

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Biodiversity Report for St Brides Major Community Council 2025

Name of Town or Community Council:	St Brides Major Community Council
Council type (Group 1, 2 or 3 for NRAP Objectives):	Group 2
Introduction and Context	
St Brides Major Community Council consists of a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and 11 Councillors, 5 representing Ogmore ward and 6 representing St Brides Major ward. The Council represents a rural area consisting of the four villages – St Brides Major (pop ~2400), Southerndown (pop ~300), Ogmore-by-Sea (pop. ~1400) and Castle-upon-Alun. The Council does not currently own any land or buildings but is responsible for the St Brides Major Church in Wales burial ground and St Brides Major War Memorial. We employ a groundsman to manage these assets. All local councils in Wales have a duty to prepare and publish a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) setting out its proposals to comply with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 6. This duty mandates the Council to enhance and maintain biodiversity and to promote the resilience of ecosystems. It also ensures that biodiversity becomes a natural and integral part of the Council's decision making and policy. The Saint Brides Major Community Council represents a rural community which embraces several ecosystems making our area an immensely rich, diverse and marvellous environment. We have coastal, marine, river (Ogwr and Alun), woodland, enclosed farmland and calcareous heath and grassland ecosystems. Old Castle Down/Alun Valley is a calcareous heath designated as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). The Council was allocated a precept of £26 per person in 2024-25 and used these funds for Council business, land management and supporting relevant local projects through the awarding of grants and donations.	

At this time the Council does not directly carry out any educational activities but there is a local primary school within the Council boundaries.

NRAP Objective	Biodiversity objectives	Action planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	- Established a Biodiversity and Environment Working Group (BEWG) which meets quarterly	Mar 25	The council
		- Reported and reviewed BAP progress and any additional environmental issues as a fixed agenda item	2025	The council
		- Nominated a Biodiversity Lead who undertook training in the Biodiversity I and Biodiversity II modules	Mar 24, Sep-Oct 24	The council
		- Agreed a budget of up to £1,000 annually for the implementation of this BAP	Nov 23	The clerk
		- Scrutinised planning applications for any adverse impact on the environment (e.g. tree cover, surface drainage, protection of rights of way)	2025	The council
		- Replaced broken benches with recycled Glasdon benches	2025	The council
		- Biodiversity Lead attended numerous One Voice Wales meetings and webinars including Allotment Forum, Vale Growing Workshop, VNP Funding	2025	The clerk

		- Completed Section 6 report, published on website and sent to Wales Biodiversity Partnership	Dec 2025	The council
1	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	- Implemented a biodiversity page on new SBMCC website to celebrate and share special local species and habitats, to promote and publish the BAP and to engage local community with its implementation	Sep 24	BEWG
		- Wrote brief baseline report and published it on website	Sep 24	BEWG
		- Nominated a councillor to post relevant content via existing social media channels (e.g. Three Villages Wildlife Group, village community pages)	Dec 24	BEWG
		- Promoted ward activities through other channels (e.g. Vale Local Nature Partnership project)	2025	BEWG
		- Coordinated 'Climate Conversations', one in Ogmere Village Hall and one in Three Golden Cups, Southerndown	Jan/Mar 25	The council
		- Supported and engaged with local citizen awareness activities through Wild Ogmere, Trees and Flowers for Southerndown (TAFES) and Three Villages Wildlife Group	2025	BEWG
		- Participated in two walks that showcased our amazing wildlife and natural environment, specifically butterflies and fungi (led by local ecologists)	Mar/Jun 25	Biodiversity Lead
		- Organised and participated in community litter picks on a regular basis at three hubs, viz. Ogmere-by-Sea, Southerndown and St Brides Major	2025	The council

2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	- Raised awareness of our SSSIs (Old Castle Down, Coed y Bwl, Pant Quarry and Southerndown Coast), priority habitats and priority species within our ward boundary	Ongoing	The council
		- Supported local action to safeguard priority species (e.g. £3000 grant to High Brown Fritillary Conservation Project for chainsaw and brush cutter training)	Oct 24	The council
		- Supported butterfly sculpture contest organised by Butterfly Conservation Wales and championed by St Brides Major Primary School	Jun 25	The council
		- Supported local action to enhance existing habitats (e.g. small grant awarded to TAFS who have planted wild flowers and 48 trees in Southerndown, the latter with support also from The Woodland Trust)	2024-25	The council
		- Biodiversity Lead attended Celtic Wildflower Nursery tour and demonstration	Jul 25	The clerk
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	- Supported and participated in two river cleans as part of the Keep Wales Tidy initiative to clean the Ogmore River at Ogmore-by-Sea (over 8000 tyres and dozens of supermarket trolleys removed and then safely disposed by the County Council)	May 24, May 25	The council
		- Participated in Marine Clean Cymru litter picking initiatives at Ogmore-by-Sea beach and Dunraven Bay	2024-25	The council
		- Identified land under the management of the community council and altered mowing regimens to enhance biodiversity and promote wild flowers	May 24	The council

		- Spent £8000 to maintain burial ground and war memorial to ensure environmental sensitivity - Spent £1000 on tree maintenance in St Brides Major - Supporting and championing the restoration of Pitcot Pool (Pwll y Mer), St Brides Major, including obtaining permissions from the Duchy of Lancaster and detailed conversations with County Councillors, Vale Ecologist and Vale Local Nature Partnership. Currently seeking to obtain grants to fund detailed sample analysis of the Pool (estimated cost £6000) prior to restoration which we expect to be a major, costly project - Biodiversity Lead has attended two webinars on pond life and amphibians organised by One Voice Wales	2025 2025 Ongoing from Mar 2025 2025	The council The council The council The clerk
4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	- Raised public awareness of invasive species (inc. Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Cotoneaster) and encouraged reporting to the council (e.g. via the website, posters placed in all three villages in public places) - Raised public awareness of fly tipping and encouraged reporting to the council. This occurs frequently, has been reported promptly and is promptly dealt with by the Vale. - Encouraged the community to report misuse of pesticides in public areas to the County Council. This has led to a noticeable reduction in pesticide use in the local area.	Mar 25 Mar 25 Mar 25	The council The council The council

5	-use, improve, and share evidence	- Requested Welsh Government to recognise Ogmore-by-Sea Beach as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (Bathing Water Review Wales 2023)	Jan 23	The council
		- Welsh Government has now identified Ogmore-by-Sea Beach as a bathing water	2023	The council
		- Vale of Glamorgan Council convened a public meeting, at our request, on Ogmore-by-Sea bathing water test results. This was attended by Dwr Cymru, National Resources Wales, community and county councillors. It was agreed to keep test results under review	Mar 24	The council
		- Kept Ogmore-by-Sea bathing water test results under review	2025	The council
		- Attend Vale of Glamorgan training, forums and webinars on biodiversity	2025	The council
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	- Supported national and regional projects, citizen science schemes and events including Big Garden Birdwatch, Big Butterfly Count, Big Bee Watch	2025	The council
		- Supported local projects/organisations (e.g. Glamorgan Heritage Coast, Beach Academy (awarded £3000 grant), High Brown Fritillary Conservation Project, Ogmore Commoners Association, St Brides Major School, TAFS)	2025	The Council
		- Awarded grant to St Brides Major Church in Wales to develop pilgrimage walks to promote biodiversity	Oct 24	The council

Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan		Date reviewed:	Dec 2025
What has worked well?	Bathing water review and designation of Ogmores-by-Sea as a bathing beach. Reporting of fly-tipping by the community and prompt removal by the County Council Good community engagement with litter-picking initiatives Ogmores River Cleaning Project		
What have the barriers been?	Slow progress on Pitcot Pool Restoration Project due to lack of funds and reticence in multi-agency engagement Lack of action in dealing with invasive species after reporting		
What will you change?	More engagement by the council with citizen science initiatives		

Next review due:	Dec 2028
Approved by Council on:	