

Local Nature Recovery Action Plan Context

Background

The need for a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) in Swansea stems from the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales which was originally published in 2015 and then updated in 2020/21¹. It 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 Biodiversity² (and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-20 in Wales) is addressed in Wales.

The NRAP for Wales sets out six objectives for nature recovery in Wales (Table 1) and is complemented by five themes of action (Table 2) aimed at addressing issues that are driving decline in biodiversity, and to support recovery. Local Nature Recovery Action Plans (LNRAP) are not statutory documents but they are one of the delivery mechanisms to meet the national objectives, whilst also co-ordinating delivery of nature recovery action that addresses local priorities. These local priorities can be identified from a variety of sources including, Natural Resource Wales (NRW) Area Statements^{3,4} (Table 3), previous biodiversity plans (e.g., Local Biodiversity Action Plans⁵), Swansea PSB Well Being Assessment and Well Being Plan, community engagement and local experts/Local Nature Partnership partners. LNRAPs are partnership plans produced by Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs). They will be produced for every Local Authority and National Park in Wales.

Table 1. Six Objectives for Nature Recovery in Wales

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

¹ [Nature recovery action plan | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan)

² [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/strategic-plan)

³ [Natural Resources Wales / South West Wales Area Statement](https://www.naturalresources.wales/south-west-wales-area-statement)

⁴ [Natural Resources Wales / Introduction to Wales' Marine Area Statement](https://www.naturalresources.wales/introduction-to-wales-marine-area-statement)

⁵ [Swansea Local Biodiversity Action Plan - Swansea](https://www.swansea.gov.uk/city-well-being-plan)

Table 2. Five Themes of Action for Nature Recovery in Wales

Number	Theme 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

Table 3. Themes/Challenges identified in relevant NRW Area Statements

Number	Area Statement Theme/Challenge
South West Area Statement (includes Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire)	
1	Reducing health inequalities
2	Ensuring sustainable land management
3	Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity
4	Mitigating and adapting to climate change
Marine Area Statement (covers inshore waters of Wales out to 12 nautical miles)	
1	Building resilience of marine ecosystems
2	Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast
3	Making the most of marine planning

Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan – An Overview

The Swansea LNRAP is intended to be for everyone. The Swansea LNRAP recognises that everyone benefits from nature in some way, and thus everyone needs to play a part to aid nature recovery. We want the plan to be accessible and useful to a diverse audience all the way from school children right up to policy and decision makers, and everyone in between. Therefore, in terms of the overarching vision of the LNRAP, the most important things are that the LNRAP is:

- Accessible to a wide range of people
- Engaging and able to be used by partners, policy makers and members of the public alike
- Transparent in terms of making it clear what we as a partnership intend to do
- Ambitious because we are in a Nature Emergency

In terms of content, the LNRAP intends to:

1. Outline the current extent and state of the biodiversity/natural environment resource in Swansea
2. Highlight why nature and nature recovery matter
3. Identify local priorities for action to meet national nature recovery objectives and set out how the Swansea Nature Partnership intends to work towards achieving them
4. Outline how the public can take action to assist nature recovery in Swansea

5. Set out a format for monitoring and reporting actions and progress towards achieving nature recovery

Further detail on the main areas of the LNRAP are set out below. However, please note that as the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is currently still reviewing the first draft/initial framework of the LNRAP the overall structure, as well as the current content, the Swansea LNRAP could change based on partner feedback.

1. Extent and state of nature in Swansea

This is factual information that is intended to provide an overview of the diversity and extent of nature within Swansea. Previous work such as habitat and species audits provided by the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC), as well as feedback from LNP partners will feed into this information.

2. Why nature recovery matters

This will set out the context of, and why we are creating the LNRAP, as well as providing accessible explanations of the importance of nature and nature recovery e.g. through the use of infographics.

3. Local priorities for action

Currently it is proposed that the LNRAP will set out higher-level action themes for how the Swansea LNP plan on meeting national nature recovery objectives. It is intended that these action themes would be a set of common goals at a high level that would guide specific project delivery from the LNP, as well as directing or informing other plans/strategies that would feed into the LNRAP such as Section 6 plans. The action themes will be linked to the six objectives for Wales (Table 1) and, where relevant, it will be identified where they contribute to the five themes of action and area statement themes/challenges. Table 4 below provides an example.:

Table 4. Example Swansea LNRAP action theme

National Objective for Nature Recovery in Wales	Proposed Swansea LNRAP Action Theme	Theme of Action from NRAP for Wales	South West Area Statement Theme/Challenge
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	3.5. Restore and create habitat and green infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas, to increase access to semi-natural green and blue spaces and the associated well-being benefits for communities	1. Maintaining and enhancing resilient ecological networks	1. Reducing health inequalities

4. How the public can assist in nature recovery

This will encompass various suggested actions that members of the public (or anyone) could do to aid nature recovery in Swansea. The actions will be linked to relevant external resources and incorporate existing local projects and/or tie in with national schemes where possible.

5. Monitoring and reporting

The agreed process for how the LNP intends to monitor and record and report their actions under the LNRAP will be set out.

CD 30.8.22