



Marchwiel Community Council

Section 6 Biodiversity & Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report

Reporting Period: 2023–2025

1. Introduction and Council Context

Marchwiel Community Council consists of eleven councillors and employs a part-time Clerk. As a small community council, its statutory functions and available resources are limited. However, the Council recognises its duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to promote the resilience of ecosystems, in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions.

The Council's activities relevant to biodiversity primarily relate to:

- Ownership and management of a Burial Ground
- Management of a Nature Reserve
- Maintenance and improvement of community green spaces within the village

This report outlines the actions taken by the Council between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025 to comply with the Section 6 duty.

2. Actions Taken to Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity

2.1 Burial Ground – Rare Fungi Protection

The Council manages a Burial Ground containing long-established grassland that has remained largely undisturbed for over a century. During the reporting period, the Council was made aware of the presence of a rare Pink Waxcap fungus, a species associated with unimproved grassland of high ecological value.

The site has been referenced in an Aberystwyth University research paper, confirming its biodiversity significance.

Action taken:

Introduction of a “No Mow October” regime to allow fungal fruiting bodies to emerge and be surveyed.

Outcome:

- Continued protection of a rare and ecologically important fungal habitat.
- Contribution to academic research and wider understanding of grassland fungi.

2.2 Nature Reserve – Wetland Habitats and Protected Species

The Council manages a Nature Reserve comprising marsh wetlands, ponds, reeds and bulrushes. This mosaic of habitats supports a range of wildlife.

Notable species recorded include:

- Great Crested Newt, a European Protected Species
- Brimstone Butterfly, with several individuals observed. The larvae of this species feed on Alder Buckthorn, which is present within the Nature Reserve.

Actions taken:

Ongoing protection of wetland and pond habitats

Retention of native vegetation essential to species lifecycles

Low-intervention management to maintain ecological integrity

Outcome:

- Continued suitability of the Nature Reserve for protected and priority species.
- Contribution to ecosystem resilience at a local level.

2.3 Community Green Spaces and Pollinator Support

Crocus Planting

On green utility land within the village, the Council (with the valuable help of the whole school population) planted crocus bulbs to support early-season pollinators. This initiative was linked with a Rotary Club campaign to help eradicate polio, combining environmental and community objectives.

Outcome:

- Increased early nectar sources for insects.
- Enhanced community visibility and engagement.

Welcome Garden Improvements

At the Welcome Garden, the Council commenced a programme of improvements.

Actions taken:

Clearance of scrub from previously unmanaged areas.

Planting of borders to improve biodiversity value and appearance.

Outcome:

- Increased plant diversity.
- Improved habitat for insects and other wildlife.
- Enhanced amenity value for residents and visitors.

3. Outcomes and Benefits

Through proportionate, evidence-led actions, the Council has:

- Protected rare and legally protected species.
- Maintained and enhanced high-value habitats.
- Adapted land management practices to support biodiversity.
- Improved local green spaces for both wildlife and the community.

These actions demonstrate the Council's commitment to meeting its Section 6 duty in a practical and effective manner.

4. Challenges

The Council operates within constraints typical of a small community council, including:

- Limited staffing and financial resources
- Dependence on external ecological expertise

Despite these challenges, meaningful biodiversity outcomes have been achieved through targeted actions and partnerships.

5. Future Priorities (2026–2028)

The Council intends to:

- Continue biodiversity-sensitive management of the Burial Ground
- Maintain and protect the Nature Reserve habitats
- Expand pollinator-friendly planting where opportunities arise
- Continue to consider biodiversity in all relevant decisions

6. Conclusion

Marchwiell Community Council recognises that small-scale, well-targeted actions can deliver significant biodiversity benefits. The Council remains committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 in a proportionate and transparent manner.