands, London, Southeast and other parts of Wales.
- Visitors highly complimentary about their visit: 96% would recommend a visit to someone else.
- 99% found their visit enjoyable, two thirds of which found it 'very' enjoyable.
- 57% likely to be staying overnight
- Average spend on the increase since 2019



2.6 Tourism Trade Survey 2022

Key findings

- 73% feel well-informed by Swansea Council's Tourism Team
- Think Swansea Bay's best assets are our coast/beaches (96%) and scenery/landscape (75%)
- 67% reported 'good' or 'excellent' levels of business in 2022
- 48% reported better performance than 2021
- 82% 'nearly' or 'fully' recovered from Covid pandemic (88% for accommodation)
- 45% have plans to expand (increasing capacity, improving quality, diversifying)
- 62% feel optimistic about long-term business prospects
- Major challenges ahead: Welsh Government policies, cost of living, planning restrictions, staff shortages, access to finance and seasonality
- Think Tourism Team can help with marketing support, grants / funding, business advice and liaising with other Council departments



2.7 Swansea City Centre Hotel Demand Study 2022

Key findings and recommendations

- Strong leisure and business demand all year-round
- Extensive regeneration activity is creating new demand
- Hotels performing well in Swansea: occupancy 77.3%, ADR* at £67 and RevPAR** at £52 (£60 for upscale & upper midscale hotels)
- ADR grew significantly in 2022
- Occupancy is high annually and in most months.
- Current supply is a fair mix of accommodation but comparatively low number of rooms per head.
- Supply has not kept pace with a growing demand and market is currently undersupplied: On approximately 35 days per year, an additional 10% of market rooms could be sold again, equating to a smoothed average of around 14 unsatisfied room nights per day or 5,107 room nights annually.
- Forecast future demand and supply balance: an additional 285–355 rooms needed in the market for 2026.
- This suggests potentially 3 hotels of significant inventory.
- A greater number of rooms needed going forward to the medium term (2032).
- Opportunity at midscale and upper midscale / upscale level

*ADR (Average Daily Rate) = Room Revenue/Rooms Sold. ADR is the average rental income brought in by a paid and occupied room during a specific time period

**RevPar (Revenue per Available Room) = Room Revenue/Total Rooms Available. RevPAR represents the revenue generated per available room, whether or not they are occupied

KEY FINDINGS

Hotels performing well in Swansea – high occupancy rates

Focuses on Swansea City Centre / SA1 / Copperworks

Strong leisure and business demand all year-round

Major transformation of city centre

Growing demand – undersupplied market

PERFORMANCE

Average Daily Rates (ADR)

77.3%

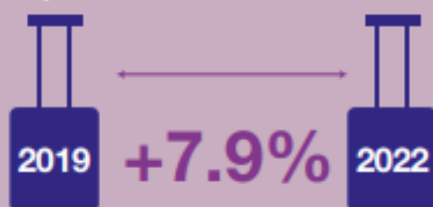
RevPar on average

£52 (£60 for upscale & upper midscale hotel)

TOP 10

Swansea entered the Colliers UK Hotel Market Index 2023

Top 5 RevPar Growth in UK



RECOMMENDATIONS

285 - 355 =

+3
by 2026

more by 2032

Opportunities

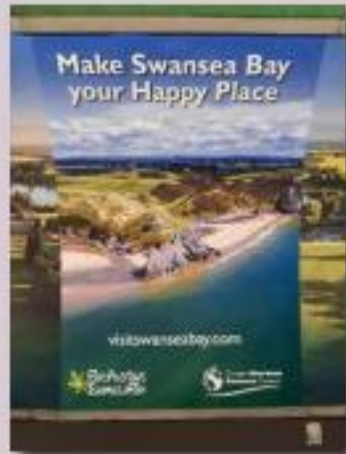
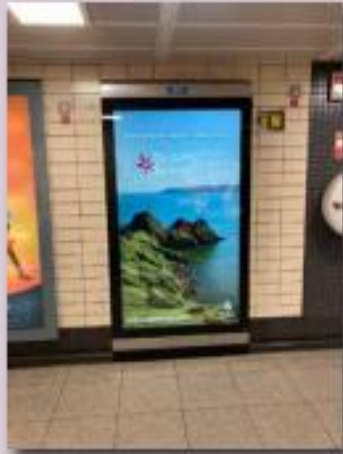


2.8 Destination marketing

Swansea Council promotes the destination as Visit Swansea Bay across UK markets and further afield (in partnership with Visit Wales and Visit Britain).

[Visitswanseabay.com](https://visitswanseabay.com) is the sole platform dedicated to destination marketing and is open to local tourism & hospitality operators. Since 2020, Swansea Council has offered the standard entry-level marketing package to businesses free of charge to support the industry's recovery. As a result, there has been a 70% increase in the number of Visit Swansea Bay Partners.

- Currently 210+ partners supported: accommodation, attractions, activities, retail and hospitality.
- Partners feature on [Visitswanseabay.com](https://visitswanseabay.com) and in marketing campaigns.
- [Visitswanseabay.com](https://visitswanseabay.com) is the call to action for all campaign activity, both on and offline.
- Marketing campaigns are continually evolving to extend the season and create a year-round destination, e.g. 'Christmas Gift Ideas', 'Winter Wellbeing,' 'Dark Skies,' 'Dog Friendly Holidays' and 'Nature & Wildlife'.
- Activity is aligned with Visit Wales thematic years, e.g. 'Llwybrau, Wales by Trails'
- Growing social media audience with good engagement online via Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Google search and YouTube.
- Digital and static outdoor media campaigns posted in high footfall sites such as London Underground and Video on Demand adverts (e.g. Sky) to reach new customers in shoulder seasons.
- PR campaigns to reach new audience – journalists, bloggers, influencers
- Campaigns are targeted demographically and geographically, in response to visitor and trade research, and consumer/seasonal trends.
- All marketing activity is measured to assess engagement and reach of campaigns.



2.9 Major Events

Events are a great way to stimulate a destination by raising its profile, bringing in extra visitors and supporting the local economy all year-round. They can also attract long-term business investment.

Swansea Council delivers a strong, creative programme of high-profile events all year-round and works closely with event organisers to enable other events to happen across the year.

Some of the major events taking place in Swansea include the popular Wales Airshow, IronMan 70.3, World Triathlon Para Series (WTPS) headliner concerts in Singleton Park, Swansea Half Marathon, Admiral Swansea Bay 10k, Swansea International Jazz Festival and Outdoor Theatre at Oystermouth Castle.

Events are measured by their impact - economic impact (visitor spend + organiser spend) but also social, wellbeing and environmental impact.

Major events have a key part to play in the DMP as they impact on all 4 strategic priorities - quality, seasonality, sustainability and partnership working.



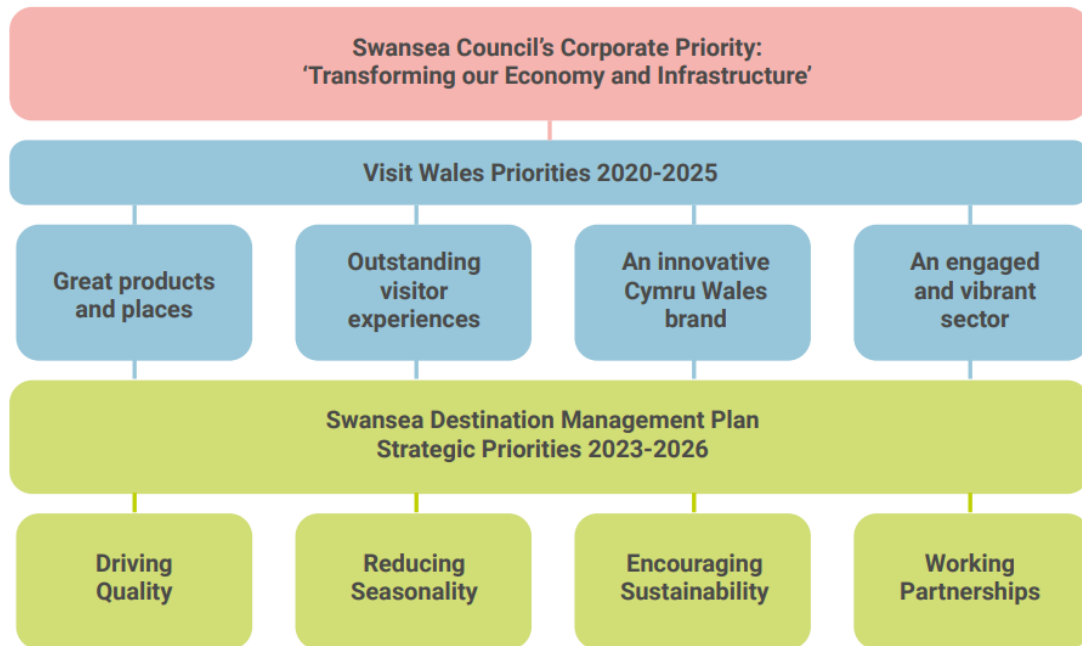
**Airshow: 200k visitors =
£9.7M economic impact (2018)**



**IronMan: 20K spectators =
£2.12M economic impact (2022)**



2.10 – Strategic Fit



The DMP aligns with Swansea Council's Corporate Priority of 'Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure' and Visit Wales' strategic priorities. In turn, the DMP informs and influences a number of Council strategies, plans and working group, including:

- Regeneration Swansea
- Beaches Management Group
- Public Toilet Working Group
- City Centre Operational Working Group

2.11 Governance and Delivery



The DMP Steering Group aims to meet 2/3 times a year with regular delivery groups and industry events held throughout the year. The Tourism Team acts as an administrator and co-ordinates regular communications amongst various stakeholders.



2.12 What success looks like

- Increased visitor spend
- More people in employment
- Higher occupancy figures
- More staying visitors
- High visitor satisfaction rates
- More partners on visitswanseabay.com

2.13 Looking forward to 2026

The ongoing regeneration of Swansea will continue to attract new and boost existing visitor numbers and spend with new reasons to visit as a result of planned developments, including:

- Skyline
- Y Storfa Community Hub
- Palace Theatre and Albert Hall
- Further transformation of City Centre incl. Castle Square, Kingsway, Civic Centre site
- Major hotel developments
- Hafod Morfa Copperworks and River Tawe pontoons
- Improvement of Swansea Amphitheatre
- Major events programme



2.14 What our partners say

Penderyn

The opening of Penderyn's state-of-the-art distillery and visitor centre at the heart of the old Copperworks marks an exciting new chapter in our journey and for Swansea as a destination. This is where heritage and innovation converge to create a unique attraction, which will offer a brand new experience to thousands of visitors every year. These are incredibly exciting times for us as a business and for Swansea as a forward-thinking city.

Plantasia

'We constantly strive for new and innovative experiences for guests. We recently introduced Jungle Escape, which will be the biggest of its kind in the world. Our commitment to continuously improve the visitor experience will give our guests a reason to visit and to return again in the future. Swansea has so much to offer.'

Beach House Oxwich

'We are positioned right on the sands of Oxwich Bay and benefit from mesmerising coastal views. Being surrounded by nature, we are able to take full advantage of local ingredients. We have so much on our doorstep.'

Urban Splash

'We have been really impressed with the ambition and vision of Swansea Council and we are delighted to be working in partnership with this amazing city by the beach, using our experience, capital and resources to strengthen their vision and deliver exceptional living, working and leisure spaces.'

Skyline

'We chose Swansea as our first European site because we truly believe the city has the potential to become a leading leisure destination. Swansea Council has a very clear vision on how they want to make Swansea a thriving place to work and live. That's a vision we believe in and want to be a part of.'

The Cwtsh

'You can see that positive things are happening in Swansea - there's a lot of money going into the area, and that was definitely a factor behind opening up the Cwtsh Hostel. Swansea is certainly going places. There's a good mixture of big developments with small independent businesses, so by working together the city is getting it right.'

3. Integrated Impact Assessment Implications

3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

3.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

3.2 The DMP has low visibility to the general public and does not require engagement from protected groups. There are no environmental, political, financial or cultural risks associated with it. The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 has been fully considered in the development of the DMP, which supports its goals and objectives.

The DMP has a positive impact on the destination as a whole by improving quality and delivering a better visitor experience, while nurturing a more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally. This in turn supports the visitor economy and overall prosperity / wellbeing across the City and County of Swansea. By working closely with industry partners, the DMP also has a positive impact on the Council's reputation.

This report has been IIA screened and the outcome is that a full IIA report was not required.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Glossary of terms:

DMP – Destination Management Plan

STR – Smith Travel Research

STEAM - Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor

ADR – Average Daily Rate (Room Revenue/Rooms Sold). ADR is the average rental income brought in by a paid and occupied room during a specific time period

RevPar – Revenue per Available Room (Room Revenue/Total Rooms Available). RevPAR represents the revenue generated per available room, whether or not they are occupied.

IIA – Integrated Impact Assessment

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Swansea DMP 2023-2026 (PDF version)

Appendix B – IIA Screening Form

Appendix A

Swansea Destination
Management Plan
2023-2026

Back on Track



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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to be able to present our 3rd Destination Management Plan for the period 2023 - 2026.

Unlike many parts of Wales, Swansea offers a strong rural, coastal and city centre product which, combined with a range of high-profile events, attracts millions of visitors every year.

Tourism is now worth over £510M to the local economy and our research shows high levels of satisfaction with many visitors returning year on year to enjoy a holiday in Swansea.

Our city centre is undergoing a multi-billion pound transformation and major investment is being pumped into new hotels and attractions across the city. With yet more exciting developments under way, there is a strong sense of confidence and optimism amongst local businesses. Our recent trade survey highlights that most tourism operators are optimistic and on their way to full recovery, with many continuing to diversify and invest in their businesses.

Our recent Hotel Demand Study suggests city centre occupancy in the serviced accommodation sector is high all year-round and that an additional 3 hotels would be required by end of 2026 to meet growing demand currently generated and predicted over the coming years.

There is no doubt now is the time to visit Swansea and invest in our thriving destination. By working closely with colleagues in the private sector, public and third sectors as well as Visit Wales, Swansea Council is committed to building on this success and play its part to ensure our destination grows and prospers sustainably and offers a high-quality visitor experience for the benefit of all.

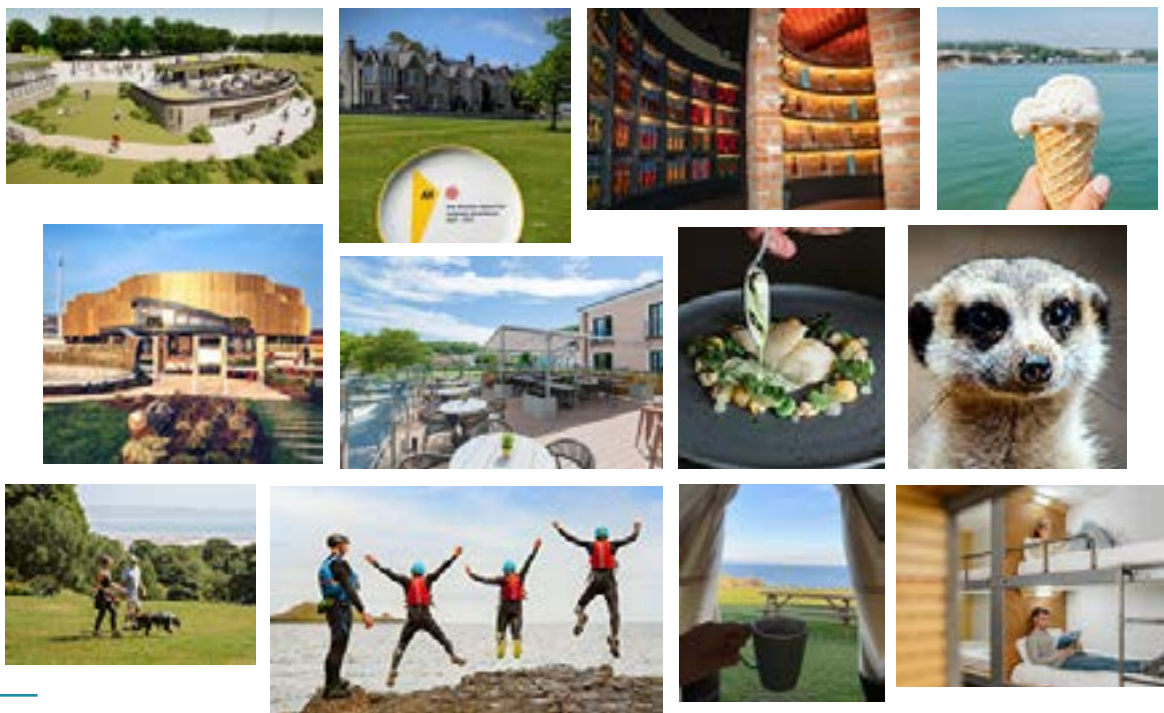
Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism

What is a Destination Management Plan?

A Destination Management Plan (DMP) is best described as ‘the process of leading, influencing and coordinating the management of all the aspects of a destination that contribute to a quality visitor’s experience, taking account of the needs of visitors, local residents, businesses and the environment.’ (Source: VisitBritain.org)

Great destinations are great places to live, work and visit. A well-managed destination can bring long-term growth to the local economy, attract new investment as well as safeguard and create employment opportunities.

Our Destination Management Plan 2023-2026 is a combined response by Swansea Council and its private and public sector partners. It offers renewed hope for economic recovery following the successful re-opening of the tourism and hospitality industry after Covid and focusses on the strategic priorities for the next 4 years.



Visitor economy recovery in Swansea

Throughout the pandemic, we continued to engage with our customers and to support local tourism businesses. In 2022, signs of recovery were evident in terms of consumers’ confidence to return (4.2M visitors), continued inward investment in the destination and optimism amongst tourism operators - despite new economic challenges around rising costs and staff shortages.

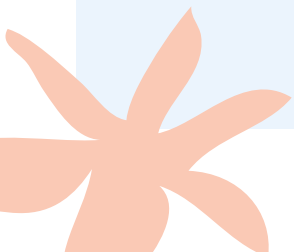
This DMP is informed by three strategic pieces of research: a 7-month long visitor survey (1,000 face-to-face interviews), our largest ever survey of local tourism businesses (120+ responses) and a Hotel Demand Study commissioned to assess the current supply and future demand drivers for hotel developments in the city centre.

Strategic Priorities and Outcomes



- **Driving Quality:** to build on success and further enhance the destination in order to deliver a distinctive and high-quality visitor experience.
- **Breaking free of seasonality:** to develop creative, targeted marketing campaigns to enhance the area's appeal to the UK and wider world and build a stronger tourism offer outside the summer months.
- **Encouraging Sustainability:** to nurture a more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally, to the benefit of the environment and the wellbeing of all.
- **Working Partnerships:** to continue to support the private sector directly and work with our public and third sector partners in order to achieve growth and prosperity for the local economy.

Priorities	Actions	Impacts	=	Outcomes
Driving Quality:	Protect and enhance natural environment	Well-managed natural environment	=	A distinctive, high-quality visitor experience
Breaking free of seasonality:	Develop high quality tourism product	Thriving city centre		A stronger tourism offer outside the summer season
Encouraging Sustainability:	Improve visitor experience	Reduced seasonality		A more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally
Working Partnerships:	Improve infrastructure and facilities	Improved tourism offer		Growth and prosperity for the local economy
	Continue to deliver targeted marketing campaigns	Increased visitor spend		
	Improve infrastructure and facilities	Skilled workforce ready to meet future opportunities in the sector		
	Develop strong partnerships between public, private and third sector	Strong destination brand		
	Identify relevant funding and attract further investment	More tourism businesses accessing relevant training and funding		



The Bigger Picture

Swansea City Centre is undergoing a major transformation into a premier destination to live, work, study and visit.

Completed projects:

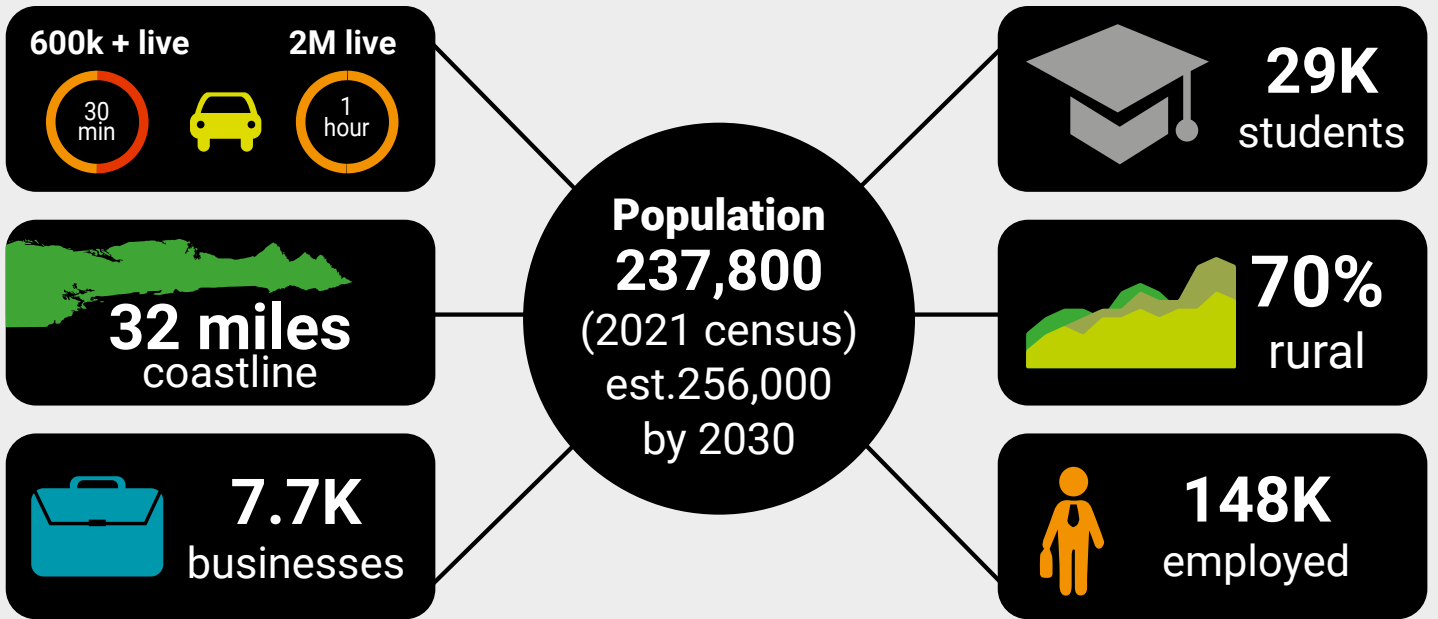
- Swansea Arena in the new Copr Bay district
- Amy Dillwyn coastal park
- Landmark bridge connecting city centre with waterfront
- £3m improvement of Wind Street into a greener and more family-friendly hospitality and leisure destination
- Redesign of the Kingsway with more public spaces, better pedestrian and cycle routes and new high-tech office development at 71/72
- Opening of Penderyn Swansea Copperworks Distillery

In development

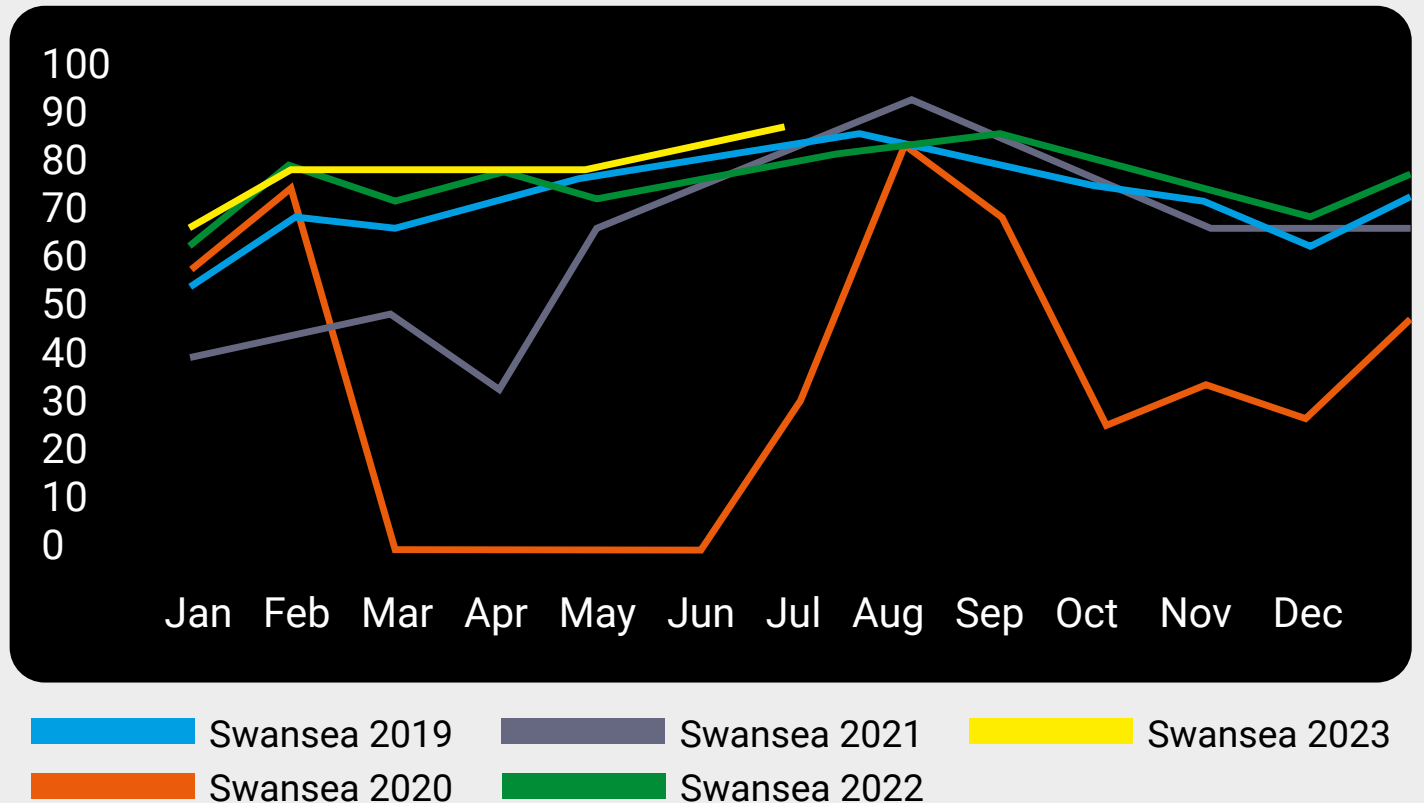
- New public sector hub on Oxford Street – Y Storfa
- Refurbishment of Palace Theatre and Albert Hall
- Enhancement of Castle Square and Swansea Amphitheatre
- New entrances to Swansea Market and Quadrant Shopping Centre
- Hafod Morfa Copperworks transformation into a leisure destination with new outdoor attraction Skyline planned for 2025 and floating pontoons
- Partnership with private sector developers Urban Splash for the mixed-use transformation of Civic Centre site and former St David's Shopping Centre
- Major hotel developments
- Early discussions about a visitor attraction and an aquarium for the Civic Centre / Paxton Street development sites
- Major events programme: Swansea is home to the Wales Airshow, IronMan 70.3, World Triathlon Para Series, Swansea Bay 10k and headline concerts in Singleton Park
- A planned programme of projects backed by Shared Prosperity Funding

Visitor Economy in Swansea

About Swansea



Hotel Room Occupancy figures % (STR)



Bedstock – headline figures (July 2023)



Total across the
City and County
of Swansea:

8k units/
bedrooms/
pitches

30k bedspaces



Serviced

1.6k bedrooms

3.9k bedspaces



Self Catering
(incl. hostels and
university)

1.3k units

4.1k bedspaces

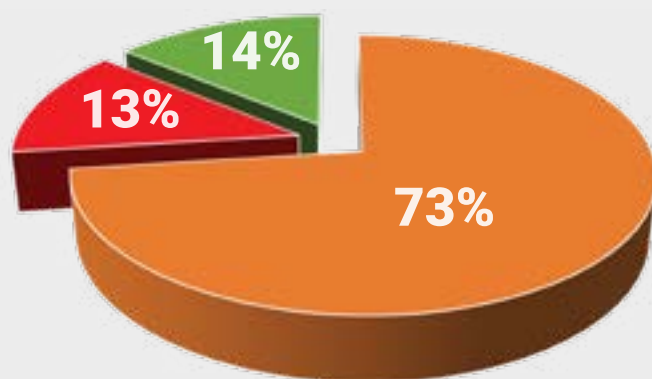


Caravan, Camping
and Alternative
Accommodation

5.1k units/
pitches

22k units/
pitches

30,000 bedspaces



Caravan & Camping

Serviced

Self Catering

Value of tourism: STEAM 2022



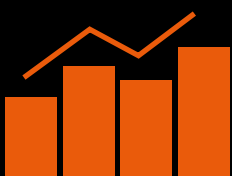
4.2M
Visitors

including



1.5M
Staying Visitors

Total economic impact of tourism:



worth
£510M



5.2k
Jobs

Visitor Survey 2022

Mainly couples and families from higher ABC1 social grades



Visitors are mainly over 55's followed closely by 35-44

42% over 55 yrs

37% 35 - 54 yrs

74% repeat visits

The coast, beaches, scenery & landscape remain the key reasons for visiting



Overnight Visitors

£ 45 per person per night

Day Visitors

£ 29 per person per day

Walking most popular activity

Where visitors come from:

- 47% Other parts of Wales
- 14% South West
- 9% West Midlands
- 6% Greater London

Average length of stay:

4.8 nights

Overnight visitors now account for almost 6 in 10 of all visitors



Visitors placed the highest importance and lowest satisfaction on the availability and cleanliness of public toilets.

HIGH PRIORITY

WC



Most popular paid for accommodation

Self catering



Hotels



Caravans



96%

recommend a visit



99%

said their visit was 'Very enjoyable or enjoyable'





Visitor Survey 2022

Key facts about our visitors

- Mostly from higher ABC1 social grades: affluent 'empty nesters' aged 45+, affluent early retired couples aged 45+ and younger affluent professionals aged 25+
- Mainly from the Midlands, London, Southeast and other parts of Wales
- Visitors highly complimentary about their visit: 96% would recommend a visit to someone else
- 99% found their visit enjoyable, two thirds of which found it 'very' enjoyable
- 57% likely to be staying overnight (+7% since 2015)
- Average spend on the increase since 2019



Swansea Council's Tourism Team is good at keeping businesses informed



Priorities for improvement

(rated high in importance but low on performance)



Cleanliness of the streets



Availability & cleanliness of public toilets



Road signs

Good overall industry performance in 2022

67% excellent/good

Industry performance compared to 2021

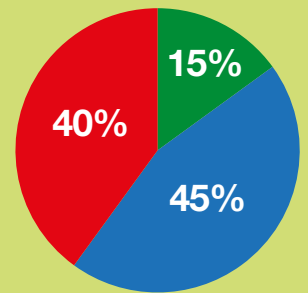
48% better

Optimism and outlook for 2023

More advanced bookings

Same level

Fewer advanced bookings



Business recovery to pre-covid norms

51% fully recovered

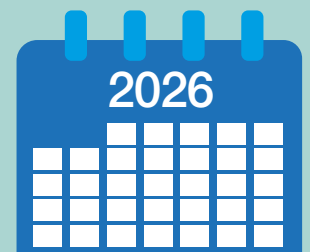
31% nearly recovered

Accommodation operators

88% fully/nearly recovered

Long-term business prospects

62%
very optimistic/
optimistic



Opportunities to expand



45%

have plans to expand in the near future

Operators confidence in region's offer



96%
coast/beaches



75%
scenery/landscape

Issues faced / challenges

Welsh Government Policies

Rising cost of living

Planning approval/restrictions

Staff shortages

Access to finance

Seasonality

How the Tourism Team can help

71% Marketing support/
Free marketing package

42% Grants / Funding

32% Business advice

8% Liaison with other Council departments

Key findings

- 73% feel well-informed by Swansea Council's Tourism Team
- Think Swansea Bay's best assets are our coast/beaches (96%) and scenery/landscape (75%)
- 67% reported 'good' or 'excellent' levels of business in 2022
- 48% reported better performance than 2021
- 82% 'nearly' or 'fully' recovered from Covid pandemic (88% for accommodation)
- 45% have plans to expand (increasing capacity, improving quality, diversifying)
- 62% feel optimistic about long-term business prospects
- Major challenges ahead: Welsh Government policies, cost of living, planning restrictions, staff shortages, access to finance and seasonality
- Think Tourism Team can help with marketing support, grants / funding, business advice and liaising with other Council departments

KEY FINDINGS



Focus on
City Centre,
SA1 and
Copperworks

Hotels performing well all year round ✓

Strong leisure and business demand ✓

High occupancy rate ✓

Major transformation of city centre ✓

Growing demand ✓

Undersupplied market ✓

PERFORMANCE

Average Daily Rates (ADR)

£67

Average Hotel Occupancy Rate

77.3%

RevPar on average

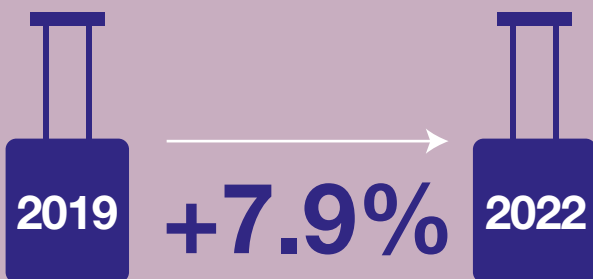
£52

(£60 for upscale & upper midscale hotel)

TOP 10

Swansea entered the Colliers UK Hotel Market Index 2023

Top 5 RevPar Growth in UK

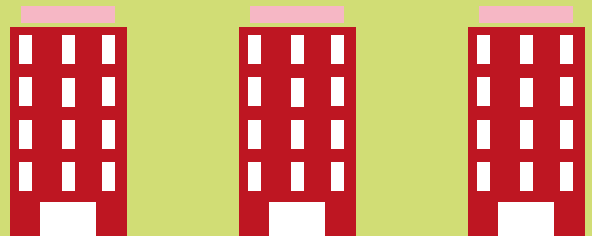


RECOMMENDATIONS

285 - 355 new rooms needed

Equivalent to:

3 new hotels by 2026



+ more rooms by 2032

What Swansea needs more of:



Swansea City Centre Hotel Demand Study 2022

- Strong leisure and business demand all year-round
- Extensive regeneration activity is creating new demand
- Hotels performing well in Swansea: occupancy 77.3%, ADR* at £67 and RevPAR** at £52 (£60 for upscale & upper midscale hotels)
- ADR grew significantly in 2022
- Occupancy is high annually and in most months
- Current supply is a fair mix of accommodation but comparatively low number of rooms per head
- Supply has not kept pace with a growing demand and market is currently undersupplied: On approximately 35 days per year, an additional 10% of rooms could be sold again, equating to a smoothed average of around 14 unsatisfied room nights per day or 5,107 room nights annually
- Forecast future demand and supply balance: an additional 285–355 rooms needed in the market for 2026
- This suggests potentially 3 hotels of significant inventory
- A greater number of rooms needed going forward to the medium term (2032)
- Opportunity at midscale and upper midscale / upscale level

*ADR (Average Daily Rate) = Room Revenue/Rooms Sold. ADR is the average rental income brought in by a paid and occupied room during a specific time period.

**RevPar (Revenue per Available Room) = Room Revenue/Total Rooms Available. RevPAR represents the revenue generated per available room, whether or not they are occupied.

Destination Marketing

Swansea Council promotes the destination as Visit Swansea Bay across UK markets and further afield (in partnership with Visit Wales and Visit Britain).

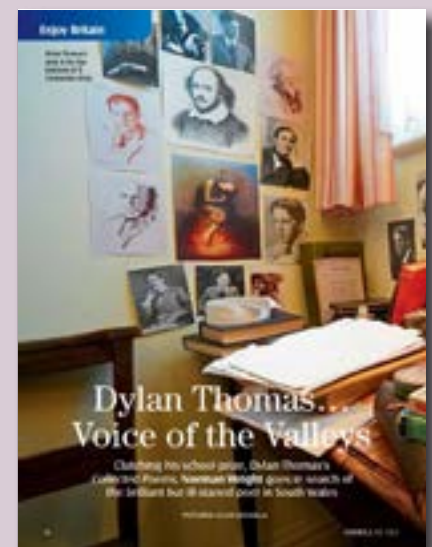
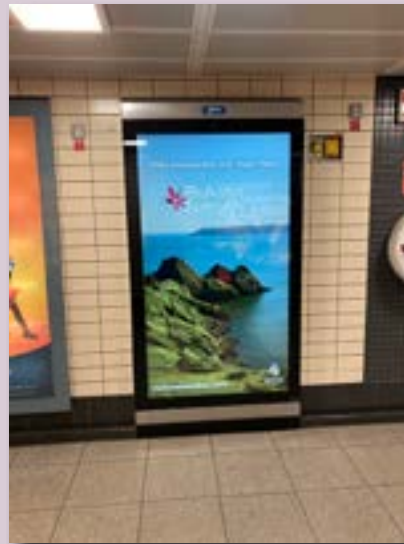
Visitswanseabay.com is the sole platform dedicated to destination marketing and is open to local tourism & hospitality operators.

Since 2020, Swansea Council has offered the standard entry-level marketing package to businesses free of charge to support the industry's recovery. As a result, there has been a 70% increase in the number of Visit Swansea Bay Partners.



- Currently 210+ partners supported: accommodation, attractions, activities, retail and hospitality
- Partners feature on visitswanseabay.com and in marketing campaigns
- visitswanseabay.com is the call to action for all campaign activity, both on and offline
- Marketing campaigns are continually evolving to extend the season and create a year-round destination, e.g. 'Christmas Gift Ideas', 'Winter Wellbeing', 'Dark Skies', 'Dog Friendly Holidays' and 'Nature & Wildlife'
- Activity is aligned with Visit Wales thematic years, e.g. 'Llwybrau, Wales by Trails'
- Growing social media audience with good engagement online via Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Google search and YouTube
- Digital and static outdoor media campaigns in high footfall sites such as London Underground and Video on Demand adverts (e.g. Sky) to reach new customers in shoulder seasons
- PR campaigns to reach new audience - journalists, bloggers, influencers
- Campaigns are targeted demographically and geographically, in response to visitor and trade research, and consumer/seasonal trends
- All marketing activity is measured to assess engagement and reach of campaigns





Major Events

Events are a great way to stimulate a destination by raising its profile, bringing in extra visitors and supporting the local economy all year-round. They can also attract long-term business investment.

Swansea Council delivers a strong, creative programme of high-profile events all year-round and works closely with event organisers to enable other events to happen across the year.

Some of the major events taking place in Swansea include the popular Wales Airshow, IronMan 70.3, World Triathlon Para Series (WTPS) headliner concerts in Singleton Park, Swansea Half Marathon, Admiral Swansea Bay 10k, Swansea International Jazz festival and Outdoor Theatre at Oystermouth Castle.

Events are measured by their impact - economic impact (visitor spend + organiser spend) but also social, wellbeing and environmental impact.

Major events have a key part to play in the DMP as they impact on all 4 strategic priorities - quality, seasonality, sustainability and partnership working.



**Airshow: 200k visitors =
£9.7M economic impact (2018)**

**IronMan: 20K spectators =
£2.12M economic impact (2022)**



Strategic Fit

Swansea Council's Corporate Priority:
'Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure'

Visit Wales Priorities 2020-2025

Great products
and places

Outstanding
visitor
experiences

An innovative
Cymru Wales
brand

An engaged
and vibrant
sector

Swansea Destination Management Plan
Strategic Priorities 2023-2026

Driving
Quality

Reducing
Seasonality

Encouraging
Sustainability

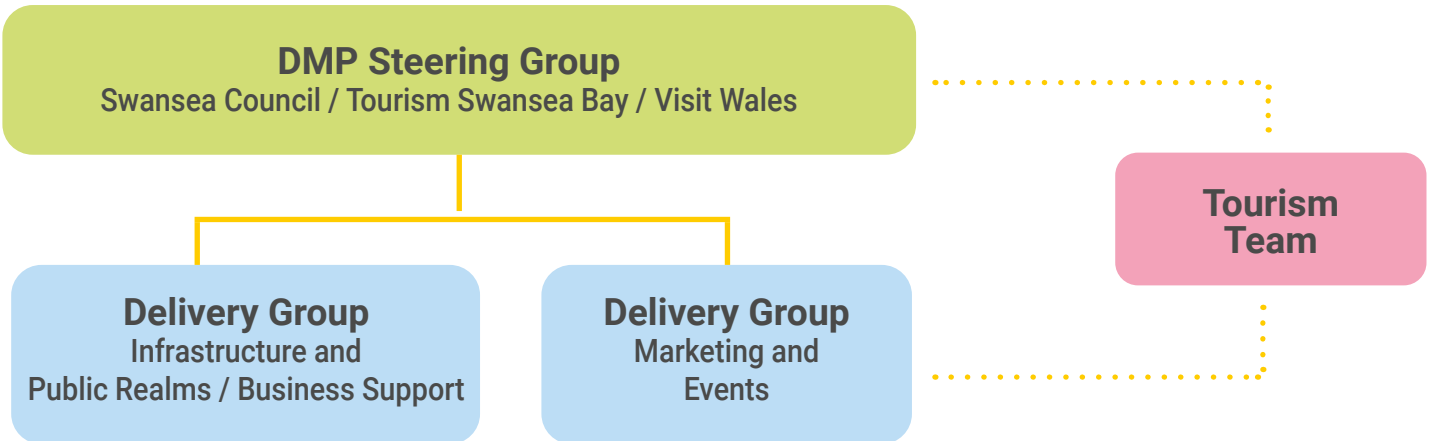
Working
Partnerships

The DMP aligns with Swansea Council's Corporate Priority of 'Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure' and Visit Wales' strategic priorities. In turn, the DMP informs and influences a number of Council strategies, plans and working group, including:

- Regeneration Swansea
- Beaches Management Group
- Public Toilet Strategy
- City Centre Operational Working Group



Governance and Delivery



The DMP Steering Group aims to meet 2/3 times a year with regular delivery groups and industry events held throughout the year. The Tourism Team acts as an administrator and co-ordinates regular communications amongst various stakeholders.



What Success Looks Like

Increased visitor spend

More people in employment

Higher occupancy figures

More staying visitors

High visitor satisfaction rates

More partners on visitswanseabay.com



happy
place



Looking forward to 2026

The ongoing regeneration of Swansea will continue to attract new and boost existing visitor numbers and spend with new reasons to visit as a result of planned developments, including:

- **Skyline**
- **Y Storfa Community Hub**
- **Palace Theatre and Albert Hall**
- **Further transformation of City Centre incl. Castle Square, Kingsway, Civic Centre site**
- **Major hotel developments**
- **Hafod Morfa Copperworks and River Tawe pontoons**
- **Improvement of Swansea Amphitheatre**
- **Major events programme**



What Our Partners Say

Penderyn

'The opening of Penderyn's state-of-the-art distillery and visitor centre at the heart of the old Copperworks marks an exciting new chapter in our journey and for Swansea as a destination. This is where heritage and innovation converge to create a unique attraction, which will offer a brand new experience to thousands of visitors every year. These are incredibly exciting times for us as a business and for Swansea as a forward-thinking city.'



Plantasia

'We constantly strive for new and innovative experiences for guests. We recently introduced Jungle Escape, which will be the biggest of its kind in the world. Our commitment to continuously improve the visitor experience will give our guests a reason to visit and to return again in the future. Swansea has so much to offer.'

Beach House Oxwich

'We are positioned right on the sands of Oxwich Bay and benefit from mesmerising coastal views. Being surrounded by nature, we are able to take full advantage of local ingredients. We have so much on our doorstep.'

Urban Splash

'We have been really impressed with the ambition and vision of Swansea Council and we are delighted to be working in partnership with this amazing city by the beach, using our experience, capital and resources to strengthen their vision and deliver exceptional living, working and leisure spaces.'

The Cwtsh

'You can see that positive things are happening in Swansea - there's a lot of money going into the area, and that was definitely a factor behind opening up the Cwtsh Hostel. Swansea is certainly going places. There's a good mixture of big developments with small independent businesses, so by working together the city is getting it right.'

Skyline

'We chose Swansea as our first European site because we truly believe the city has the potential to become a leading leisure destination. Swansea Council has a very clear vision on how they want to make Swansea a thriving place to work and live. That's a vision we believe in and want to be a part of.'



This DMP and accompanying infographics, along with additional information about tourism in Swansea Bay, can be downloaded from our tourism trade website:

swansea.gov.uk/tourismtrade

or contact:

Swansea Council Tourism Team
Room 136
The Guildhall
Swansea
SA1 4PE

 01792 635214

Email: DMP@swansea.gov.uk



Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Cultural Services

Directorate: Place

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

The new Destination Management Plan 2023-2026 is a combined response by the Council and its private/public sector partners and sets out the strategic direction for Swansea Bay as a destination over the next 4 years.

It is based on extensive research and focuses on 4 strategic priorities to address short-term and long-term issues across the destination:

1. **Driving Quality:** to build on success and further enhance the destination in order to deliver a distinctive and high-quality visitor experience.
2. **Breaking free of seasonality:** to develop creative, targeted marketing campaigns to enhance the area's appeal to the UK and wider world and build a stronger tourism offer outside the summer months.
3. **Encouraging Sustainability:** to nurture a more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally, to the benefit of the environment and wellbeing of all.
4. **Working Partnerships:** to continue to support the private sector directly and work with our public and third sector partners in order to achieve growth and prosperity for the local economy.

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

This DMP is informed by three strategic pieces of research:

- 2022 Visitor Survey: a 7-month long survey across the destination which resulted in 1,000 face-to-face interviews with a range of visitors
- 2022 Tourism Trade Survey: our largest ever survey of local tourism businesses (120 interviews)
- 2022 Hotel Demand Study commissioned to assess the current supply and future demand drivers for hotel developments in Swansea city centre.

This project has low visibility to the general public and does not require engagement from the protected groups above.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Yes No

b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Yes

No

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Yes

No

d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes

No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (*Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...*)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

The DMP has a positive impact on the destination as a whole by improving quality and delivering a better visitor experience, while nurturing a more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally. This in turn supports the visitor economy and overall prosperity / wellbeing across the City and County of Swansea. By working closely with industry partners, the DMP also has a positive impact on the Council's reputation.

Outcome of Screening

Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:

- Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
- Summary of involvement (Q3)
- WFG considerations (Q4)
- Any risks identified (Q5)
- Cumulative impact (Q7)

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

The new Destination Management Plan 2023-2026 is a combined response by the Council and its private/public sector partners and sets out the strategic direction for Swansea Bay as a destination over the next 4 years.

It is based on extensive research and focuses on 4 strategic priorities to address short-term and long-term issues across the destination:

- Driving Quality
- Breaking free of seasonality
- Encouraging Sustainability
- Working Partnerships

The DMP has low visibility to the general public and does not require engagement from protected groups. There are no environmental, political, financial or cultural risks associated with it.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 has been fully considered in the development of the DMP, which supports its goals and objectives.

The DMP has a positive impact on the destination as a whole by improving quality and delivering a better visitor experience, while nurturing a more sustainable approach to tourism, both economically and environmentally. This in turn supports the visitor economy and overall prosperity / wellbeing across the City and County of Swansea. By working closely with industry partners, the DMP also has a positive impact on the Council's reputation.

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Steve Hopkins
Job title: Tourism and Marketing Manager
Date: 16-08-2023
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Tracey McNulty
Position: Head of Cultural Services
Date: 06-09-2023

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 9.



Report of the Local Authority Governor Appointment Group

Cabinet – 19 October 2023

Local Authority Governor Appointments

Purpose:	To approve the nominations submitted to fill Local Authority Governor vacancies in School Governing Bodies
Policy Framework:	Local Authority (LA) Governor Appointments Procedure (Adopted by Council on 26 October 2017)
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The nominations recommended by the Director of Education in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning be approved.
Report Author:	Gemma Wynne
Finance Officer:	Aimee Dyer
Legal Officers:	Melissa Perry
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1.0 The nominations referred for approval

1.1 The nominations are recommended for approval as follows:

1. Gors Primary School	Cllr Elliot King
2. Grange Primary School	Mr Mark Child
3. Pontlliw Primary School	Mr David Mathias
4. Seaview Primary School	Mrs Sue James

5. St Helen's Primary School	Mrs Susan Davey
6. Whitestone Primary School	Mrs Charlotte Stillwell
7. YGG Tan Y Lan	Reverend Hugh Lervy
8. YGG Tirdeunaw	Mrs Jodie Jones
9. Morryston Comprehensive School	Mr Paul Relf Cllr Ceri Evans

2.0 Financial Implications

2.1 There are no financial implications for the appointments; all costs will be met from existing budgets.

3.0 Legal Implications

3.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

4.0 Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and

priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- 4.2 Following the completion of the IIA process it has been identified there are no negative impacts and a full IIA is not required.
- 4.3 There is no need for mitigation as impacts that have been identified are not negative impacts. The panel choose Governors, no public consultation is required. In order for schools to run effectively they need to have effective Governing Bodies, this appointment supports this.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Achievement and Partnership

Directorate: Education

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Appointing Local Authority governors to schools in Swansea

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

This activity does not require consultation.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

In order for schools to run effectively they need to have effective Governing Bodies.

Outcome of Screening**Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

We have identified high impact on children and young people because it is in school environment and Governors are appointed to those school. Race, Religion and Welsh language have been also identified as high impact because we have some religious and welsh language schools. There is no need for mitigation as impacts that have been identified are positive. The panel choose governors and no public consultation is required. In order for schools to run effectively they need to have effective governing bodies, this appointment process supports this.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Gemma Wynne
Job title: Governor Support Officer
Date: 08/09/23
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Rhodri Jones
Position: Head of Achievement and Partnership
Date: 08/09/23

Agenda Item 10.



Joint Report of the Cabinet Members for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism and Corporate Services & Performance

Cabinet - 19 October 2023

Disposal of Sporting and Leisure Facilities under the Community Asset Transfer Policy

Purpose:	To approve in principle the transfer of assets of Sporting and Leisure facilities, including more broadly any recreational land and associated buildings to community organisations, clubs and associations in accordance with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy, at less than best value in order to enable investment, improvement and long-term sustainability
Policy Framework:	Community Asset Transfer Policy 2021 Creating an Active and Healthy Swansea Land Transaction Procedure Rules the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act (2015)
Consultation:	Legal, Finance, Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves in principle the proposed transfers of the plots listed in 2.4 -Table 1 under the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy 2021.2. Delegates authority to the Director of Place to grant long leases for appropriate duration in line with the principles set out in paragraph 2.3, (in relation to the plots listed in 2.4 -Table 1) to the proposed leaseholders for the intended reasons as indicated in the table, providing that the Head of Property Services has considered each of the proposed transfers under the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules and recommends approval of each transfer. The leases to be granted at less than best consideration in accordance with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy3. Delegates authority to the relevant Director in consultation with Head of Property Services and Cabinet Member to determine the appropriate reporting route to fully consider any objections received through the Open Space Disposal Notice, in line with section 6 of this report.

4. Delegates authority to the Head of Property Services to negotiate and settle the terms of the proposed leases (and thereafter any required Deeds of Variation) and authority is delegated to the Chief Legal Officer to finalise and enter into the legal documentation necessary to protect the Council's interests.

Report Authors: Jamie Rewbridge/Lewis Hinds

Finance Officer: Peter Keys

Legal Officer: Sally-Ann Evans

Access to Services Officer: Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has received requests from local community organisations to lease sport and leisure facilities, including sports pitches, associated buildings for changing room space and wider community use. These disposals have been requested at peppercorn rent to enable investment under the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy (2021).
- 1.2 In line with the Community Asset Transfer Policy (2021) all transfers will create a mutual benefit to both the Council and the Community by promoting social, economic or environmental wellbeing and supporting the aims and priorities of the Authority. Under the proposals Rosehill Community FC, Penlan FC and The Friends of Coed Gwilym Park (Requesters) seek to undertake the management of the land and associated buildings to unlock and enable investment and local control and use by the primary user group(s). The Requesters are operated by constituted voluntary groups, under differing governance models.
- 1.3 This report aims to identify and define approved asset transfer principles for disposal, and provide a list of sites and the proposed leaseholders to transfer to under the principles of the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy. Each application will require approval from the relevant Head of Service, the Head of Property Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). If Cabinet grants approval in principle to the transfers set out in Table 1 below then the Head of Property Services will consider each individual transfer in accordance with the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy as set out in Part 4.7 of the Constitution provides a framework and procedure for the letting of Council owned facilities to community or 3rd sector, not for profit groups to enable the improvement of and investment in Council services and facilities.
- 2.2 This policy has successfully facilitated a number of projects in recent years including but not limited to the leasing of Underhill Park enabling a

multimillion-pound investment scheme; the leasing of 16 allotment sites enabling significant combined investment. Furthermore, leases to Mumbles Community Council to facilitate a new circa £500K project for a skatepark in Mumbles, and investment into three of Langland Tennis Courts and a lease at Coed Gwilym Park allowing the construction of a new community building.

2.3 The Council would like to continue the grant of such leases for future projects and to make the process more efficient and seeks Cabinet approval to apply the process to buildings and land identified in 2.4 -Table 1 that meet the relevant criteria underpinned by the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy set out in Part 4.7 of the Constitution. This allows leases to be granted for up to a **maximum** of 125 years where appropriate (the Council will discuss with interested parties what length of lease would be most suitable to meet the needs and expectations of the groups and local people and sufficient to facilitate investment in the site through accessing funding opportunities. Funding bodies may have requirements that must be met if a community based group is to be eligible to receive grant monies), at less than best consideration. The term and rental (usually peppercorn) will be fully considered by the Head of Property Services after assessment in line with the agreed procedure.

2.4 It is proposed that the following sites are leased to the Requesters in accordance with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy;

Table 1

Plot No.	Description of land	Reason for proposed disposal
1.	Part of Mynydd Newydd Playing Fields Penlan, Swansea SA5 7BS	Long leasehold disposal to Penlan Football Club to continue, develop and improve facilities and use as football pitches. The area to be leased shown in red on the plan will be fenced off to exclude access by the general public.
2.	Part of Coed Gwilym Park, Pontardawe Rd, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5NS	Long leasehold disposal to the Friends of Coed Gwilym Park to continue, develop and improve football facilities.
3.	Pentyla Playing Fields, Pentyla Rd, Cockett, Swansea SA2 0YN	Long leasehold disposal to Rosehill Community Football Club to enable the continuation, development and improvement of the Football facilities at the property.

3.0 Business Case and Due Diligence

3.1 As part of the requirement for any Community Asset Transfer, requestors will be required to accept a lease that assumes a full repairing and maintaining basis of the land/property, and ensuring a continuation of the service provision of the land and associated building(s), and this may also

consider the construction of new or changes to the existing buildings, subject to planning approval and the relevant approval of a deed of variation to leases granted

- 3.2 The successful implementation of any proposal and granting of long-term lease as detailed within a business plan from the requestor, will be approved by the relevant Head of Service and will seek to achieve the following benefits as a set of key principles;
- Community cohesion through the ownership, involvement and interest in local facilities.
 - Partnership working with the community in managing and safeguarding valuable community assets.
 - Investment in modern, fit for purpose facilities which the Council is not in a position to provide.
 - Increased access to local formal and informal sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities.
 - Access to funding opportunities not available to the Council
- 3.3 In the event that the Head of Service and relevant Cabinet Member cannot support the request principles, or the business plan provided by the requester is not acceptable or robust, the Council is not obliged to undertake Community Asset Transfers and the requester will be notified accordingly of the decision
- 3.4 If the request can be supported under the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules (LTPR), the Head of Property Services must be consulted. The Head of Property Services will assess the status of the property, its tenure, open market value and potential for realisation of a capital receipt and liaise with the supporting department.
- 3.5 Property Services and Finance must be consulted prior to any decision to fully consider the financial implications of the Community Asset Transfer and to ensure it does not breach subsidy controls.
- 3.6 Legal, Financial and any possible Equality and Engagement Implications will also need to be considered and discussed at this stage.
- 3.7 In the event that any request is potentially contentious or requires detailed consultation due to a specific significance or any risks associated with the requester or to the Council, the relevant Head of Service will present another report to Cabinet detailing the specific considerations of the individual disposal

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.4 In line with the Community Asset Transfer Policy (2021) and procedure, and the IIA process has been followed in respect of the individual site CAT disposal.
- 4.5 An IIA Screening Form (Appendix A) has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required for the principle of these CAT processed to be applied as per the policy, subject to the IIA process being undertaken for EACH individual site contained in this report to ensure the following principles are adhered to;
- The transfer will enhance the facility provision to enable them to further develop opportunities for the local community.
 - Any change in provision or opportunities to use or access the site are fully considered within the business proposal and captured within the IIA process for the site.
 - Relevant local consultation has been undertaken by requesting organisation on their proposal, with support from the local ward member. This may also include consultation undertaken to seek investment and funding opportunities and publication of their intentions through a number of formal and informal means.
- 4.6 In the event that any request is potentially contentious or requires detailed consultation due to a specific significance or any risks associated with the requester or to the Council, the relevant Head of Service will present another report to Cabinet detailing the specific considerations of the

individual disposal, individual IIA for the site together with any further background information prior to any final decision.

5. Financial Implications / Property Implications

- 5.1 The proposed lettings will be at a peppercorn rent, which will generally be at less than best value. However, given the nature of the proposed disposals listed within 2.4, the amount of undervalue is relatively low ranging from a couple of hundred to a few thousand pounds with the combined Market Value of all of the sites estimated to be in the region of £20,000.
- 5.2 Agreement of a long-term lease to any requester would preclude the Authority from the possibility of the future sale and capital receipts from this site, and should be considered fully in line with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy (CAT Policy) and procedure and as per 3.5 of this report.
- 5.3 The Council is required to dispose of land for the best consideration reasonably obtainable in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules.
- 5.4 The General Disposal Consent (Wales) Order 2003 allows a range of public bodies to transfer the ownership and management of land and buildings to local communities at 'less than best consideration' where it is the intention to promote social, economic or environmental well-being. The proposed disposal is in accordance with the CAT Policy and falls within the scope of the General Disposal Consent (Wales) Order 2003. This disposal also meets the objectives of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Council's policy commitments of creating a Healthier Swansea.
- 5.5 In relation to each individual proposed transfer, the Head of Property Services is satisfied that each disposal is in accordance with the CAT Policy in that it will create a mutual benefit to both the Council and the community by promoting social, economic or environmental wellbeing and support the aims and priorities of the Council. Community Asset Transfer is an established mechanism used to enable the community ownership and management of public owned land and buildings. The ultimate aim of Community Asset Transfer is community empowerment, that is, to ensure that land and buildings are retained or transformed for public benefit through community asset ownership or management.
- 5.6 It is confirmed in the paragraphs above that this disposal is in accordance with the CAT Policy and meets the requirements of the General Disposal Consent (Wales) Order. If this disposal is not approved then the benefits as outlined in paragraph 3.2 will not be achieved.
- 5.7 There will be no additional long-term revenue or capital financial commitment required by the Authority for any new facilities provided by the leaseholder at any site agreed to be disposed of under the policy, as this

will be the responsibility of the requester from the start date of the lease until its determination.

- 5.8 The Authority will receive, review and validate a business case from requester, which includes their form of organisation and the proposed community benefits that any transfer will achieve inline with the Community Asset Transfer Policy,
- 5.9 Any loss in revenue from sports pitch permits or event hires of the open space, land or buildings will be captured within the overall business case, and as a principle will be fully offset with the reduced cost of maintenance and repairs of any associated facilities. The relevant Director(s) supported by the S151 Officer will determine whether it is appropriate to adjust internal Council budgets to reflect the loss in revenue/income in one, to be offset through savings in another.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules set out in the constitution apply to this disposal. Under s123 LGA 1972 a local authority has the power to dispose of land held by it in any manner it wishes provided that the local authority achieves the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained except where the disposal is for a short tenancy (less than 7 years) or the local authority has the consent of the Welsh Ministers. Under the Council's constitution the responsibility of determining in what manner the land will be disposed of in order to obtain best consideration lies with the Head of Property Services.
- 6.2 Under the General Disposal Consent (Wales) Order 2003 the Welsh Ministers have issued a general consent for disposals of land under s123 for less than best consideration. This allows a local authority to dispose of land for less than best consideration if it considers that the disposal will contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area and the extent of the undervalue is no more than £2m.
- 6.3 There are specific powers and requirements for the disposal of land held by a local authority for planning purposes, housing, allotments, open space and school playing fields.
- 6.4 Where the land is deemed open space, the Council is required under s123 to advertise the disposal of the land in the local newspaper for two consecutive weeks and to give full and proper consideration to any objections. The key issue for the Council is to balance any adverse consequences of the loss of open space, having regard to the objections received, against the advantages of disposing of the land.
- 6.5 Following the publishing of open space notice and where no objections are received, the Community Asset Transfer Policy and Procedure will be followed, along with the principles set out within this report. Where objections are received, the relevant Director in consultation with Head of

Property Services and Cabinet Member will determine the appropriate reporting route to fully consider any objections, with the key issue for the Council to balance any adverse consequences of the loss of open space, having regard to the objections received, against the advantages of disposing of the land.

- 6.6 In order to dispose of land which is currently playing fields the local authority must comply with The Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Regulations 2015. The Council must before making a decision to dispose of a playing field, or any part of a playing field, publish on two consecutive weeks in at least one local newspaper a notice of the disposal and display a copy in at least one place on or near the playing field to which the disposal relates, and, in any event, at each official entrance to the playing field, for not less than 6 weeks. Copies of the notice and details of the disposal also need to be sent to a number of organisations as set out in the regulations.

The requirements contained in the regulations do not apply where:

- The proposed decision to dispose relates to the grant of an interest in the playing field, or any part of the playing field, that does not have an adverse impact on the use of the playing field as a sports or recreational facility by the public;
 - The playing field is to be retained as a sports or recreational facility for use by the public and the disposal is to be made to a local authority or a body whose aims or objectives include the promotion of sporting or recreational activities.
- 6.7 Where property has not been advertised on the open market, the Council's constitution specifies that if there has been no marketing of the Land or only one person has indicated an interest to purchase there can be no such disposal of land except where it is determined by the Head of Property Services or his nominee is satisfied that the disposal would be in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements. In considering this, the Head of Property Services may have regard to the following matters (among others) (a) the robustness of the valuation evidence (b) the likely market for the Land now and in the future given its relevant physical, legal or other characteristics, (c) the potential for the Land to be transferred to and used by a community council or Third Sector/Community Group in accordance with the CAT Policy, (d) responses (if any) received by the Council following reasonable marketing of the Land and (e) whether the disposal would achieve a corporate objective or contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of people or communities in its area (taking into account all considerations including subsidy controls).

6.8 The lease documentation will contain all the relevant provisions to protect the Council's interest.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A - IIA Screening Form

Appendix B - Site Plans

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Cultural Services/Property Services

Directorate: Place

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

This initiative aims to identify and define approved asset transfer principles for disposal, and provide a list of sites and the proposed leaseholders to transfer to under the principles of the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy. Each application will require approval from the relevant Head of Service, the Head of Property Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

The Council receives requests to lease sport and leisure facilities, including a non-exhaustive list of sports pitches, associated buildings for changing room space and wider community use. Such requests are typically from local clubs, associations, local democratic bodies and requested at peppercorn rent to enable investment under the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy. All transfers will create a mutual benefit to both the Council and the Community by promoting social, economic or environmental wellbeing and supporting the aims and priorities of the Authority. Under the proposals groups, clubs and associations (Requester) seek to undertake the management of the land and associated buildings to unlock and enable investment and local control and use by the primary user group(s). In a usual scenario the requester is operated by constituted volunteer group, or more formally by trustees, or directors under differing governance models.

The purpose of the Cabinet report is to approve in principle the transfer of assets of Sporting and Leisure facilities, including more broadly any recreational land and associated buildings to community organisations, clubs and associations in accordance with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy, at less than best value in order to enable investment, improvement and long-term sustainability.

In line with the Community Asset Transfer Policy (2021) all transfers will create a mutual benefit to both the Council and the Community by promoting social, economic or environmental wellbeing and supporting the aims and priorities of the Authority. Under the proposals Rosehill Community FC, Penlan FC and The Friends of Coed Gwilym Park (Requesters) seek to

undertake the management of the land and associated buildings to unlock and enable investment and local control and use by the primary user group(s). The Requesters are operated by constituted voluntary groups, under differing governance models

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Engagement with ‘Requesters’ has taken place at site visits, initial meetings to discuss working arrangement and support with funding opportunities.

Requesters complete Expression of Interest form, which requires details on community consultation and partnership working with local stakeholders. Guidance from Swansea Council on the consultation process, will be available.

In line with the Community Asset Transfer Policy (2021) all transfers will create a mutual benefit to both the Council and the Community by promoting social, economic or environmental wellbeing and supporting the aims and priorities of the Authority. Under the proposals Rosehill Community FC, Penlan FC and The Friends of Coed Gwilym Park (Requesters) seek to undertake the management of the land and associated buildings to unlock and enable investment and local control and use by the primary user group(s). The Requesters are operated by constituted voluntary groups, under differing governance models

An OSDN is published for each of the sites providing notice of the intention to lease the sites for the purposes set out which provides formal opportunity for members of the public to respond with their support or objections to the proposals. These responses will be considered through the decision making process via Cabinet, in either a written or verbal form. The report set out the delegation on the Head of Property and Legal to have the option to return reports on

individual sites with full disclosure of any responses, should they appear contentious or hold significant risk.

The report aims to identify and define approved asset transfer principles for disposal, and provide a list of sites and the proposed leaseholders to transfer to under the principles of the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy. Each application will require approval from the relevant Head of Service, the Head of Property Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). If Cabinet grants approval in principle to the transfers set out, then the Head of Property Services will consider each individual transfer in accordance with the Council’s Land Transaction Procedure Rules.

In the event that any request is potentially contentious or requires detailed consultation due to a specific significance or any risks associated with the requester or to the Council, the relevant Head of Service will present another report to Cabinet detailing the specific considerations of the individual disposal, individual IIA for the site together with any further background information prior to any final decision.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
 Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
 Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
 Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
 Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

x Yes No If yes, please provide details below

Parks
 Nature Conservation
 Play Sufficiency
 Sports Development

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities adversely because of other decisions the

organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

Increasing the number of asset transfers offers community organisations the scope to develop and improve sites, by accessing funding which is unavailable to the Council. This model fosters community engagement and empowers volunteers to lead localised projects. In accordance with the CAT Policy, all asset transfers will create a mutual benefit to both the Council and the Community by promoting social, economic or environmental wellbeing and supporting the aims and priorities of the Council.

The proposals are not assumed to affect any groups/communities adversely, on the contrary it will address immediate needs expressed by the Requesters, by offering increased opportunities for engagement and improved facilities for all. The proposal also offers a sustainable approach to increasing participation in local decision-making, through the collaboration of local community groups in the day-to-day running of the listed sites. This model places the well-being of local people at the heart of the decision-making process and focusses on ways in which to enhance the listed sites for future generations.

Ongoing support will be provided to the Requesters via Cultural Services, to ensure that the community organisations encourage usage by groups of all protected characteristics, promoting access for all; community cohesion; sports and leisure opportunities; play; physical recreation; well-being and environmental initiatives.

The successful implementation of any proposal and granting of long-term lease as detailed within a business plan from the requestor, will be approved by the relevant Head of Service and will seek to achieve the following benefits as a set of key principles;

- Community cohesion through the ownership, involvement and interest in local facilities.
- Partnership working with the community in managing and safeguarding valuable community assets.
- Investment in modern, fit for purpose facilities which the Council is not in a position to provide.
- Increased access to local formal and informal sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities.
- Access to funding opportunities not available to the Council

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

(Q2) The activity proposed is 'low impact' as it is expected that the experiences of all groups and communities will be enhanced. The transfer will enhance the facility provision to enable them to further develop opportunities for the local community. The OSDN will adequately capture wider consultation within the community, albeit the provision of facilities will likely remain unchanged in the short to medium term, if at all - just instead local ownership of existing spaces for the benefit of a range of community users.

Where development is considered necessary to further improve facilities post transfer, these decisions are likely to require a further set of consultations through the planning process, which can further ensure there are no wider objections to a detailed set of approvals. This is likely to apply for any fencing schemes, pitch development to 3G or extensive pathways in excess of 100m² or physical infrastructure such as buildings. A requirement of all leases will be subject to planning permission being sought for any developments which are aligned to the original business plans submitted as part of the EOI for the sites by community groups

(Q3) Requesters have consulted with their communities and listed key partners and stakeholders within the Expression of Interest forms. Relevant local consultation has been undertaken by requesting organisation on their proposal, with support from the local ward member. This may also include consultation undertaken to seek investment and funding opportunities and publication of their intentions through a number of formal and informal means.

An OSDN has been undertaken in line with the CAT policy, and the cabinet decision making process, along with the delegation to Head of Property and Legal, together with oversight of the individual business plans means that all representations can be considered at decision making stages, or prior to and heads of terms of agreement for lease being entered into.

(Q4) The proposal takes into account WFGA considerations and will work towards local and National goals. Upholding a sustainable approach to community development. The Community Asset transfer policy, as approved by Cabinet and forming part of the constitution underpins this approach, to ensure that local ownership, sustainability and improvements are enabled through the decisions taken by the council to enter into a lease on the land(s)

(Q5) The activity proposed is 'low risk' and supports the socio-economic needs of all parties. There is positive impact across a wide range of user groups, with community cohesive scoring a high- medium impact due to the nature of the decision to enable communities to work together to improve local assets and amenities for community benefit.

The transfer mandates that the following principles are adhered to;

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

All of the above will become a condition of any lease and future arrangement with groups taking on the responsibility for the site(s) and will continue to be actively monitored and managed by the respective Client Dept of the Council in accordance with any final agreements.

(Q7) This proposal will not affect any groups/communities adversely, on the contrary it will address immediate needs expressed by the Requesters by offering increased opportunities for engagement and improved facilities for all. It will also provide a sustainable model for future community development across Swansea.

Any change in provision or opportunities to use or access the site are fully considered within the business proposal and captured within the IIA process for the site. Future improvements or changes to the site, access or development will be subject to a further level of scrutiny, approval and planning permission requirements, which will entail further consultation on individual schemes

In the event that the Head of Service and relevant Cabinet Member cannot support the request principles, or the business plan provided by the requester is not acceptable or robust, the Council is not obliged to undertake Community Asset Transfers and the requester will be notified accordingly of the decision

If the request can be supported under the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules (LTPR), the Head of Property Services must be consulted. The latter will assess the status of the property, its tenure, open market value and potential for realisation of a capital receipt and liaise with the supporting department. Property Services and Finance must be consulted prior to any decision to fully consider the financial implications of the Community Asset Transfer and to ensure it does not breach subsidy controls.

Legal, Financial and any possible Equality and Engagement Implications will also need to be considered and discussed at this stage.

In the event that any request is potentially contentious or requires detailed consultation due to a specific significance or any risks associated with the requester or to the Council, the relevant Head of Service will present another report to Cabinet detailing the specific considerations of the individual disposal, individual IIA for the site together with any further background information prior to any final decision.

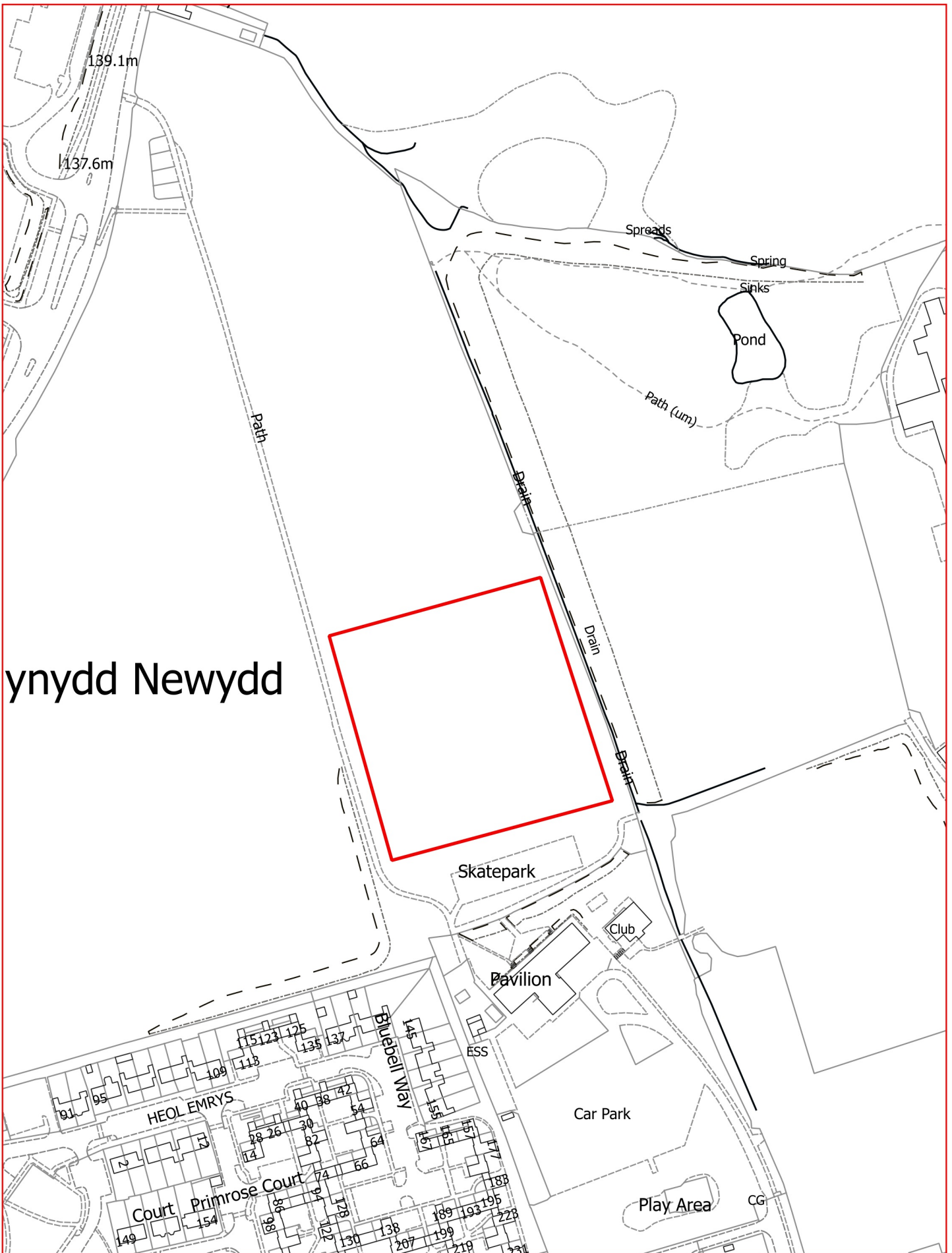
(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

- Full IIA to be completed
- Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Jamie Rewbridge
Job title: Strategic Manager -Cultural Services
Date: 20 Sept 2023
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Tracey McNulty
Position: HOS Cultural Services
Date:

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk

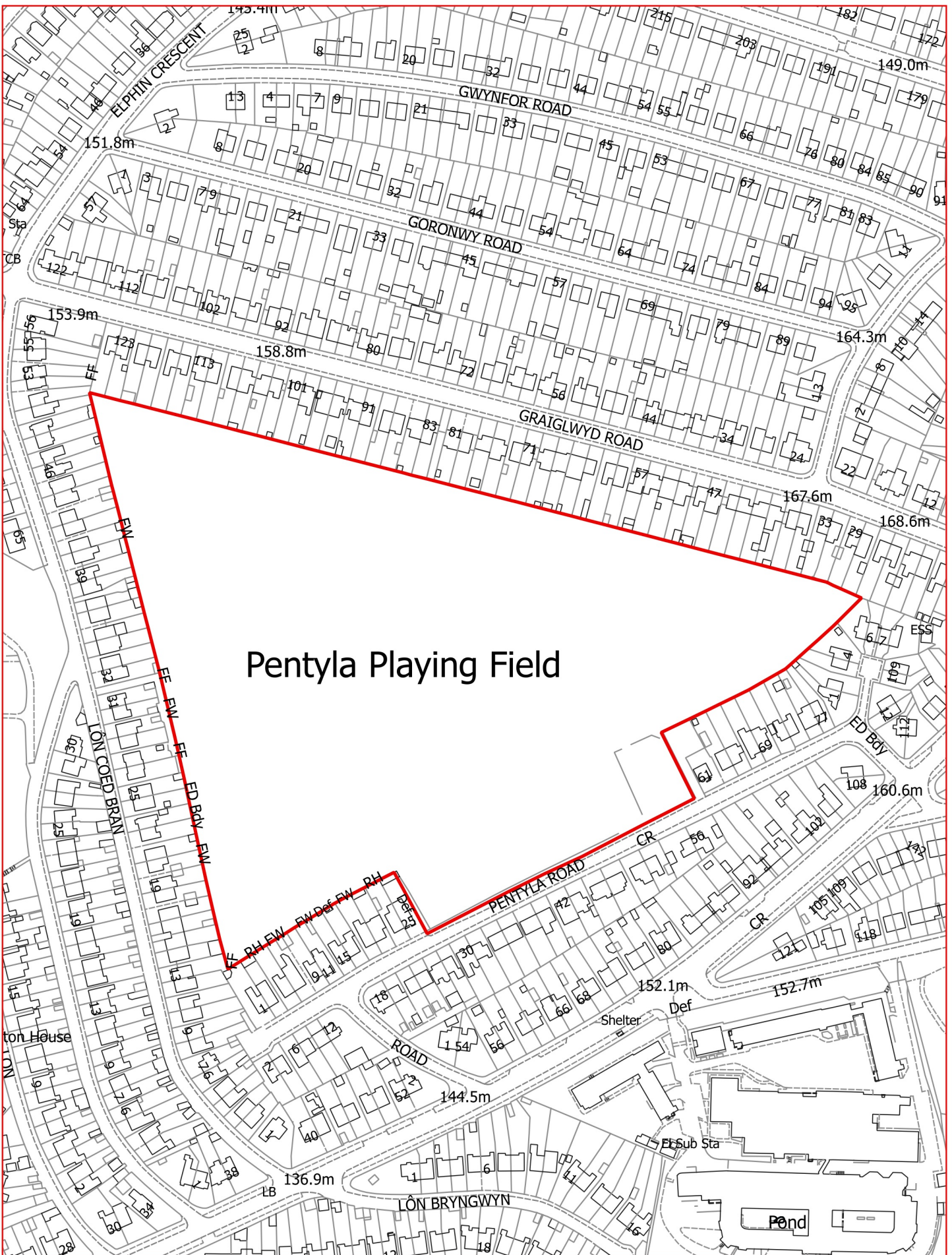


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Appendix B

Penlan AFC - Area for Lease



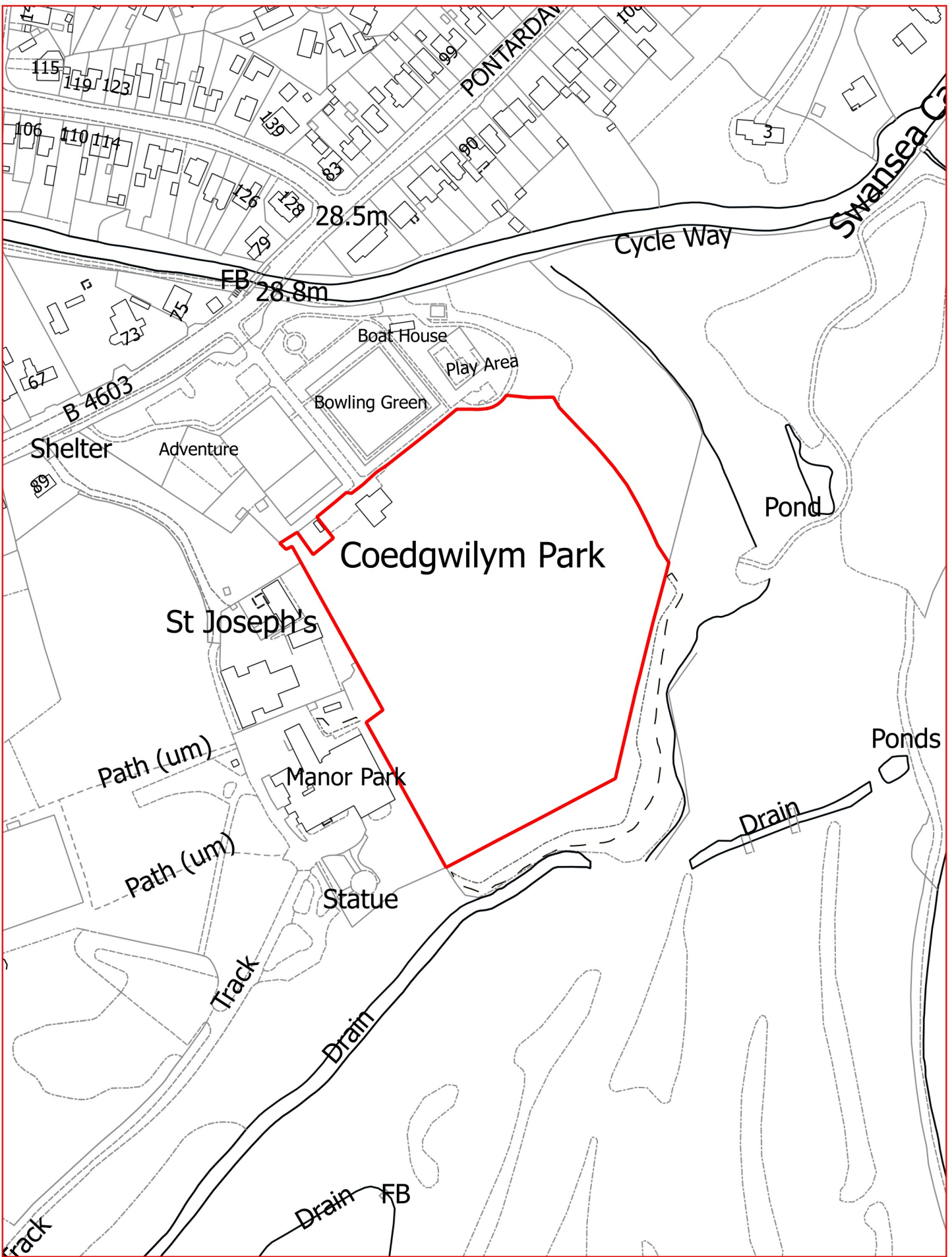


Pentyla Playing Field

Appendix B

Pentyla Playing Fields - Lease to Rosehill Football Club, Friends of Pentyla





Appendix B

Letting to Coed Gwylim Friends For Football



Agenda Item 11.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

Cabinet – 19 October 2023

Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 1st Quarter 2023/24

Purpose:	To report on financial monitoring of the 2023/24 revenue and capital budgets, including the delivery of budget savings.
Policy Framework:	Budget 2023/24. Transformation and Future Council
Consultation:	Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Team, Legal and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Notes the comments and variations, including the heightened material uncertainties, set out in the report and the actions in hand to seek to address these. 2) Approves the virements and the use of the Contingency fund as set out in 3.2 and the Inflation provision as set out in 4.3 subject to any further advice from the S.151 officer during the year. 3) Cabinet reinforces the need for all Directors to continue to minimise service spending in year, recognising that the budget overall is currently balanced only by relying on future likely (but far from wholly assured) reimbursement from Welsh Government, centrally held contingency budgets and reserves. 4) Note the indicative overspend in 6.1 with further actions to be confirmed in subsequent quarters once it is clearer as to the likely final cost of the pay award pending.
Report Author:	Ben Smith
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 This report details forecast variations from the agreed budget for 2023/24.
- 1.2 In respect of Revenue Budgets, this report provides a consolidated forecast, which combines:
- projected variations in relation to budget savings agreed by Council in March 2023
 - Variations arising from other service pressures not directly linked to specific savings plans (e.g. increased service demand, price and pay inflation, increased, but most often unfunded, regulatory obligations and burdens from both UK and Welsh governments)
- 1.3 The report includes comments from Directors in relation to the variations highlighted and the action that is in hand or proposed as appropriate.
- 1.4 The implementation of Oracle Fusion has delayed reporting by one monthly cycle but is now working sufficiently well enough to give assurance to the S151 Officer that the finance and performance reporting process is working in line with previous expectations. The remaining issues are considered not fundamental to the core budget monitoring and reporting on the financial position.
- 1.5 There is also, as members will be aware widescale reporting of financial pressures especially in England. Risks are growing for the whole of local government and whilst the Council has high earmarked reserves, with an equally ambitious set of spending plans to match, it has especially low General Reserves already at the absolute minimum of acceptability to the S.151 Officer. In line with all other councils, it is now rapidly reviewing once again equal pay claims and potential liabilities. At this stage a new pay liability, even if it were proven fully needed (and it is indeed contingent on other events first), could likely be covered by a raft of financial measures available to the S151 Officer to recommend to Cabinet. If ultimately required.

2. Revenue Outturn Forecast Based on 1st Quarter Position

- 2.1 Appendix 'A' to this report details the approved Revenue Budget for 2023/24 and the forecast variation at this time.
- 2.2 Other than projected variations on Directorate expenditure, it is still too soon to confidently forecast final variations that may arise on some significant Corporate items, including the level of Council Tax collection (which posted a small surplus in 2022/23 of £32k). At present, break-even is assumed, but there may be some scope for a repeated surplus given a very prudent (lower) level of collection rate was set for 2023/24.

2.3 The overall Directorate position is summarised below:-

DIRECTORATE

	FORECAST VARIATION 2023/24 £000
CORPORATE SERVICES	-281
FINANCE	-744
SOCIAL SERVICES	3,106
EDUCATION	2,950
PLACE	8,446
NET SERVICE EXPENDITURE	13,477

- 2.4 Directors' comments on the above variations are shown at Appendix B.
- 2.5 Within the *Successful and Sustainable Swansea Corporate Transformation Plan*, work continues to develop service delivery plans linked to savings targets and prioritisation of services. This includes the cross-cutting nature of new reviews as well as the completion of current in-flight reviews.
- 2.6 The table above shows an estimated service overspend for the year of £13.477million but this will ultimately be heavily influenced by the final pay award once resolved.
- 2.7 Services are now operating business as usual but there will be an ongoing impact from Covid for example where income levels have not recovered fully.
- 2.8 Service variations currently assume the existing local government pay offer will be implemented as is at some point (an average 7% pay award but with wide variations between grades). The pay offer from the Employers remains a flat rate £1,925, which was budgeted for, but all recognised Trade Unions are in dispute with national employers and no resolution is in sight. This is considered the minimum likely award with all risk to the upside and it is why residual sums are being held as a hedge against a higher final deal. Vehicle fuel costs are already feeding into reported forecast overspends in some areas (home to school transport and bus services support) and these are reflected where known but remain volatile. Whilst in year energy costs are being closely monitored and assessed to remain afforded within reasonable tolerance of the overall budgets set for the current year, because of material and **one-off** earmarked use of reserves to provide for **one-off** enhanced central inflation budgets, the position remains extremely volatile and challenging for new energy forward purchases and will undoubtedly be a very significant burden on future year base budgets (£millions).
- 2.9 Corporate Management Team has re-enforced the current arrangements for budget monitoring in particular:
- focus on a range of corrective actions;
 - targeted immediate spend minimisation and deferral action;
 - spending control on all vacancies and contracts;

- a continued reminder that **no Responsible Officer is authorised to overspend their budget in line with Financial Procedure Rules**;
- and consequently that Directors must work closely with Cabinet Members and the Corporate Management Team to contain, reduce, defer and delay spending as far as possible, having due regard, to existing agreed budget and political priorities to nonetheless seek to limit service spending especially given pending unfunded substantially higher than expected national pay award
- but recognising that the overall spend pressures are near wholly post-Covid or pay award related and that reserves were bolstered to temporarily assist with such pressures.

2.10 Offsetting opportunities do exist to temporarily ameliorate the currently identified service demand and price pressures as follows.

- £20.330m was set aside mostly **one-off** to meet any significant inflationary increases arising in year, specifically for the increased energy costs. Given the overall financial projection at this stage, it is proposed by the S.151 officer that any residual sum be earmarked as a compensating funding mechanism for likely higher than expected pay awards.
- Use of the Contingency Fund as detailed below.

3. Contingency Fund Provision for 2023/24

3.1 The Contingency Fund budgeted contribution was set at £6.118m contribution for 2023/24 as set out in the budget report approved by Council in March 2023. There was no balance brought forward from 2022/23 as the Contingency Fund was fully utilised, so the total available for use in 2023/24 remains at £6.118m.

3.2 The current potential calls on the Contingency Fund for 2023/24 are:

Contingency Fund 2023/24	2023/24 (£m)
Budgeted contribution for year.	6.118
Funding Agreed deferred specific savings as per Council decision 2 nd March 2023	-0.901
Corporate Services Items -various one off items reflecting known cost pressures (inc. coroners costs, card processing fees) – to be addressed in base in future years	-0.330
Corporate Services - Auditel costs to improve hybrid meeting functionality/stability	-0.027
Corporate Services make good slight shortfall on already agreed Recovery Fund Scheme to support occupational health expansion	-0.018
Potential legal costs – litigations and mitigations	-0.500
Place Services additional costs as per Exempt Cabinet Decisions in year – Regeneration activity	-0.825
Defibrillators - additional roll out	-0.075
Earmarked for as yet unknown final pay costs	-3.442
Balance 31st March 2024	0.0

The above table lists current potential calls on the budgeted Contingency Fund. All (apart from the pay award) are anticipated to be one off costs. The final amounts will be dependent on a number of factors during the year including speed of implementation, actual costs/commitments incurred and final Directorate outturn position. Spend approvals will be deliberately limited to seek to maximise underspend here as part of mitigating budget savings action.

As at 1st April 2023 the balance of the Restructure Reserve was £2.8m, however on 20th April 2023 Cabinet agreed the use of £2.433m of this for the Workforce and Digital Transformation programmes, leaving a balance of £0.367m to contribute toward ER/VR or other cost risks that may arise in 2023/24. The S.151 officer remains satisfied that this is sufficient for 2023/24 taken in conjunction with the balance on contingency this year to fund such costs. The final costs of ER/VR will only be known towards the end of the year once all management actions re savings proposals etc are implemented. At this stage it is assumed that all ER/VR costs will be able to be contained either within Services or from existing earmarked reserves.

Based on current forecast the S.151 officer proposes to utilise the current year forecast underspend on the Contingency Fund of up to £3.442m to provide additional mitigation, together with the forecast unused element of the inflation provision of £3.649m (some £7.091m in total) toward the potential unfunded element of the 2023/24 pay issues.

The one-off nature of the funding sources cannot be understated, the excess unbudgeted base costs will impact directly and significantly on the base budget pressures for 2024/25 and do not solve the inflationary pressures, merely defer most of the problem a year.

However, the S.151 officer proposes to reserve his final position on the recommended levels of use of the Restructure Reserve and Contingency Fund until the absolute success or otherwise of reducing the forecast overspend is known at year-end.

- 3.3 The current indication is that, for 2023/24, there needs to be continued targeted mitigating action and delivery of savings proposals to help reduce the overall overspend. It looks inevitable as this early stage that some draws from contingency and earmarked reserves will be needed to achieve a fully balanced budget for the year, but this was somewhat anticipated and led to the material bolstering of earmarked reserves at outturn and the enhanced **one-off** central inflation provision. Any inroads to net spending will reduce the necessary draw from reserves and increase the amount of reserves available to carry into 2024/25.
- 3.4 The action being taken includes working through existing plans on an accelerated delivery basis:
- Management and Business Support Review: ongoing review of the management structure across the Council and future requirements given the Council's priorities, future challenges and the changing nature of the role of managers
 - Managing the Pay Bill: review of options to contain or reduce employee costs across the Council as part of our overall future workforce strategy (subject to trade union consultation at the appropriate time)

- Commercialism through third party Procurement Savings and Income Generation: review of further options to increase income from fees and charges, trading etc, in addition to the targets already set.
- Progressing implementation of residual phases Commissioning Reviews and Cross Cutting Themes.
- Further implementation of the Social Services Saving Plan through which we have identified mechanisms for bringing down overall costs.
- On the basis that these are existing agreed actions fully set out in the agreed budget set by Council in March.
- Continuing the extant spending restrictions which have been agreed as necessary by Corporate Management Team.
- Directors detailed action plans as summarised in their Appendix B commentary.
- The Director of Corporate Services leading the Recovery Plan implementation as agreed by Cabinet to agree alternative mitigating actions and future steps, taking into account post Covid 19 and Brexit.

3.5 It should be noted that at this time, although the Council continues to pursue VAT related claims when applicable, there is NO certainty of windfalls from VAT refunds or any other external source being received in the current year.

4. Inflation Provision 2023/24

4.1 The 2023/24 budget includes a provision of £20.330m for both inflation (£19.330m) and the Apprenticeship Levy (£1m). This was increased specifically because of the levels of general inflation forecast for 2023/24 and because of the unprecedented energy price rises.

4.2 The Apprenticeship Levy funding will be wholly needed for the Levy this year, with no underspend available to fund service overspending.

4.3 The current potential calls on the Inflation Provision are as follows:

Inflation Provision 2023/24	2023/24 (£m)
Budgeted contribution for year.	19.330
Social Care Energy Costs	-1.000
Education Home to School Transport Costs	-1.000
Schools Energy Costs	-6.000
Council as Corporate Landlord Energy Costs	-6.000
Community Groups Energy Costs support	-0.250
Freedom Leisure Energy Costs support	-1.021
Wales National Pool Energy costs support	-0.200
Arena Energy Costs support	-0.210
Balance 31st March 2024	3.649

5. Savings Tracker 2023/24

5.1 Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, the service savings built into the annual budget have not been specifically and separately monitored. As the budget has been underspent in each year then the savings have been assumed to be met.

- 5.2 As the operation of the Council is now back to “business as usual” the monitoring of specific savings has resumed. In line with the monitoring process pre-pandemic, each Director monitors and reports on progress of individual savings. A summary of this progress is attached at Appendix C.
- 5.3 The summary shows that against a savings target of £21.9m, £15.4m or some 70% is forecast to be achieved by the end of the year.
- 5.4 In addition to the list of savings deferred one year at Council in March 2023, any minor previous savings proposed funded temporarily in year from contingency as part of Cabinet budget monitoring reports will be treated as equivalently deferred and removed from the target.

6. Revenue Budget Summary

- 6.1 The position reported above reflects the best-known current position and shows a net £13.477m shortfall in service revenue budgets, where £4.8m relates to energy costs which is currently being provided for within the inflation provision. After taking this into account there is a net shortfall of £8.677m. This is as a result of pressures mainly in the care sector and home to school transport.

Summary

	£'m
Service Forecast overspend	13.477
Additional estimated costs arising from the latest pay issues	7.091
Less Mitigating	
Inflation provision earmarked for energy costs included above	-4.800
Contingency Fund and Inflation provision balances after assumed use, to be utilised for potential pay issues	-7.091
Net overspend forecast	8.677

- a. Corporate Management Team have reinforced the expectation that both service and overall net expenditure **must** be, as far as practicable, contained within the relevant limits of the current year budget as set by Council, and certainly within any agreed level of tolerance set by Cabinet on the advice of the S.151 Officer.
- b. Included in the projected budget for 2023/24 for other corporate items are capital finance charges. At this stage there is a likely £5m minimum underspend on capital finance charges and any underspending will be transferred at year end to the capital equalisation reserve, a strategy previously agreed by Council. This will be reviewed and updated during the year as emerging capital demands arise (Levelling Up bids etc). The implemented capital financing strategy was formulated to smooth the impact of the implementation of the revised MRP policy whilst also taking advantage of drawing down long-term borrowing at historically low interest.

- c. There continue to be risks around general inflationary pay and price pressures this year, including increases to the National Living Wage which will significantly impact contractors to the Council in some service areas. It will also put further pressure on the lower end of the current local government pay spine in future years. There is, as yet, no resolution to the 2023/24 national local government/teachers' pay award (average 7% budgeted). Current mitigation for the shortfall in funding over this budgeted amount is proposed as utilising the currently un-allocated elements of both the Inflation and Contingency provision.
- d. Detailed monitoring of budgets will continue and will be reported to the monthly Departmental Performance and Financial Management meetings.
- e. It remains imperative that sustainable base budget savings are found to replace in year one off actions to stabilise the 2023/24 budget ahead of the 2024/25 budget round.

6.2 Costs in the delivery and implementation of the Oracle Fusion ICT project estimated arising directly as a result of delays related mostly to the pandemic will need to be funded during 2023/24. The S.151 officer proposes to meet these costs from reserves already established and carried forward. A separate project update report is considered elsewhere on this Cabinet agenda.

7. Capital Budget

7.1 Expenditure to 30th June 2023 is £13.606 million, summarised as follows:

Directorate	Budget 2023/24	Actual to 30/06/23	% Spend
	£'000	£'000	
Corporate Services	2,847	166	5.8%
Finance	0	0	0.0%
Education	6,651	456	6.9%
Social Services	1,287	14	1.1%
Place (General Fund)	94,368	7,122	7.5%
Place (HRA)	50,851	5,848	11.5%
Total	156,004	13,606	8.7%

Expenditure on major capital schemes is detailed in Appendix D.

It should be noted that actual spend to June 2023 is provisional whilst the accounting period remains open.

First quarter expenditure figures are traditionally lower, in comparison to subsequent quarters. As more schemes get underway expenditure tends to increase in subsequent months.

Capital expenditure continues to be subject to the effects of inflationary pressures occurring within the general economy. Schemes and the associated costs remain under constant review with the aim of managing costs within expected budgets. However, material increases above 5% of the cost of a programme are required to be formally approved.

There is an expected impact on the revenue Capital Financing Charges in 2023/24 and future years.

8. Housing Revenue Account

8.1 The HRA has faced significant inflationary pressures over recent years. These pressures continue and have led to the need to increase revenue budgets significantly for 2023/24. Higher than forecast increases in employee costs, increases in utility costs and in particular increases in materials costs for revenue and capital repairs has meant that there will be less financial resources available to the HRA to fund Capital projects in the medium and longer term.

8.2 The revenue repairs budget for 2023/24 has been increased by £4.4m however there are still significant additional demands on this budget. These include, the back log of repairs following Covid, additional spend on void repairs to speed up relet times because of the Homelessness crisis and the additional repair requirements of the Welsh Government's Renting Homes legislation. This budget will be closely monitored over the course of the year to ensure there is sufficient funding to meet these needs.

8.3 The current economic climate and cost of living crisis, along with Welfare Reform and the continued implementation of Universal Credit are impacting rent collection rates, and it is being closely monitored with measures employed to mitigate these impacts. During this quarter, rent arrears and the number of households in rent arrears have risen and it is projected they will continue to increase throughout this year. It is too early in the year to forecast the full impact on rent arrears and the budgeted Bad Debt Provision.

9. Legal Issues

9.1 There are no legal issues contained within this report.

10. Integrated Assessment Implications

10.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English. Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

10.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development

means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 10.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 10.4 The Revenue budget of the Council was approved following the application of the corporate Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process throughout the Budget setting process. It is essential where service levels are affected by changes to the Revenue Budgets (including savings options) that the IIA process (alongside consultation and engagement as appropriate) is applied to ensure due regard is paid to the potential equality impacts of any proposals prior to decision making.

Background papers: - None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Revenue Budget forecast 2023/24

Appendix B – Directors comments on variances and action plans

Appendix C – Savings Tracker

Appendix D – Expenditure on major Capital Schemes

REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTION QUARTER 1 2023/24

<u>DIRECTORATE</u>	BUDGET 2023/24 £000	PROJECTED 2023/24 £000	VARIATION 2023/24 £000
CORPORATE SERVICES	21,867	21,586	-281
FINANCE	33,738	32,994	-744
SOCIAL SERVICES	157,025	160,131	3,106
EDUCATION	214,453	217,403	2,950
PLACE	68,135	76,581	8,446
<i>NET DIRECTORATE EXPENDITURE</i>	495,218	508,695	13,477
SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR APPRENTICESHIP LEVY/INFLATION	20,330	11,881	-8,449
CONTINGENCY FUND	4,842	1,400	-3,442
<i>Estimated effect of Employers Pay Offer</i>	0	7,091	7,091
<i>OTHER ITEMS</i>			
LEVIES			
SWANSEA BAY PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY	89	89	0
CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE	212	212	0
CONTRIBUTIONS			
MID & WEST WALES COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY	17,122	17,122	0
<i>CAPITAL FINANCING CHARGES</i>			
PRINCIPAL REPAYMENTS	15,574	15,574	0
NET INTEREST CHARGES	23,360	18,360	-5,000
<i>NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE</i>	576,747	580,424	3,677
<i>MOVEMENT IN RESERVES</i>			
GENERAL RESERVES	0	0	0
EARMARKED RESERVES	-17,213	-20,890	-3,677
<i>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT</i>	559,534	559,534	0
DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF	418	418	0
<i>TOTAL CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA REQUIREMENT</i>	559,952	559,952	0
COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPTS	1,829	1,829	0
<i>TOTAL REQUIREMENT</i>	561,781	561,781	0
<i>FINANCING OF TOTAL REQUIREMENT</i>			
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT	339,280	339,280	0
NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES	79,002	79,002	0
COUNCIL TAX - CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA	141,670	141,670	0
COUNCIL TAX - COMMUNITY COUNCILS	1,829	1,829	0
<i>TOTAL FINANCING</i>	561,781	561,781	0

Director's comments on budget variances

Director of Corporate Services

The budget position in the first quarter reports that the Corporate Services directorate is forecasting an underspend by the year end.

Variance (under -)/ overspend	£000	Explanation and Action
Director of Corporate Services	-121	Forecast underspend is a result of in-year efficiency measures within the directorate.
Communications and Marketing	-19	Net employee and Supplies and Services underspend across the services.
Digital and Customer Services	-74	Mainly due to a forecasted £250k underspend on ICT contracts, however, this may change by year end as it is dependent on tender negotiations. This is offset by a forecast £196k overspend on provision of business-as-usual support for the Oracle Fusion system.
Human Resources and Organisational Development	5	Compensating under and overspends on Employees and Supplies and Services.
Legal and Democratic Services	-72	Various forecast underspends on employee costs due to vacancies offset by forecast expenditure on external legal costs.
Total Forecast Variation	-281	

Director of Finance

The budget position in the first quarter shows the Finance directorate underspending.

Variance (under -)/ overspend	£000	Explanation and Action
Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)	-502	Demand led spending which continues to be carefully managed to contain costs. Demand is monitored monthly and is rising month on month and consequently the current year end forecast underspend may yet reduce further during the year.
Other variations	-242	Modest underspending across a range of employee and supplies and services costs.
Total Forecast Variation	-744	

Director of Social Services

Variance (under -)/ overspend	£000	Explanation and Action
Adult Services, Prevention and Tackling Poverty	3,408	£2.6m of these pressures relate to support for those with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, with £1.8m of this attributable to the cost of external residential care. An overspend of £739k is forecast in respect of Direct Payment costs.
Child & Family Services	-422	A forecast staffing underspend of £1m has been offset by an expected overspend within Independent Placements.
Grants, Commissioning & Partnerships	-91	Underspends forecast in this area are attributable to staffing.
Integrated Services for Older People	318	We are forecasting overspends in respect of the Domiciliary Care and Residential Care that we commission. This is partially offset by forecast underspends for Direct Payments and within our own staffing establishment.
Resources Hub	-107	An underspend on staffing is currently forecast
Total Social Services	3,106	

Director's Comments

We are currently forecasting an overall overspend of £3.1m for the Directorate. The largest area of overspend is Externally Commissioned Care and we have identified pressures across the Directorate that contribute to this in respect of both income and expenditure.

Whilst the overall forecast is that the Directorate will overspend, there are several significant underspends currently forecast with the majority pertaining to staffing. We are conscious of the impact of staffing vacancies and actions to fill vacant posts are a business priority. Current forecasts presume current vacancies will be filled on a timely basis.

We continue to focus on controlling our costs and maximising income from partners and grants. We will seek opportunities to use grant funding to offset core costs where this is allowable.

Director of Education

Variance (under -)/ overspend	£000	Explanation and Action
Vulnerable Learner Service	800	£740k of this overspend relates to Maes Derw/ PRU. This is due to overspends on staff/ agency and transport. There is also a projected overspend of £550k for additional teaching assistant hours at specialist teaching facilities (STFs) in schools to support individual learners. These are partially offset by forecast underspends due to some in-year grants offsetting core budget.
Education Planning and Resources	-1,015	A forecast underspend on maternity/ paternity and pension payments for schools, and also the Schools Meals Service, where income is achieved from the roll out of universal free school meals.
Achievement and Partnership Service	-120	Underspends forecast in this area are largely attributable to staffing and some supplies and services.
School Transport	3,285	We are forecasting overspends in respect of Home to School Transport again (covering all sectors - primary and secondary mainstream, special schools, and additional learning needs (ALN)).
Total Education	2,950	

Director's Comments

The Education Directorate is currently forecasting an overall overspend of £2.95m for the directorate. However, we will try to mitigate this by year end. The largest area of overspend is school transport with a predicted overspend of £3.3m, and this is mainly due to increases in fuel and contract prices. There has also been a steady increase in demand where ALN is concerned; pupils are placed into the most suitable setting based on their needs, which may be a distance from home, meaning transport costs are higher. We are in the process of reviewing our STF provision which should provide more local provision for learners. There are also a few savings targets for walking routes which require support and assessment from other service areas, that are taking longer than planned to consider.

The Vulnerable Learner Service and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) is also predicting an overspend of £800k. This is largely due to the use of agency staff and transport of pupils. Overspending is being monitored and where appropriate changes made, namely, taking on temporary/fixed term staff to reduce agency costs. A review of the PRU provision is also underway, following a report to Cabinet in June 2023.

Whilst the overall forecast is that the directorate will overspend, this will be offset by several significant underspends in our forecast. Maternity/paternity and pensions for schools is volatile, and by the next quarter we will have a better understanding of demand and will have reduced expenditure which will be used to offset the predicted overspend. This supports the MTFP where £600k of savings have been allocated to these cost centres. We continue to focus on controlling our costs and maximising income from grants and will continue to use grant funding to offset core costs where this is allowable.

There are other areas of identified demand and cost pressures, in spite of the continuing delivery of the education strategy, but these are anticipated to be largely offset by further one-off managed savings in addition to those already reflected in the MTFP. However, the underlying base budget shortfall facing the Education portfolio budget, especially in relation to school transport, is a significant concern.

Director of Place

Variance (under -)/over spend	£000	Explanation and Action
Culture, Tourism, Sport & Leisure	280	National Waterfront Museum historic and inflationary pressures.
Housing and Public Protection	243	Due primarily to spend and income pressures in Cemeteries & Cremations. Mitigating measures elsewhere will improve year end position.
Economic Regeneration and Planning	220	Due primarily to lower Planning fee income and Swansea Market overspend. Some mitigation before year end but not in full.
Highways and Transportation	600	Operational and income pressures.
Waste Management, Parks and Neighbourhood Working	3,853	Historic and predicted pressure - unfunded agency pay award, increased plastic collection costs, increased fleet maintenance costs, increases in diesel costs. Spend mitigation measures in place but will not recover year end position.
Corporate Building Services	0	Break even predicted.
Corporate Property Services	3,250	£3,800k overspend on utilities (to be funded from central inflation as a temporary 'one-off') offset by additional income (£250k) and predicted NNDR underspend (£300k).
Total Forecast Variation	8,446	

Director's Comments

The Directorate is currently projecting a £8.446m overspend for the year ahead. This overspend is expected to reduce to £4.646m following a temporary 'one-off' virement from the central inflation reserve to offset spending pressures arising from increased utility costs. In addition, a number of significant budget pressures are noted and there will be use of budgeted contingency allocated to the Directorate in response to the ending of Welsh Government funding for loss of income and other impacts that continue in the period of recovery post Covid. The aim for the next 3 quarters will be to mitigate any Directorate overspends identified and minimise the call on contingency. Whilst income is recovering in some key areas, the rate of recovery remains slow and is impacting a range of services, fees and charges. Recovery of car park income is a significant unknown and remains supported in year by the Economic Recovery Fund, this key area of income will continue to be monitored closely. In addition, inflationary pressures continue to be experienced across all areas of the Directorate and we are mindful of possible implications from the annual pay award currently being negotiated nationally.

As is the case with any large directorate there are some other non-income related projected overspends, including costs associated with rising price of utilities, but as above and, whilst it can by no means be guaranteed, a net balanced budget remains the aim.

Overall Summary of Savings Achievement

Directorate	Savings TARGETS 2023/24 £'000					Total TARGET 2023/24 £'000
	Black	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	
Corporate Services	228	43	98	161	2,293	2,823
Finance (Including Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	0	185	1,491	104	530	2,310
Social Services (Including Poverty & Prevention)	0	650	350	2,550	2,550	6,100
Education	0	221	120	980	650	1,971
Place	733	690	1,087	2,565	3,630	8,705
Total	961	1,789	3,146	6,360	9,653	21,909
	Savings DELIVERY 2023/24 £'000					Total DELIVERY 2023/24 £'000
	Black	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	
Corporate Services	0	0	50	135	2,293	2,478
Finance (Including Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	0	0	1,356	104	530	1,990
Social Services (Including Poverty & Prevention)	0	0	200	2,550	2,550	5,300
Education	0	0	0	980	650	1,630
Place	0	0	0	398	3,630	4,028
Total	0	0	1,606	4,167	9,653	15,426
Overall Percentage Achieved	0%	0%	51%	66%	100%	70%

Appendix D

Capital expenditure on major schemes to 30 June 2023 (where spend greater than £250k)	£000's
Place	
City Deal - 71-72 Kingsway Offices	2,077
Palace Theatre Redevelopment	846
Cefn Hengoed Community Hub	371
Corporate Building Services (Including Schools)	886
Disability Facility Grants	625
Highways & Transport Vehicle Replacement	400
Seawall Repairs Mumbles	1,975
Landfill Gas Engine Replacement	329
HRA	
HRA Capital Programme (More Homes Schemes)	1,533
Wind and Weatherproofing	1,532
External Facilities	608
Adaptations	618
HRA Kitchens & Bathrooms	608

Total scheme value where spend greater than £250k

12,408

Agenda Item 12.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

Cabinet – 19 October 2023

Oracle Project Closure Process and Transition to New Operating Model

Purpose:	To provide an update on the end of the Oracle Fusion system implementation. The system is now live therefore the project will soon be closing and transitioning into the new Oracle operating model.
Policy Framework:	Digital Strategy 2023-28 Transformation & Financial Resilience well-being goal within the Corporate Plan Successful and Sustainable Swansea
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Approves the £500,000 contingency budget for the project to remain in the earmarked Oracle Reserve to be used for the pending change requests from services and any additional in-year licence costs following review. 2) Notes Oracle activities will be transitioning from the project into the new permanent operating model.
Report Authors:	Sarah Lackenby
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background to the Project

- 1.1 In September 2019, Cabinet approved the upgrade of the Council's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System¹ Oracle R12.1 to Oracle Fusion Cloud at an estimated cost of £4.8 million because the Oracle R12.1 system was due to become end of life. The project was scheduled to be implemented within one year and to go live in November 2020.
- 1.2 However, at the end of March 2020 the Council went into business continuity mode because of the COVID19 pandemic. A key part of this was the Council's emergency response to support residents and businesses across a range of service interventions including significant financial support. Some of these interventions were also delivered on behalf of Welsh Government, e.g. grants. This work was intensive, not only during the lockdown periods but for eighteen months afterwards, with the impact and backlog of work still being felt even now.
- 1.3 The impact of the pandemic delayed the project in different ways over the subsequent three years:
- Staff were diverted onto emergency support for residents and businesses at the start of the pandemic, therefore in November 2020 Cabinet agreed a revised go-live date of October 2021. The associated risks of the R12.1 system coming to an end were mitigated by Oracle extending support.
 - Lockdowns continued during 2021, diverting staff to the emergency response, therefore in January 2022 Cabinet agreed a revised go-live date of October 2022.
 - However, during 2022 each phase of the project was delayed by new unforeseen and inescapable work related to the pandemic (e.g., cost of living payments, payments to carers) and staff sickness related to COVID19 and staff vacancies. In particular, the rate of progress in respect of the testing phase far exceeded timescales despite additional measures to improve the pace, e.g. Oracle writing test scripts and undertaking some of the testing. Therefore, in October 2022 Cabinet agreed a revised go-live date of April 2023, which was successfully delivered.
- 1.4 Our system implementation partner was Infosys. In addition, to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the project the Council procured support from the Society for Innovation, Technology and Modernisation (Socitm) to provide specialist support for key roles, e.g., testing and reports co-ordination, project management. Support was also procured from Oracle to provide system advice, guidance, and support to services on key

¹ The ERP system provides the following council back-office functions: finance, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, HR, and capital project management

activities such as testing. However, like the council, external partners also experienced COVID related staff absences and turnover which also impacted the project timeline.

1.5 The system successfully went live in April 2023 with payroll and pensions running accurately. There were some critical post go-live issues, primarily relating to interfaces with other Council systems. These are now mostly fixed, except for the Pensions and Central Transport Unit system integrations, which will be going live into production shortly. Once these critical issues have been resolved the project will close and move into the new permanent operating model.

1.6 In the first few months after the system went live there were around 2,000 reported incidents, with 40% relating to 'how to' questions, 30% were technical faults, 17% were relating to role access mainly absence management and purchasing approvals, and 13% related to log-in issues. Very few incidents (on average around 9 per day) are now being reported as the system stabilises.

2. Deliverables

2.1 Delivery of the Objectives

2.1.1 The main driver for the Oracle Fusion project was to reduce risk, as the previous R12.1 system would become end of life and unsupported by Oracle. The new system is resilient and secure which helps to mitigate cyber and ICT Disaster recovery risks on the corporate risk register.

2.1.2 There was a range of other opportunities for improvement as a result of moving to the cloud system which have been achieved. The table below maps the original project objectives with examples of how they have been met. Further examples are listed in the benefits at point 2.2.2.

Original Objectives	What has been delivered
To upgrade the system to make it current and compliant; thus, ensuring sustained support and continuity complying with all security parameters, including disaster recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 modules have been delivered covering HCM (Core HR, Learn, Talent), Finance (AP, AR, GL, Cash management, Procurement), Supply Chain Management (OTL, Projects, Inventory) and Payroll (Payroll, Expenses) • Each module has been configured, tested, populated with data and released into live running • The previous Oracle 12.1 database was also successfully migrated into the cloud infrastructure to provide stability and resilience for archived data • Oracle Fusion is secure, fast, and resilient with disaster recovery from Oracle

Original Objectives	What has been delivered
To comply with the latest legislative and statutory changes including Making Tax Digital and Teachers' Pensions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any new legislative updates are now automatically included in the quarterly patches.
To improve the business processes being used in the Council, and bring significant productivity savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits tracker has identified 156 process changes as a result of implementing Oracle Fusion • Two examples of process improvements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invoice users are now able to run their own Dispute and 60 Day Debt reports. This means services can be proactive in debt monitoring and management. Reports can also be exported into Excel and other formats if required ○ New processes reduce the risk of duplicate suppliers and reduce the risk of invoices paid in error
To provide better decision-making capabilities by introducing real-time, faster and self-service reporting dashboards	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-service reports which run within seconds • Reports around who has completed mandatory training • Financial monitoring reports and smartview functionality so that the general ledger team can interrogate accounts without needing to run complex reports • Easier National Fraud Initiative reporting by payroll
To reduce the redundancies, remove person dependencies and to improve auditability by automating and consolidating business processes	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The learn module where the system automatically enrolls self service employees on mandatory training saving managers' time • Various notifications informing of new hires, change to employee records etc, so the workforce team no longer need to complete time consuming SW1 forms • The Lifeline interface automatically splits direct debit invoices into instalments, which was previously a manual task • Further automation of absence pay so that Teachers' and non-Teachers sick pay and parental leave are all automated • Company Single Sign-on so staff do not have re-enter passwords • Seamless cross functional access for the general ledger team, e.g. easy access to payables,

Original Objectives	What has been delivered
	receivables and the general ledger as well as easily switching between services and pensions data access sets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time set-up of commonly used general ledger combinations enables quick access later when needed
To provide a smooth transition to the upgraded system and to minimise business impact	A significant amount of communication and engagement was undertaken in the lead-up to go-live including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oracle Fusion champions identified in each service and a change network established (34 change agents onboarded, 12 sessions held, including launch, readiness updates and Q&As) • 80 end user guides and 117 how to videos were produced and well used by staff over the go-live period • 19 key user guides produced • Key User Training sessions delivered by Infosys including to the Oracle Support Team • Business readiness group established (15 meetings held + 10 change updates) • Readiness Assessments undertaken (2 key user surveys undertaken, a general ledger user survey analysed) • Stakeholder management meetings delivered including DMT briefings (10 DMTs attended, two per directorate) • Change Impact Assessment undertaken • Benefits Tracker established (63 Benefits identified)

2.2 Realising the Benefits of the new System

2.2.1 Benefits take time to come to fruition, sometimes many years after a project has been completed. A benefits tracker has been developed alongside service leads which will be regularly updated and monitored through the new Oracle governance arrangements. 63 benefits have been identified and these will continue to be monitored.

2.2.2 Examples of benefits and improvements already achieved include:

- A secure and resilient system is now implemented
- A more user-friendly and modern interface for staff
- The goals and performance module enables the Council to directly link corporate plan well-being objectives into personal objectives for staff

and Councillors. In addition, managers can mass assign corporate goals and upload performance reviews for staff with access to self-service

- The Learn module enables the Council to report on the completion of mandatory training courses, including Health and Safety. In addition, Fusion provides access to all learning, even for staff who do not have Fusion self-service. The system also allows for 'learning initiatives' for cohorts of staff undertaking service specific training
- In the accounts receivable module invoice users have greater self-service capability, able to run their own dispute letters
- In the accounts payable module data import improvements reduce the number of invoice entries in the general ledger and also removes the need to manually create journals
- Manual processes around creating supplier records and transactions have also been reduced
- Payroll can record comments against payments, which in turn supports the Service Centre helpdesk with faster query resolution
- Supplier records have been cleansed which reduces the risk of supplier duplicate payments. Maintenance of these records has been improved by the introduction of "One Time Supplier" functionality
- Introduction of a new bank database which has allowed Accounts Payable interfaced invoices to be paid electronically without manual intervention.

3. Closing the Project and Future Development

- 3.1 The project is close to resolving two remaining post go-live issues and once these are complete the project will close, and management of the system will move into the new Oracle operating model. It should be noted that although the project is closing, any new issues or changes required will be addressed as a priority by the new Oracle operating model. The project was established for initial implementation only.
- 3.2 The previous project board will be replaced by a Fusion Change Board going forward, which will comprise service leads from across the Council. This new board will oversee and approve any changes or new developments to the system as well as the quarterly patch releases from Oracle.
- 3.3 A new operating model has been developed as part of the project and this is currently transitioning into place. This includes different roles within the Oracle Support Team within Digital Services alongside the Oracle support contract.
- 3.4 A review will be documented once the project has been fully closed and internal audit will audit the project. This will also be the first year of external audit reviewing internal controls of the new system as part of their work to audit the Council's statement of accounts.

3.5 Advice provided by Oracle and all the suppliers involved in the implementation indicates this is only the beginning of the Oracle Fusion journey. Oracle will constantly develop and evolve the system, some based on recommendations directly from the public sector user group. In addition, the Council will work to maximise the new functionality within Fusion to improve business processes and operational efficiency.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales by acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.4 An IIA Screening Form has been completed (Appendix A) with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required: The summary of impacts has been categorised as low. Whilst this is core business system for the Council it is an internal system and the impact on specific groups is low.

4.5 With regard to involvement this is all internal to the Council. Key internal users have been involved in the project, key stakeholders were identified

at an early stage and a change team delivered communication, engagement, training and development as part of roll out.

4.6 The report adheres to the transformation and financial resilience well-being objective in the Corporate Plan - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

4.7 The risks surrounding the project are considered low as the system is now live.

4.8 With regard to the cumulative impact of the project, there will continue to be changes to processes and ways of working as Oracle Fusion develops. However, these changes are internal and would be considered as overall improvements.

4.9 Well-being and future generations and the five ways of working considerations include:

- The upgrade of the Council's ERP system means core processes will more effectively support frontline services in the longer term
- The upgrade changes ways of working and provides a more resilient platform therefore reducing / preventing the risk of downtime
- Oracle is used by other public sector providers, which aids any future integration
- Key users and stakeholders will continue to be actively involved in the development of the system.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 In September 2019 Cabinet approved an Oracle Fusion project budget of £4.8 million. However, from March 2020 onwards the project was severely impacted by the pandemic and its aftereffects as staff were diverted to support residents and businesses.

5.2 Delays to the project led to increased cost where suppliers were spending longer on activities, staff secondments and honoraria were extended, support of the old system had to be extended, and licence costs increased over time.

5.3 Cabinet approved extensions to the project in November 2020, January 2022 and October 2022 as well as a total of £12.315 million specific project funding (including a £500,000 contingency). In addition, during the testing phase of the project £880,000 was spent from Finance and Digital base budgets (in line with Finance Procedure Rules), to fund additional temporary staff resources so that vital pandemic and business as usual work in Finance and the Service Centre was not adversely impacted.

- 5.4 It is forecast the project budget will be spent, with the exception of the £500,000 contingency fund. £6.1 million of the total project cost is attributable to the unavoidable delays as a direct result of the COVID19 pandemic and the Council's need to manage its impact on the employees, individuals, businesses and communities of Swansea. A case was made to the Welsh Government to meet these costs but unfortunately this was unsuccessful.
- 5.5 Now the system is live this is only the start of the Oracle Fusion cloud journey. Services have already submitted change requests to take advantage of the new Fusion functionality to improve operational efficiency and automate manual back-office processes. The final cost of these changes is not known at this stage as each request requires a written specification and analysis. It is recommended that the £500,000 contingency remains in the Oracle Reserve to fund these change requests. Examples of these changes include:
- New reports for the inventory, projects, payroll, Oracle Time and Labour, and Accident Reporting areas to improve operational efficiency
 - A new process around e-invoicing following recent changes from Welsh Government
 - New interfaces for Early years Childcare
 - More information to support Performance & Financial Monitoring meetings by Directorates.
- 5.6 In addition, there will be changes to Oracle licencing which is likely to incur additional costs. Oracle is supporting the Council with the review of licences. It is recommended any subsequent additional current year licence costs are also funded from the contingency to be held in the Oracle Reserve. Future costs and funding options will form part of budget setting for 2024-25 onwards.
- 5.7 At the start of the project Audit Wales recommended capital receipts were not used, therefore additional capital equalisation reserve was utilised, which was reported through the Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer routine quarterly budget monitoring reports to Cabinet. Capital and revenue budgets were re-aligned each year in accordance with the new timescales and different accounting years applied.
- 5.8 During the first extension Infosys absorbed their additional costs. Over the life of the project all suppliers have contributed expertise above and beyond their contracts, to deliver the project.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The various contracts providing the supplies and services required to deliver this project have been the subject of a range of procurement processes governed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix A IIA Screening
- Appendix B Final Financial Implications

Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Digital and Customer Services

Directorate: Corporate Services

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Oracle Fusion Cloud Implementation Project. This project is to migrate away from the existing on premise Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform, to a cloud-based ERP. Doing so will enable numerous transformation opportunities which will see business processes changing to align with the best practice models available through cloud. This is an internal back-office IT system. An EIA was completed prior to start of the programme in 2019. This is a revised IIA screening at the end of the project.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

This Oracle programme has been several years in the planning. Through this process there have been several internal engagements with the Oracle Superuser group of staff (who represent the business process owners) to discuss the impacts of the project. The system is a back-office support system therefore all engagement has been with internal stakeholders.

Furthermore, key business users were heavily involved in a four-week due diligence process before the Oracle programme started. There was a series of 39 workshops to assess the readiness of the organisation for change, and to map the gaps between our existing processes and the cloud platform.

Business owners, leads and resources from across the Council have worked on the Oracle project.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
 Yes No

- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
 Yes No

- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
 Yes No

- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
 Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low risk <input type="checkbox"/>
--	---	---

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?
 Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

This is an internal business system, therefore the impact on external people and communities is low. The programme is made up of internal business users and leads making the key decisions for their areas.

Change management and engagement has been factored into the plan to ensure all internal users get the communications needed. Training was provided and a training and learning needs analysis undertaken.

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The summary of impacts has been categorised as low. Whilst this is core business system for the Council it is an internal system and the impact on specific groups is low.

With regard to involvement this is all internal to the Council. Key internal users have been involved in the project, key stakeholders were at an early stage and a change team delivered communication, engagement, training and development as part of roll out.

Well-being and future generations and the five ways of working considerations include:

- The upgrade of the Council's ERP system means core processes will more effectively support frontline services in the longer term
- The upgrade changes ways of working and provides a more resilient platform therefore reducing / preventing the risk of downtime
- Oracle is used by other public sector providers, which aids any future integration
- Key users and stakeholders are actively involved in the delivery and implementation of the project.

The report adheres to the transformation and financial resilience well-being objective in the Corporate Plan - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

The risks surrounding the project are considered low as the system is now live.

With regard to the cumulative impact of the project, there will be changes to processes and ways of working as Oracle Fusion develops. However, these changes are internal and would be considered as overall improvements.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Sarah Lackenby
Job title: Head of Digital & Customer Services
Date: 6th September 2023
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Ness Young
Position: Director of Corporate Services
Date: 25th September 2023

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : SUMMARY

Portfolio : Corporate Services
 Service : Digital and Transformation
 Scheme : Oracle Fusion ERP - One-off implementation Costs

1. CAPITAL COSTS	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Implementation - development of assets	100	517	80	84	30	811
EXPENDITURE	100	517	80	84	30	811
<u>Financing</u>						
Capital / Capital Equalisation Reserve	100	517	80	84	30	811
FINANCING	100	517	80	84	30	811
2. REVENUE COSTS						
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>						
Backfill and resources	226	324	518	433	410	1,911
New licences and framework	277	757	766	863	456	3,119
Integration	0	36	60	12	48	156
Implementation	112		112	0	97	321
Infosys Extension			175	218	1,448	1,841
ORACLE Additional resources			264	829	11	1,104
SOCITM Additional Resources			400	1,025	297	1,722
Hays Additional Resources				60	290	350
Implementation - transformation and working with services to change processes	280	401	122	281	108	1,192
Other (printing, postage, insurances)		1	2	3	4	10
Contingency					500	500
Additional resources in Services		158				158
EXPENDITURE	895	1,677	2,419	3,724	3,669	12,384
<u>Financing</u>						
Capital Equalisation Reserve	445	799	1,590	0	2,069	4,903
ICT Oracle Reserve E2843				1,811		1,811
Digital Revenue Contribution - cc 33001	450	450	329	303		1,532
Oracle Revenue - cc 31007		270				270
Revenue Accounts - Service Centre / Digital Services		158				158
Finance Underspend			500	366		866
Digital Revenue Contribution - cc 33022				14		14
Fusion Licence Budget -31007				330		330
Digital Development Fund Reserve				900	1,600	2,500
FINANCING	895	1,677	2,419	3,724	3,669	12,384
3. TOTAL EXPENDITURE						
TOTAL: Financing	995	2,194	2,499	3,808	3,699	13,195
TOTAL: Purchase and Implement ERP	995	2,194	2,499	3,808	3,699	13,195

Agenda Item 13.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation (Joint Deputy Leader)

Corporate Briefing – 5 October 2023

Public Services Ombudsman of Wales Annual Letter 2022-23

Purpose:	To present the Public Services Ombudsman of Wales Annual Letter 2022-23 for Swansea Council.
Policy Framework:	Complaints Policies Transformation & Financial Resilience well-being objective in the Corporate Plan
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, and Access to Services.
Report Author:	Sarah Lackenby
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the annual Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) letter for 2022-23 and includes complaints performance of both Swansea Council and across the whole of Wales.
- 1.2 The Council recognises that in order to meet the needs and concerns of members of the public, the monitoring of complaints is a valuable resource in its requirement to continually improve services. All complaints are taken very seriously and provide valuable customer insight.

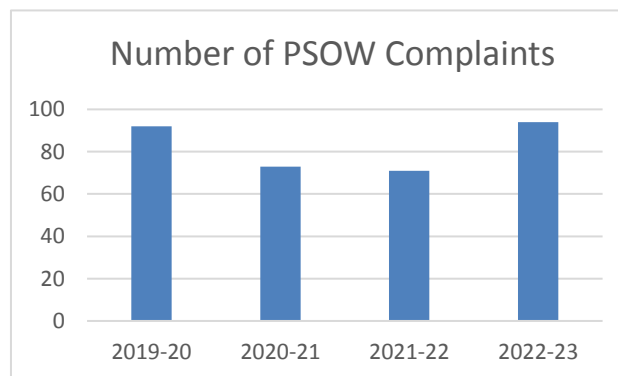
- 1.3 Requests for service are different to complaints (e.g. a request for service could be a request to repair an unlit lamp post, or missed bin collection). A complaint would only arise should the request for service not be properly dealt with.
- 1.4 The PSOW recognises there are limitations with the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019, making it difficult to reconcile performance locally. Ombudsman cases received and closed are not reported within financial years and so will never match the annual reports of Councils. The annual PSOW letter is therefore a standalone picture of the Ombudsman's work and will not match the Council's Annual Complaints Report.

2. Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Annual Letter

2.1 The PSOW publishes the annual letters to all Councils on its website and is attached to this report at appendix A. The letter highlights activities undertaken by the Ombudsman's office during the year and the Council's performance and shows:

- The Ombudsman's office has seen a 3% increase in requests compared with 2021-22. This is double the number of cases compared with a decade ago
- However, the number of complaints relating to local authorities has reduced by 11% compared with 2021-22
- In 2021-22 the Ombudsman upheld 13% of local authority complaints
- The Ombudsman has launched a new Service Quality process to ensure the standard of service meets expectations
- The second wider Own Initiative Investigation will be looking into carers assessments in local authorities in the coming year.

2.2 In 2022-23 the Ombudsman received 94 complaints relating to Swansea Council (71 in 2021-22), which represents 6% of Swansea Council's overall complaints and 9% of all complaints received across Wales. The table below shows complaints over the past four years and reflects the impact of the pandemic:



- 2.3 24% (23) complaints related to Housing. These were across a range of issues with no particular trend. Housing has seen an increase in complaints due to clearing the Covid backlog of internal repairs, and the transition period to the new Oracle Field Services system.
- 2.4 Of the ten complaints that required intervention and reached an early resolution / voluntary settlement these relate to:
- Eight Corporate Complaints including: the Contact Centre (1), Housing Repairs (4), Rats (1), Council tax (1), and Housing (1)
 - Two Social Services including: Child and Family (1), Adult Services (1).
- 2.5 Further to the letter, the Ombudsman requests the Council takes the following actions:
- Present the letter to the Cabinet and the Governance and Audit Committee, which have subsequently both been scheduled in October. In addition to this requirement, the letter will be presented to the Standards Committee as the letter refers to Code of Conduct complaints which is within the Standards Committee's terms of reference.
 - Continue to engage with the Ombudsman's Complaints Standards work. In this regard the Council:
 - Continues to access training. The Ombudsman delivered training to Social Services in October 2022
 - Has aligned to the model policy. Swansea Council's complaints policies are aligned with the model policy and other legislation. The Council continues to regularly engage with the Ombudsman's office on any points of clarification or advice
 - Submits quarterly complaints data on time
 - The Council will write to the Ombudsman following the Cabinet and Governance and Audit Committee meetings.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.

- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

3.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

3.1.3 This report is for information only. Any activities following this report will be subject to the IIA process as required.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Any expenditure on complaints investigations or re-dress payments incurred during 2022-23 will be reported in the Council's Annual Complaints Report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A Annual letter from the Public Services Ombudsman of Wales 2022-23



Date: 17 August 2023

Ask for: Communications
01656 641150
Communications
@ombudsman.wales

Cllr. Rob Stewart
Swansea Council
By Email only: cllr.rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk

Annual Letter 2022/23

Dear Councillor Stewart

I am pleased to provide you with the Annual letter (2022/23) for Swansea Council which deals with complaints relating to maladministration and service failure, complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the actions being taken to improve public services.

This letter coincides with my Annual Report – “[A year of change – a year of challenge](#)” – a sentiment which will no doubt resonate with public bodies across Wales. My office has seen another increase in the number of people asking for our help – up 3% overall compared to the previous year, and my office now receives double the number of cases we received a decade ago.

In the last year, I have met with public bodies across Wales – speaking about our casework, our recommendations, and our proactive powers. The current climate will continue to provide challenges for public services, but I am grateful for the positive and productive way in which local authorities continue to engage with my office.

1,020 complaints were referred to us regarding local authorities last year - a reduction of 11% compared to the previous year. During this period, we intervened in (upheld, settled or resolved at an early stage) 13% of local authority complaints.

We received fewer Code of Conduct complaints in 22/23 compared to the previous year, relating to both Principal Councils and Town and Community Councils. My role is such that I do not make final findings about breaches of the Code of Conduct. Instead, where investigations find the most serious concerns, these are referred to the Standards Committee of the relevant local authority, or the

Adjudication Panel for Wales. In 2022/23, the Ombudsman made 12 such referrals – a welcome reduction from 20 last year.

Supporting improvement of public services

Despite the challenges of last year, we have pushed forward with our proactive improvement work and launched a new Service Quality process to ensure we deliver the standards we expect.

Last year, we began work on our second wider Own Initiative investigation – this time looking into carers assessments within local authorities. This investigation will take place throughout the coming year, and we look forward to sharing our findings with all local authorities – not just those involved in the investigation.

The Complaints Standards Authority (CSA) continued its work with public bodies in Wales last year, with more than 50 public bodies now operating our model policy. We've also now provided more than 400 training sessions since we started, with local authorities, in September 2020.

We continued our work to publish complaints statistics into a second year, with data now published twice a year. This data allows us to see information with greater context – for example, last year 6% of Swansea Council's complaints were referred to PSOW.

I would encourage Swansea Council, and specifically your Audit and Governance Committee, to use this data to better understand your performance on complaints and consider how well good complaints handling is embedded throughout the Authority.

Further to this letter can I ask that your Council takes the following actions:

- Present my Annual Letter to the Cabinet and to the Governance and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity and notify me of when these meetings will take place.
- Continue to engage with our Complaints Standards work, accessing training for your staff, fully implementing the model policy, and providing accurate and timely complaints data.
- Inform me of the outcome of the Council's considerations and proposed actions on the above matters at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Morris
Public Services Ombudsman

cc. Martin Nicholls, Chief Executive, Swansea Council.
By Email only: chiefexecutive@swansea.gov.uk



Factsheet

Appendix A - Complaints Received

Local Authority	Complaints Received	Received per 1000 residents
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	16	0.24
Bridgend County Borough Council	55	0.38
Caerphilly County Borough Council	49	0.28
Cardiff Council*	142	0.39
Carmarthenshire County Council	53	0.28
Ceredigion County Council	35	0.49
Conwy County Borough Council	31	0.27
Denbighshire County Council	32	0.33
Flintshire County Council	65	0.42
Cyngor Gwynedd	36	0.31
Isle of Anglesey County Council	25	0.36
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	17	0.29
Monmouthshire County Council	23	0.25
Neath Port Talbot Council	39	0.27
Newport City Council	42	0.26
Pembrokeshire County Council	44	0.36
Powys County Council	38	0.29
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**	54	0.23
Swansea Council	94	0.39
Torfaen County Borough Council	16	0.17
Vale of Glamorgan Council	49	0.37
Wrexham County Borough Council	65	0.48
Total	1020	0.33
* inc 9 Rent Smart Wales		
** inc 2 South Wales Parking Group		



Appendix B - Received by Subject

Swansea Council	Complaints Received	% share
Adult Social Services	6	6%
Benefits Administration	0	0%
Children's Social Services	12	13%
Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure	1	1%
Complaints Handling	12	13%
Covid19	0	0%
Education	1	1%
Environment and Environmental Health	8	9%
Finance and Taxation	3	3%
Housing	23	24%
Licensing	3	3%
Planning and Building Control	10	11%
Roads and Transport	9	10%
Various Other	6	6%
Total	94	



Appendix C - Complaint Outcomes
(* denotes intervention)

Swansea Council		% Share
Out of Jurisdiction	29	29%
Premature	28	28%
Other cases closed after initial consideration	32	32%
Early Resolution/ voluntary settlement*	10	10%
Discontinued	0	0%
Other Reports - Not Upheld	0	0%
Other Reports Upheld*	0	0%
Public Interest Reports*	0	0%
Special Interest Reports*	0	0%
Total	99	



Appendix D - Cases with PSOW Intervention

	No. of interventions	No. of closures	% of interventions
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	0	16	0%
Bridgend County Borough Council	5	57	9%
Caerphilly County Borough Council	6	52	12%
Cardiff Council	25	145	17%
Cardiff Council - Rent Smart Wales	1	9	11%
Carmarthenshire County Council	7	60	12%
Ceredigion County Council	13	44	30%
Conwy County Borough Council	5	35	14%
Denbighshire County Council	2	33	6%
Flintshire County Council	5	70	7%
Cyngor Gwynedd	5	33	15%
Isle of Anglesey County Council	5	25	20%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1	18	6%
Monmouthshire County Council	1	22	5%
Neath Port Talbot Council	7	38	18%
Newport City Council	8	48	17%
Pembrokeshire County Council	3	45	7%
Powys County Council	8	44	18%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	2	54	4%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - South Wales Parking Group	0	2	0%
Swansea Council	10	99	10%
Torfaen County Borough Council	1	17	6%
Vale of Glamorgan Council	15	53	28%
Wrexham County Borough Council	6	67	9%
Total	141	1086	13%



Appendix E - Code of Conduct Complaints

Swansea Council

Decision not to investigate	0
Discontinued	5
No evidence of breach	0
No action necessary	0
Refer to Adjudication Panel	0
Refer to Standards Committee	0
Total	5



Appendix F - Town/Community Council Code of Complaints

Town/Community Council	Decision not to investigate	Investigations				Total	
		Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Adjudication Panel		Refer to Standards Committee
Clydach Community Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Grovesend and Waungron Community Council	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Gowerton Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mumbles Community Council	5	0	0	0	0	2	7
Pennard Community Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Port Eynon Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Three Crosses Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Information Sheet

Appendix A shows the number of complaints received by PSOW for all Local Authorities in 2022/23. These complaints are contextualised by the population of each authority.

Appendix B shows the categorisation of each complaint received, and what proportion of received complaints represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix C shows outcomes of the complaints which PSOW closed for the Local Authority in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix D shows Intervention Rates for all Local Authorities in 2022/23. An intervention is categorised by either an upheld complaint (either public interest or non-public interest), an early resolution, or a voluntary settlement.

Appendix E shows the outcomes of Code Of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Local Authority in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix F shows the outcomes of Code of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Town and Community Councils in the Local Authority's area in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for each Town or Community Council.

ombwdsmon.cymru
holwch@ombwdsmon.cymru
0300 790 0203
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, CF 35 5LJ
Rydym yn hapus i dderbyn ac
ymateb i ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.

ombudsman.wales
ask@ombudsman.wales
0300 790 0203
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, CF 35 5LJ
We are happy to accept and respond
to correspondence in Welsh.

Agenda Item 14.



Joint Report of the Cabinet Members for Economy, Finance and Strategy & Environment & Infrastructure

Cabinet - 19 October 2023

Additional Revenue Provision for Parking Offers 2023/24

Purpose:	To seek approval for additional funds to continue the current parking offer (1,2,3,4,5) for a limited period up to 31 st March 2024.
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution - Financial Procedure Rule 5
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Approves additional one-off funds of £850,000 to continue the current parking offer (1,2,3,4,5) for a limited period up to 31 st March 2024 noting the attendant risks highlighted specifically by the S151 Officer
Report Author:	Matthew Bowyer
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Kieran O'Carroll
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1 Background

- 1.1 Cabinet at its meeting on the 18th May 2023 approved recommendations for approved schemes to be funded from residual balance of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) 23/24 within Financial Procedural Rule 5 Additional revenue provision for residual ERF 2023/24.
- 1.2 The report included Additional Car Parking Offers with the purpose to extend a range of offers for city centre car parking.

2 Parking Offers

- 2.1 The 1,2,3,4,5 Offer which was introduced, provided parking for one pound per hour for the first four hours and five pounds all day (24Hr).

This offer has been introduced for all council owned car parks within the City Centre (excluding Copr Bay Car Parks) since 24th July 2023 and is available to all users.

3 Spend Profile

3.1 Income

The additional Car Parking Offer of £500,000 was approved under the Financial Procedural Rule 5 from the residual Economic Recovery Fund 2023/24. This investment will supplement parking revenue up to 30th October 2023.

- 3.1.1 For the offer to continue, there is a need for a further £850,000 to supplement parking revenue for the period of 31st October 2023 - 31st March 2024.

3.2 Reduction in Predicted Revenue associated with Car Parking Offer

- 3.2.1 Period 1st April 2023 – 23rd July 2023

Income as projected within the Budget 23/24

April 2023	£184,172.75
May 2023	£232,889.46
June 2023	£216,282.58
July 2023	£188,781.13 (Full Month)

- 3.2.2 Period 24th July 2023 – 30th October 2023
£500,000 Based on monthly budget projection.

- 3.2.3 Period 31st October 2023 – 31st March 2024
£850,000 Based on annual budget projections

4 Integrated Impact Considerations

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also considers other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.4 An IIA Screening Form (**Appendix A**) has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report is not required due to the following:

It is envisaged that the continuation of the pilot offer will have a positive impact for the City Centre.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There is inherent uncertainty over the current year financial position as set out in the delayed first quarter monitoring report considered elsewhere on this agenda.
- 5.2 If this one off extension were to be agreed, it should be funded one off from contingency in year, which may reduce in-year flexibility elsewhere, given multiple other budgetary pressures and potential existing calls already flagged on contingency.
- 5.3 The S151 Officer is comforted that this is a one off ask and could therefore proceed at risk. There will need to be an exit strategy for the one-off offer and either reversion to existing budget or, as part of future budget setting, a revision to base budget exploring all levers and options open to Council to reset both the service and whole Council budget. The S151 Officer accepts that is part of a legitimate policy consideration for budget setting by Council and Cabinet can only consider one off extension at present, but Cabinet must be mindful of its longer term aspiration and intent in making any decision given the outlook for the public finances looks especially challenging.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers:

Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy

Cabinet - 18 May 2023

Financial Procedural Rule 5 Additional Revenue Provision for Residual Economic Recovery Fund 2023/24

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s93553/14%20-%20FPR5%20Additional%20revenue%20provision%20ERF.pdf?LLL=0>

Appendices:

Appendix A - IIA Screening Form

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Additional revenue provision for Parking Offers 2023/24

APPENDIX A

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Highways and Transportation

Directorate: Place

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Financial Procedural Rule 5 Additional revenue provision for Parking Offers 2023/24

Background

On 18th May 2023 Cabinet approved additional priorities, as part of the report; Financial Procedural Rule 5 Additional revenue provision for residual Economic Recovery Fund 2023/24.

Five hundred thousand pounds was approved for Additional car parking offers.

The 1,2,3,4,5 Offer has been piloted within the City Centre Car Parks, whereby, the maximum tariff is five pounds.

Following the pilot, a report will be heard at Cabinet on 19th October 2023; Additional revenue provision for Parking Offers 2023/24. A recommendation will be put forward for Cabinet to consider and approve the following;

1. Approves additional funds to continue the current parking offer (1,2,3,4,5) for a limited period up to 31st March 2024

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Previous consultation undertaken January 2023. Media

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
 Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
 Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
 Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
 Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk

Medium risk
 Page 215

Low risk

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Risks will be considered at a project level in the normal way.

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

It is anticipated there will be a reduction in the number of visitors to Park & Ride.

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

It is envisaged that that the continuation of the pilot offer will have a positive impact for the City Centre.

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

• **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**

No negative impacts have been identified

• **Summary of involvement (Q3)**

Previous consultation undertaken January 2023. Media

• **WFG considerations (Q4)**

• **Any risks identified (Q5)**

Risks will be considered at a project level in the normal way.

• **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

It is envisaged that that the continuation of the pilot offer will have a positive impact for the City Centre.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Screening completed by:
Name: Matthew Bowyer
Job title: Group Leader – Highways and Transportation
Date: 11.09.2023
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Stuart Davies
Position: Head of Highways and Transportation
Date: 13.09.2023

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk