



Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025	
Name of Community or Town Council	Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council
Group	2
Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council (BTCC) covers two ward areas, Bedlinog and Trelewis, with 1723 dwellings. Our precept for 2024/2025 was £40,314. BTCC currently has 9 Councillors and employs a part-time Clerk, and a Caretaker. BTCC owns Bedlinog Community Centre, and manages Bedlinog Allotments, Manor View Allotments, the ‘Kickabout Area’ at the rear of Hylton Terrace, and Trelewis MUGA Mackintosh Street, twenty-eight hanging baskets and fifteen street planters. Prior to the sinking of its collieries in the 1870’s, Bedlinog was a small farming community called Cwmfelin (Mill Valley). It was triangular with three quite separate clusters of cottages. At one end of the base lay Cwmfelin, near where a chapel, Salem (1830) was built and where the village square and Inn soon appeared. About a mile away, another small settlement known as Coli, housed the early miners who worked in the small drifts driven into the mountain side. Near the top of the hill was Llwyn Crwyn (Round Grove) where Bedlinog colliery was sunk in 1874. In the following years Bedlinog grew into a close-knit community of miners and their families; the village itself expanded rapidly with public houses, schools and places of worship being built. Prior to the sinking of its collieries in the 1870’s, Bedlinog was a small farming community called Cwmfelin (Mill Valley). It was triangular with three quite separate clusters of cottages. At one end of the base lay Cwmfelin, near where a chapel, Salem (1830) was built and where the village square and Inn soon appeared. About a mile away, another small settlement known as Coli, housed the early miners who worked in the small drifts driven into the mountain side. Near the top of the hill was Llwyn Crwyn (Round Grove) where Bedlinog colliery was sunk in 1874. In the following years Bedlinog grew into a close-knit community of miners and their families; the village itself expanded rapidly with public houses, schools and places of worship being built. The original name for Trelewis was Bontnewydd (Newbridge); the later and current name refers to a local farmer, William Lewis. Trelewis grew and developed through the late 19th century as a small community of mining families, dependent in the main on the neighbouring Deep Navigation Colliery in Treharris, sunk in the 1870s. During the 20th century new collieries opened on the northern outskirts of Trelewis with the Taff Merthyr in 1926 and Trelewis Drift in 1954. With these developments the village became a large, lively community, justly proud of its coal mining traditions and achievements. In the aftermath of the 1926 general strike, the Taff Merthyr became a clash point of bitterness and unrest. The mine owners insisted that no members of the South Wales Miners’ Federation	

could be employed at this new pit, and they set up a company union which the miners were expected to join to work. Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s the pit, together with others in the South Wales valleys became major trouble spots in the struggle for democratic representation with torchlight processions, stay down strikes and mass meetings. The anger felt by miners and their wives towards the 'scab' workforce often spilled into the streets with physical violence and other forms of intimidation. Crowds would assemble on the streets and as this labour-force passed silence was observed with doffing of caps and caps until they passed out of sight (taken from the Western Mail 1935). This resentment was to remain in the village for many years.

Action Report 2023-2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to ...		Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	A Biodiversity Champion was established in 2023. This Member Champion enacts the BAP and brings biodiversity issues to full Council.	Full Council and Clerk/RFO
		The Biodiversity Champion has attended biodiversity training and is aware of OVV webinars.	Clerk/RFO
		We consider biodiversity when discussing planning applications.	Clerk/RFO
		The Clerk reviewed our banking services through the lens of biodiversity and climate change. It was identified that our existing bank Co-op, is one of the most ethical and environmentally friendly banks that suit our needs.	Clerk/RFO
		We include a section on biodiversity in our Annual Reports.	Full Council and Clerk/RFO
		Street planters – A planting plan is in place to replace annuals with more resilient, native perennials that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient.	Clerk/RFO
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	We maintain a record on which section 7 priority species and habitats are present in the area.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO
		We created planters within a local park which now sees bees and butterflies all Summer.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO

		The Community Council funded a new tree in the local park.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO.
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	We created planters within a local park which now sees bees and butterflies all Summer. The Community Council funded a bee hotel in the local park. Street planters – A planting plan is in place to replace annuals with more resilient, native perennials that are pollinator friendly and more drought resilient. We refer to the Nature Recovery Guide for principles in nature recovery for any appropriate decisions.  We facilitated the development of nature gardens in our two local primary schools.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Full Council Clerk/RFO
4	- Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address	We have confirmed with the County Council that they do not use glyphosate spraying on footpaths and walkways in the community. The Biodiversity Champion has provided reports for Full Council and requests will be made for a future report to include	Clerk/RFO Biodiversity Champion

	invasive species	what the most common invasive species found in the area are.	
5	- use improve and share evidence	A volunteer group records species in the park. This information will be shared with the Council and can be shared with residents. A biodiversity page is planned for our website. The Clerk stays connected with OWW Biodiversity Officers to seek advice whenever necessary. New biodiversity and climate change training is always suggested to Councillors and the Clerk via OWW. Training and volunteering events within the County Borough are shared on social media with residents.	Biodiversity Champion and Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO
6	- support capacity and/or other organisations	Maintain good relationship with OWW, Local Authority Officers etc. We have followed the BAP, undertaken as many of the targets as possible, and are reporting on them here. This report will be published on our website and on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership Website.	Clerk/RFO Clerk/RFO