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Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan

March 2010



Prepared by

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
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Contents

1 FOREWORD

'The County of Blaenau Gwent covers an area of deep valleys and exposed upland heath, comprising a diverse range of habitats ranging from upland oak woodlands to lowland meadows, meandering rivers, bog and heathland.

Associated with these habitats, is a wealth of wildlife including a diverse assemblage of birds and invertebrates as well as mammals, reptiles and amphibians many of which have declined in numbers and are now rare in the County and Wales.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is the driver in the continued and increasing effort to protect, enhance and manage our biodiversity resource. The original Biodiversity Action Plan was produced in 2001 and positive changes have been made, particularly in the designation of areas to protect the important habitats and species that are found there.

The Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership, in association with other important contributing individuals, has worked hard to carry out a review of the biodiversity resource in Blaenau Gwent to ensure that the County's important habitats and wildlife are protected for future generations.

The success of the Biodiversity Action Plan depends not only on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and the Biodiversity Partnership but also on the wider community including landowners, schools, businesses, developers, politicians and decision makers. I would like to say a big thank you to all who contributed towards the production of this plan'.

(Signiture)

(Cllr Don Wilcox)

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Regeneration and Highways Chief Executive

And Biodiversity Champion

2 INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity means 'the variety of life' on Earth and is short for biological diversity. It describes the richness and variety of all living things, from the smallest microscopic organism, to the largest tree.

Wild plants and animals are included, together with the places and habitats in which they live. Biodiversity is not just restricted to the rare and threatened, but includes all life from the commonplace to the critically endangered.

WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?

In addition to the intrinsic value of all living things, biodiversity is a key indicator of sustainable development and is essential to maintaining our quality of life – providing us with food, water, oxygen, clothing, health and relaxation. It delivers many environmental, social and economic benefits. Natural green space for instance can improve our health and well-being, reduce pollution, attract inward investment and tourism, and offers many opportunities for lifelong learning, community action and recreation.

UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. It describes the UK's biological resources and commits us to a detailed plan, with targeted actions, for the protection of those resources considered to be under threat. The UKBAP sets out how the UK is to deal with our commitment to biodiversity conservation. Following a review, in 2007, the UK produced a list of 1150 species and 65 habitat action plans. More information on the UKBAP can be found at http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/.

The UK Biodiversity partnership exists to bring together all the partners involved in or with an interest in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and to co-ordinate action that should be taken forward at a UK level. The UK Biodiversity Partnership comprises of a wide range of people including private individuals, businesses, government and non government representatives.

The work of the UK Biodiversity Partnership is supported by the Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee in addition to the Biodiversity Research Advisory group, Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group and the country groups including the Wales Biodiversity Partnership.

The Welsh Assembly Government, under requirements of the NERC Act 2006 have produced a list of species and habitats which are of principle importance for conservation in Wales, including UKBAP species and habitats as well as those which are of particular importance to Wales. These are also known as section 42 species and habitats.

In Wales, the delivery of priority species and actions now follows an ecosystem approach, which recognises the importance of the maintenance and restoration of ecosytems in the conservation of biodiversity as well as for wider benefits such as the mitigation of climate change effects.

The new delivery system is made up of six components:

1. Wales Policy Group: will bring together all the policy actions from the ecosystems groups and species groups, and work to identify how these can be addressed through policy
2. Wales Ecosystems Groups: consists of the woodland, lowland grassland, heathland, wetland, urban and brownfield, freshwater, upland, coastal, farmland and marine ecosystems – who will develop targets for these priority habitats as well as identifying projects and funding opportunities which will help in the delivery of these actions
3. Wales Expert Groups:

   Species expert group: provide advice to the ecosystem groups on the development of actions which will benefit priority species

   Invasive non native species group: work to minimise risks posed and reduce negative impacts caused by invasive non native species
4. Species Lead Partners: Lead partners for priority species and habitats will continue to report trend and status information against targets for those species that will not benefit from habitat based work and require more targeted actions.
5. Local Delivery: Ecosystems and species groups will work closely with LBAP partnerships to ensure co-ordinated delivery of actions for priority species and habitats at a local level
6. Wales Biodiversity Partnership: will continue to oversee, enable and monitor the implementation of the BAP process in Wales, developing opportunities for biodiversity action, barriers and working to remove obstacles, including co-ordinating and facilitating the ecosystem approach. Further information on WBP and the LBAP process in Wales can be found on the website http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/

The Blaenau Gwent and other LBAP partnerships in Gwent are supported by the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group (GGBAG), which consists of Local Authorities and other statutory and non statutory organisations. The group provides advice and support to biodiversity partnerships on the preparation, implementation and review of Local Biodiversity Action Plans within Gwent.

BLAENAU GWENT LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) are the mechanism for the local delivery of the targets set out in the UKBAP. LBAPs identify local priorities for the conservation of species and habitats and have been developed throughout Britain by partnerships of local stakeholders. Each LBAP reflects the priorities of the UKBAP National Plan, covering priority habitats and species that are at risk or whose status are uncertain, as well as more widespread habitats and species of local concern.

The Blaenau Gwent Local Biodiversity Action Plan was first produced in 2001 by the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership. This partnership is an alliance of governmental and non governmental organisations as well individials from the local community. The steering group is made up of representatives from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Countryside Council for Wales, Gwent Wildlife Trust and Wales Biodiversity Partnership. The wider forum includes the Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission, Welsh Water and a range of community wildlife groups – a complete list of partners can be found in Appendix 1. More information on Blaeau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership can be found at www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.

The LBAP contains a number of clear targets and actions for important habitats and species that are at risk or whose status is uncertain within the County Borough, specifying what needs to be done and by whom. These targets have been classified according to the SMART criteria to ensure that they are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realisitic and Timebound.

The LBAP has been updated to reflect, a changing environment, the availability of biodiversity information and changes in the LBAP process. This revsion ensures that LBAP targets reflect the conservation needs of habitats and species.

The LBAP is a working document allowing flexibility within actions to be undertaken to achieve the listed targets. To enable the LBAP to be flexible and to allow partners to report successes, achievements and losses, a national database has been developed – BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System). The full LBAP (including actions) can be viewed via this system at http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/.

This document details action plans for habitats and species that are of national and local importance and therefore classed as a priority for conservation in Blaenau Gwent.

These Priority Habitat and Species have been selected by members of Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity partnership using the following criteria:

Habitats

- Habitats of national and/or international importance (UK BAP priority habitats and section 42 habitats)
- Habitats of importance for UK BAP species
- Habitats of local importance (habitats that are rare, in decline and/or under threat in Blaenau Gwent)

Species

- Species of national and/or international importance (UK BAP priority species, Section 42 species and species listed in the RSPB/IUCN red lists)
- Species of local importance (Species that are rare, in decline and/or under threat in Blaenau Gwent)
- Special cases (The presence of these species is unconfirmed however suitable habiat exists in Blaenau Gwent, in which they may occur)

The Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) contained within this plan provide detailed descriptions, targets and actions for twenty-six Priority Habitats which have been identified within Blaenau Gwent. These Priority Habitats have been grouped into nine broad habitat types, a summary of which is contained in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Habitat groups and Habitats

Habitat Groups	Habitat
HAP 1: Woodland	**Wet Woodland** **Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland** **Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland** **Upland Oak Woods**
HAP 2: Grassland	**Lowland Meadow** **Lowland Calcareous Grassland** **Lowland Dry Acid Grassland** **Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture**
HAP 3: Heathland	**Upland Heath** **Lowland Heath**
HAP 4: Wetland	**Blanket Bog** **Lowland Raised Bog** **Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp** **Mesotrophic Lakes** **Ponds**
HAP 5: Rivers and Streams	**Rivers and Streams**
HAP 6: Public Green Space and Gardens	Gardens and Allotments Churchyards and Cemeteries School Grounds Urban Green Spaces
HAP 7: Boundary and Linear Features	**Hedgerows** Dry Stone Walls Highway Verges
HAP 8: Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree	**Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree**
HAP 9: Post Industrial Habitat	Colliery Sites Quarries Refuse Tips **Open mosaics on previously developed land**

* **Bold** habitats indicate UK BAP/Section 42 habitats

Many of the species selected to be included in the LBAP have been listed within the different Habitat Action Plans, these species (known as associated species) will benefit from the actions that can be undertaken under the relevant HAP such as habitat management and enhancements.

Seven Species Action Plans (SAPs) have been prepared for individual species such as Otter *(Lutra lutra),* or groups of species such as Bats. These species require more specific actions, that cannot be undertaken under a HAP. Each SAP gives specific descriptions which detail the ecology, status, threat and distribution of the species along with specific targets and actions for conservation. SAPs have been prepared for :

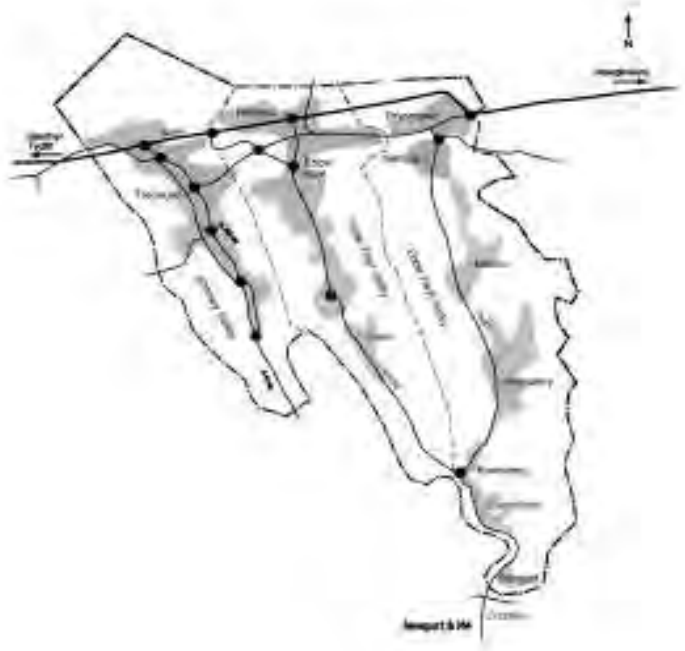
- Bats
- Birds
- Lapwing
- Otters
- Moths and Butterflies
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Invasive Species

Appendix 3 provides a full list of all the species included in this LBAP and in which HAP they occur.

Generic Action Plans have been prepared for common themes that are integral to all Habitat and Species Action Plans. These include:

- LBAP Process
- Biodiversity Information
- Interpretation, Education and Awareness Raising
- Policy and Legislation

3 BLAENAU GWENT BIODIVERSITY RESOURCE



Blaenau Gwent Borough covers an area of 10,900 hectares (ha) and is situated within the preserved County of Gwent, bordering the Brecon Beacons National Park. The main towns include Abertillery, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo, Blaina and Tredegar.

The land use is predominantly rural with over 77% of the land area comprising of farmland, commons and open spaces.

The Borough has a magnificent landscape which is characterised by narrow valleys with fast flowing rivers and streams, wooded slopes, and large areas of upland habitat rich in ponds, unimproved grassland and heathland habitat. Over the years, industrialised sites, which were previously used for coal mining and steelmaking, have been reclaimed and many natural green spaces created as a result. Sites such as these are both valuable for wildlife and the local communities.

Blaenau Gwent has a range of wildlife resources many of which are the result of land restoration in the area which has provided valuable habitat for threatened species. Breeding Lapwing favour the habitats typically found on old colliery sites, which are found across Blaenau Gwent. The Borough supports populations of the Silurian moth which has only been recorded from a few sites in UK and the Brown hawker is only found in a few locations in south Wales including Blaenau Gwent.

There are a number of sites within the Borough that have been designated for their nature conservation value, these include Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

4 VISION STATEMENT

OBJECTIVES

The biodiversity of Blaenau Gwent is a valuable asset to everyone and the purpose of the LBAP is to strive to protect and enhance it. The objectives of the LBAP are:

- To increase the awareness and educate people about the importance of biodiversity conservation
- To encourage communities to get involved in protecting their local biodiversity resource
- To increase and share the knowledge held about sites and species
- To identify the current location and extent of habitats and species in Blaenau Gwent
- To enhance and protect existing habitats and to restore areas to create new ones
- To halt the loss of biodiversity in Blaenau Gwent in line with National and local targets by 2015

5 BIODIVERSITY LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

The following legislation and planning policies and guidance provide the framework within which Local Biodiversity Action Plans are produced and operate.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010[P1]

Provides protection of sites in the UK that supports habitats and species in need of conservation action across Europe and the full protection of some species of European importance whether occurring within designated sites or not.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Provides for further protection of sites of at least national importance for nature conservation and varying levels of protection for species in need of conservation action, or other protection, within the UK. Protection may include prohibition of some or all of: killing, injuring, disturbing, taking, sale/barter or possession of species and also protection of breeding and sheltering places.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act)

Amends and strengthens existing legislation. For examples, some offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act can now result in imprisonment.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)

Wide ranging act with some biodiversity components which places a duty on all public bodies, including local planning authorities, to include biodiversity as an integral component of their work. Requires government departments to have regard to the convention on Biological Diversity. Compels the Secretary of State (Welsh Assembly Government) to produce a list of species and habitats of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity (Section 42 species) and to take or promote steps to further their conservation.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Wales 2002

The Welsh Assembly Government's objectives for the natural environment and biodiversity are set out in 'Planning Policy Wales' (PPW) (2002). This recognises that local authorities must address biodiversity issues through land-use planning, in both Unitary Development Plans (UDP) and development control decisions. It also recognises the important role that the planning system has to play in meeting biodiversity objectives by promoting approaches to development which create opportunities to enhance biodiversity, prevent biodiversity losses, or compensate for losses where damage is unavoidable. Paragraph 5.1.4 also reinforces the need that '…it is important that

biodiversity and landscape considerations are taken into account at an early stage in both UDP preparation and development control.'

Technical Advice Note 5

Detailed advice on the importance of the planning system in relation to conserving biodiversity is set out in Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (TAN 5) 2009. TAN 5 provides advice on development proposals affecting statutory and non-statutory designated sites as well as protected species.

Circular 35/95 Planning Conditions

Circular 35/95 – 'use of planning conditions in planning permission', gives advice on the use of planning conditions including for nature conservation and protected species. The Circular puts emphasise on giving conditions that require the prevention of damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or important physical features.

Circular 13/97 Planning Obligations

Circular 13/97 – use of planning obligations, provides local planning authorities with the Government's guidance on the use of obligations. This circular sets out the benefits which can be secured from such agreements and the role of development plan policy. Paragraph 4.11.1 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) notes that 'when granting planning permission local authorities may seek to enter into a planning obligation with a developer to: 1) restrict development or use of the land; 2) require operations or activities to be carried out; 3) require the land to be used in a specified way; and 4) require payments to be made to the authority.'

The Wales Spatial Plan

The Wales Spatial Plan (2004) called 'People, Places, Futures' has also been produced by the Welsh Assembly Government and forms a key part of the implementation of their strategic agenda on sustainable development. This recognises that the quality of our environment is an important asset, for its intrinsic value, for our economy and quality of life. By safeguarding and enhancing both the natural and built environment, people will be encouraged to retain them in our communities and preserve the foundations for the future.

Environment Strategy for Wales

The Environment Strategy for Wales was published in May 2006 by the Welsh Assembly Government and is the Assembly's long term strategy for the environment of Wales, setting the strategic direction for the next 20 years.

It provides the framework within which to achieve their vision for the environment of Wales. The Strategy has five main environmental themes:

Climate change – covers climate change mitigation and adaptation;

Sustainable resource use – covers material consumption and waste, water, soils, minerals and aggregates;

Distinctive biodiversity, landscapes and seascapes – covers biodiversity, the marine environment, landscapes and seascapes and their historic component;

Our local environment – covers the built environment and access to green space, environmental nuisances, walkability in urban areas and access to the countryside and coast, and flood risk management; and

Environmental hazards – covers pollution, chemicals and radioactivity.

For each of these subjects, the Strategy explains the issues, sets out the environmental outcomes to be achieved and the associated indicators and timelines for delivery.

Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales

Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales (Jan 2000) contains a number of policies relating to the protection, enhancement, and management of the region's biodiversity resources. It also recognises the importance of Local Biodiversity Action Plans in helping to determine planning applications.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Unitary Development Plan

The Blaenau Gwent Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in 2006. The production of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (LDP) is in progress and will eventually replace the UDP. The LBAP policies included in the UDP afford protection to designated sites, features of ecological value, wildlife corridors, provision of open space, woodland and trees, species and habitats.

Local Agenda Strategy

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council produced a draft Local Agenda 21 Strategy document in January 2001. This document describes the council's commitment to the sustainable care of natural and physical resources in accordance with the Agenda 21 process. The key components of the document address the current sustainability challenges and issues, the council's responsibilities, targets and current situation, action plans and implementation mechanisms. The LBAP is a vital part of the Local Agenda 21 process.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

The Blaenau Gwent Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Biodiversity was produced in 2009 and supplements Local Development Plan (LDP) policies. The purpose of the SPG is to assist those submitting and determining planning applications in Blaenau Gwent to ensure that biodiversity, and where relevant, geodiversity, is protected and conserved when development is proposed. It will also enable the public to understand the aspirations of BGCBC with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.

Publicly Available Specification (PAS 2010:2006)

BSI British Standards has produced a Publicly Available Specification (PAS 2010:2006) entitled 'Planning to halt the loss of biodiversity'. The document sets out how local

planning authorities can meet their obligation to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity (under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) and contribute towards the UK Government's commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. It includes guidance on how biodiversity should be treated in planning applications. Key points for developers are that:

Biodiversity is a material consideration for all types of planning application;

The pre-application stage should be used to determine the information on biodiversity that should be submitted with the planning application;

Any biodiversity surveys and measures designed to avoid, mitigate or compensate for potential adverse effects, along with proposals for enhancement, should be included in the planning application; and

The planning authority should refuse planning permission when the applicant cannot or will not provide information on biodiversity, if significant adverse effects are possible and the benefits of the development do not clearly outweigh the harm.

AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES AND TIR GOFAL

Agri-environment schemes are regarded as having the potential to deliver the majority of biodiversity targets relating to agricultural land, thus they can contribute considerably to meeting LBAP targets. Tir Gofal is the Welsh Assembly Government's agri-environmental programme, which pays farmers to improve the environmental and ecological value of their land. There are four main objectives to Tir Gofal: Habitat Conservation (encouraging bio-diversity), Landscape Management (preserving local rural character), Historic and Archaeological Features (protecting archaeological sites, traditional farm buildings, field boundaries, and other historic features), and Access (public access paths across land).

Glastir is now replacing the existing Tir gofal, as the Welsh Assembly Governments Agri environmental programme.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The preparation of the LBAP has relied on knowledge and expertise from numerous organisations and individuals. Particular thanks go to all members of the Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership, all county recorders and SEWBReC (South East Wales Biological Records Centre) for their valued contributions in producing this document. The production of this document has also been assisted by Thomson Ecology Ltd. A full list of acknowldegments is included in Appendix 2.

7 HABITAT ACTION PLANS

HAP 1 - BROAD HABITAT – WOODLAND

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Wet Woodland	Pied flycatcher Green woodpecker Badger Otter Noctule Bluebell
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	
Upland Oakwoods	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Wet Woodland

Wet woodlands occur on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils and usually have common alder, silver birch or willows as the main species although other species may also be present such as ash, oak, pine or beech on drier areas. This habitat can be found on a range of soil types including nutrient rich mineral and acidic, nutrient poor soil. Wet woodlands can be found on floodplains, along streams, hillside flushes and in peaty hollows. They often occur within a mosaic of other woodland and key habitats including fens. A wide range of species are associated with this habitat including bryophytes, invertebrates and birds. Deadwood is particularly important for a range of invertebrates and otters will often find cover and breeding sites, within trees alongside rivers and streams.

The current extent of wet woodland is limited in Blaenau Gwent and is estimated to cover around 9ha which is confined to central and southern areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found on sites such as Coed Trostre, Cwm Celyn, Garn Cam Isaf, Greenmeadow, Roseheyworth and Silent Valley (Cwm Merddog) woodlands.

The decline in wet woodlands is partly due to natural succession but the extent of floodplain woodlands has been severely affected by clearance for agricultural purposes. Alder disease has also had a detrimental effect on wet woodlands.

Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland

Lowland beech and yew woodland is usually comprised predominately of beech with a significant percentage of yew present. Beech can occur on both acidic and calcareous soils but its association with yew is often limited to calcareous sites. It is often found

within mosaics of other woodland habitats. Several important fungi and mosses are associated with this habitat as well as a wide range of other species including birds, invertebrates and mammals.

The current extent of lowland beech and yew woodland in Blaenau Gwent is estimated at around 28ha which is evenly distributed throughout central and southern areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found on sites such as Garn Cam Isaf, Coed y Gilfach, Coed Argoed, Coedcae Coch and Craig Swyfryd, Darren Ddu and Silent Valley.

Threats to lowland beech and yew woodland include lack of management, which can result in deterioration of the habitat, lack of regeneration and invasion by other species.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland includes woodland growing on the full range of soil conditions, from very acidic to base-rich and often occurs within enclosed landscapes. There is great variety in the species composition of the canopy layer and the ground flora, and this is reflected in the range of associated NVC and Stand Types. As with the other woodland types, lowland mixed deciduous woodland supports a rich flora and fauna.

The current extent of lowland mixed deciduous woodland is limited in Blaenau Gwent, and is estimated to cover around 6ha occurring in evenly distributed patches. It is likely, however, that this habitat is under recorded. Examples of this habitat can be found on sites such as Greenmeadow and Swyffryd Fach Woodlands.

Threats to lowland mixed deciduous woodland include grazing by deer and poor management which can lead to less trees being established.

Upland Oakwoods

Upland oakwood is the most common woodland type in Wales occurring on base poor to acidic soils under conditions of high rainfall. These woodlands occur on the higher ground to the West of the county and on valley sides. The main tree species is sessile oak but silver birch is also common together with an understorey of small trees and shrubs of hazel, rowan and holly. Upland oakwoods provide important habitats for epiphytic lichens, mosses and liverworts as well as distinctive bird species such as pied flycatcher, redstart and wood warbler. The ground flora can include bluebells, brambles and ferns on rich soils and heather, bilberry and mosses on acidic and nutrient deficient soils.

The current extent of upland oakwoods in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 91ha, confined to higher ground and valley sides in southern areas of the county. Examples of this habitat inclue sites such as, Craig Swyffryd, Coed Troestre, Coedcae Coch, Cwm Big, Darren Ddu and Silent Valley.

Threats to upland oakwoods include lack of traditional management techniques such as coppicing. Lack of coppicing can lead to a uniform age structure and permanent tree canopy closure, which reduces the variety of niches within a woodland. Additionally, over-grazing has resulted in the lack of natural regeneration, resulting in reduced diversity both of age structure and fauna and flora. Other threats include invasive species such as sycamore and bracken.

Links to other Action Plans

Bats

Birds

Otters

Moths and butterflies

Invasive species

Grassland

Wetland

Heathland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitats

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Woodlands to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Wet Woodland	9	4.5	0.5	0.5
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	28	14	1.4	1.4
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	6	3	0.3	0.3
Upland Oakwoods	91	45.5	4.5	4.5

HAP-WD-TG1: Maintain extent of woodland in Blaenau Gwent.

HAP-WD-TG2: Achieve favourable condition of woodland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WD-TG3: Restore woodland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WD-TG4: Expand woodland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WD-TG5: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with woodland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 2 – GRASSLAND

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Lowland Meadow	Skylark Lapwing Common lizard Pink meadow waxcap Date coloured waxcap Wood bitter vetch
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	
Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Lowland Meadow

Lowland meadow includes most forms of unimproved neutral grassland including those managed for pasture as well as for hay and can also include areas such as churchyards, highway verges and other recreational areas. Much of the lowland meadow in Blaenau Gwent is old pasture land, grazed by cattle, horses and sometimes sheep. Some types of lowland meadow are rarer than others in Wales, particularly National Vegetation Classification type MG5 *Centaurea nigra – Cynosurus cristatus*. They have a high frequency and cover of typical grasses and associated flora, and provide a habitat for a range of birds, mammals and insects.

The estimated total of lowland meadow in Blaenau Gwent that occurs in designated sites is 209ha and is evenly distributed throughout the lowland areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Bedwellty Pits, Bryn Serth and Waun y Pound.

The primary threat to lowland meadow is from agricultural improvement. Significant losses of lowland meadow have been sustained since the early 1900's and particularly since the Second World War when agricultural production intensified.

Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Lowland calcareous grassland usually occurs on shallow soils overlying limestone or other lime-rich rocks grasslands. This habitat is largely found on distinct topographic features such as escarpments or dry valley slopes and sometimes on ancient earthworks in landscapes strongly influenced by the underlying limestone geology. Lowland calcareous grassland is often found in a mosaic with other habitats. The vegetation is typically very species-rich and distinctive. These grassland are particularly important for a number of scarce invertebrate and bird species.

The current extent of lowland calcareous grassland in Blaenau Gwent is limited and is estimated to be around 6ha, with sites clustered in the north of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at a number of sites around Trefil.

The primary threat to lowland calcareous grassland is from agricultural intensification. Other threats include inappropriate and unsympathetic management, development causing loss, fragmentation and disturbance and lack of awareness by landowners.

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Lowland dry acid grassland typically occurs on nutrient-poor, generally free-draining soils with pH ranging from 4 to 5.5 overlying acid rocks or deposits such as sands and gravels. This habitat occurs throughout lowlands normally below 300m and can be found on upland fringes, often forming a mosaic with dwarf shrub heath (see Habitat Action Plan for Upland Heathlands). Acid grassland is characterised by a range of plant species such as heath bedstraw, common bent, wavy hair grass, tormentil and sheep's fescue. It is often rich in bryophytes and lichens and is particularly important for a number of bird and invertebrate species.

The current extent of lowland dry acid grassland in Blaenau Gwent is estimated at around 1225ha, evenly distributed throughout the lowland areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Bryn Serth and Rhyd y Blew.

As with other lowland semi-natural grassland types, acid grassland has undergone substantial decline in the 20th Century due to changes in agricultural methods.

Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture

These communities are the characteristic grasslands of nutrient-poor, poorly drained soils occupying low lying valley bottoms in Blaenau Gwent. Purple moor-grass and rush pasture habitat encompasses a range of vegetation types that are typified by an abundance of purple moor-grass and tall rushes. This vegetation is highly distinctive in South Wales and consists of various species-rich types of fen meadow, mire and rush-pasture. The habitat is important for a number of vascular plants, bird and invetebrate species.

The current extent of purple moor-grass and rush pasture in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 152ha which is evenly distributed throughout areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found across the mountains – Mynydd Bedwellty, Mynydd Manmoel, Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail and Mynydd Coity, James and Gwastad.

Threats to purple moor-grass and rush pasture include agricultural improvements, inappropriate management, development, afforestation and lack of awareness by landowners.

Links to other Action Plans

Bats

Birds

Lapwing

Moths and butterflies

Reptiles and amphibians

Woodland

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitats

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Grasslands to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Lowland Meadows	209	104.5	10.45	10.45
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	6	3	0.3	0.3
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	1225	612.5	61.25	61.25
Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture	152	76	7.6	7.6

HAP-GD-TG1: Maintain extent of grassland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-GD-TG2: Achieve favourable condition of grassland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-GD-TG3: Restore grassland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-GD-TG4: Expand grassland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-GD-TG5: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with grassland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 3 – HEATHLAND

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Upland heathland	Red grouse Nightjar Brown hare Adder Silurian moth Compact bog moss
Lowland heathland	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Upland Heathland

Upland heathland includes any heathland above 300m dominated by heather and heaths with at least 25% dwarf shrub cover. This habitat is associated with thin, acidic, nutrient-poor soils, humid climate and exposure and grazing and burning which have prevented tree growth. Upland heathland can be found throughout moorlands and provides an important habitat for rare and scarce plants and animals including birds, reptiles, vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens.

The current extent of upland heathland in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 1560ha, confined to the central ridgeline areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites including Mynydd Bedwellty, Mynydd Manmoel, Mynydd Carn y cefn and Cefn yr Arail and Mynydd Coity, James and Gwastad.

Threats to upland heathland include unsuitable grazing levels, erosion from recreational activities, invasion by scrub/bracken, fires, tree planting and loss and fragmentation caused by development.

Lowland Heathland

Lowland heathland includes any heathland generally found below 300m, found typically in an open landscape with impoverished, acidic mineral and shallow peat soil and characterised by the presence of plants such as heathers and dwarf gorses. This habitat supports birds, reptiles, invertebrates, vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens – often which act as indicators of habitat quality.

The current extent of lowland heathland in Blaenau Gwent is unknown, although it is known to occur on the lower valleys and slopes of the mountain ranges.

Threats to lowland heathland include vandalism, development pressures, inappropriate and lack of management.

Links to other Action Plans

Bats

Birds

Moths and butterflies

Reptiles and amphibians

Woodland

Grassland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green spaces and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Heathlands to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Upland heathland	1560	780	78	78
Lowland heathland	Unknown	50%	5%	5%

HAP-HD-TG1: Maintain extent of heathland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-HD-TG2: Achieve condition of heathland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-HD-TG3: Restore heathland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-HD-TG4: Expand heathland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-HD-TG5: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with heathland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 4 - WETLANDS

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Blanket Bog	Reed bunting Brown hawker Daubentons bat Palmate newt Weedy frillwort Yellow water lily
Lowland Raised Bog	
Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp	
Mesotrophic Lakes	
Ponds	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Blanket Bog

Blanket bogs are distinguished by being permanently wet areas, exclusively rain-fed and dominated by sphagnum mosses. The habitat is synonymous with peatland found in cool, wet oceanic climates and are typified by poor drainage. Blanket bog accumulates in reponse to the very slow rate at which plant material decomposes under conditions of waterlogging. Although bog vegetation is predominately sphagnum, it can also contain heaths, heather's, bog asphodel and cotton grasses. It is important for a variety of terrestrial and aqautic vetebrates and invertebrates.

The current extent of blanket bog in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 83ha and is associated with the upland moorland ridges between the valleys and those moorlands that run into the Brecon Beacons National Park. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Mulfran, Mynydd Coity, Mynydd James and Gwastad.

Threats to blanket bog include afforestation, drainage, changes in grazing regimes, recreational pressures, burning and pollution.

Lowland Raised Bog

Lowland raised bogs are peatland ecosystems, which develop primarily, but not exclusively, in lowland areas such as the head of estuaries, along river floodplains and in topographic depressions. Waterlogging in such areas results in peat accumulation. Continued accrual of peat elevates the bog surface above groundwater levels to form a gently curving dome from which the term 'raised' is derived. As with blanket bog, sphagnum mosses are the principal peat forming species. Other species that can be found include vascular plants which have adapted to the conditions of this habitat such as cotton grasses and a range of breeding waders, wildfowl and invertebrates.

The current extent of lowland raised bog in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to cover around 86ha which is confined to central lowland areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Garnlydan reservoir.

Threats to lowland raised bog include afforestation, drainage, changes in grazing regimes, recreational pressures, burning and pollution.

Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp

Upland flushes, fens and swamp are peat or mineral-based terrestrial wetlands in upland situations, which receive water and nutrients from surface and/or groundwater sources as well as rainfall. This habitat is typically dominated by sedges, rushes, grasses and occasionally wetland herbs. Upland flushes, fens and swamps is particularly important for nesting waders and invertebrates.

The current extent of upland flushes, fens and swamp in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 95ha, but this is likely to be under recorded. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Mynydd Bedwellty, Mynydd Manmoel, Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail and Mynydd Coity, James and Gwastad.

Threats to upland flushes, fens and swamp include changes in agricultural practices.

Mesotrophic Lakes

Mesotrophic lakes are standing freshwater bodies which have moderate amounts of nutrients, being midway between oligotrophic and eutrophic waters and are restricted to lowland areas. There is a range of characteristic plants and animals associated with this habitat including dragonflies and pondweeds. Other species that are often found in this habitat include nesting birds, fish and amphibians.

The current extent of mesotrophic lakes in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 40ha, confined to higher ground in southern areas of the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at Cwmtillery lakes, Garnlydan and St James Reservoirs.

The main threats to mesotrophic lakes are infilling, pollution, loss through development, over-fishing and inappropriate management.

Ponds

Ponds are defined as permanent and seasonal standing waterbodies of up to 2ha. Ponds are of considerable importance for nesting and wintering wildfowl, freshwater invertebrates, amphibians, and aquatic, emergent and bank-side plant communities. Species which are charachteristic of upland ponds include bog bean, lesser spearwort, alternate water milfoil, scarce blue tailed damselfly and the common hawker.

Ponds are distributed across the borough and the current extent of ponds in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to total around 6ha, although this habitat is likely to be under recorded. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Beaufort hills, Hafod y Dafal, Peacehaven, Garden City and the Old Hafordian.

Threats to ponds include agricultural infilling, loss through development, pollution and lack of management.

Links to other Action Plans

Bats

Birds

Otters

Reptiles and amphibians

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Rivers and streams

Public green spaces and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Wetlands to be achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Blanket Bog	83	41.5	4.1	4.1
Lowland Raised Bog	86	43	4.3	4.3
Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamp	95	47.5	4.75	4.75
Mesotrophic Lakes	40	20	2	2
Ponds	55 (ponds)	55	5	5

HAP-WL-TG1: Maintain extent of wetland habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WL-TG2: Achieve condition of wetland habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WL-TG3: Restore wetland habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WL-TG5: Expand wetland habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-WL-TG6: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with wetland in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 5 - RIVERS AND STREAMS

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Rivers and Streams	Kingfisher Otter Daubentons bat Brown trout Irish frillwort Purple willow

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Rivers and Streams

This broad habitat category includes a very wide range of habitat types encompassing all natural and near-natural running waters both in upland and lowland regions. Rivers and streams are influenced by many factors including the topography, substrate, gradient, climate and they can change in charater from the source to sea or lake. The plant and animal assemblages of rivers and streams vary according to the geographical area, underlying geology and water quality. The invertebrate fauna in upland rivers is dominated by stoneflies, mayflies and caddis flies while fish such as brown trout and salmon are usually present. Lowland rivers tend to be nutrient-rich and are dominated by higher plants and coarse fish such as roach.

There are four main watercourses in Blaenau Gwent – the River Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr, Ebbw Fach , Clydach and Tyleri in addition to many streams. The current extent of rivers and streams in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 44km however this only includes the main watercourses and is therefore likely to be under recorded.

The main threats to rivers and streams include non native invasive species, pollution, unsympathetic management and disturbance from development.

Links to other Action Plans

Birds

Bats

Otters

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Public green spaces and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Rivers and Streams to be achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (km)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Rivers and Streams	44km	50%	5%	5%

HAP-RW-TG1: Maintain extent of running water and riparian habitat in Blaenau Gwent

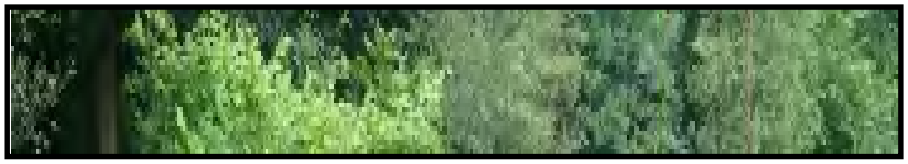
HAP-RW-TG2: Achieve condition of running water and riparian habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-RW-TG3: Restore riparian habitat Blaenau Gwent

HAP-RW-TG4: Expand riparian habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-RW-TG5: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with rivers and streams in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 6 - PUBLIC GREEN SPACE AND GARDENS



Welsh Priority Habitats	Key Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Gardens and Allotments	House sparrow Pipistrelle bat species Garden tiger Common frog Slow worm Earth star fungi
Churchyards and Cemeteries	
School Grounds	
Urban Green Spaces	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Gardens, Allotments, Churchyards, Cemeteries, School Grounds and Urban Green Spaces

Gardens, allotments, churchyards, cemeteries, school grounds and urban green spaces can support a rich diversity of wildlife. They are important refuges for many resident and migratory species, particularly birds. A mature garden with minimal pesticides and fertilisers, can host some 60 bird species, 300 plant species and thousands of different insects. Gardens, allotments, churchyards, cemeteries, school grounds and urban green spaces that offer the most diversity are generally characterised by mature shrubs and trees in addition to field layer plants. Species which particularly favour gardens, allotments, churchyards, cemeteries, school grounds and urban green spaces include swallows, bullfinches, bumble bees, frogs, toads, newts and hedgehogs.

It is estimated that there are 25,411 gardens, 38 school grounds, 24 allotments, 7 cemeteries and 15 churchs (with assumed churchyards) in Blaenau Gwent although the current extent of these areas has yet to be measured. Key greenspaces include those sites which have been designated as Local Nature Reserves including Beaufort hills, Cwmtillery lakes, Parc Bryn Bach, Parc Nant y Waun, Silent Valley and Sirhowy Woodlands.

Threats to gardens, allotments, churchyards, cemeteries, school grounds and urban green spaces include use of pesticides and fertilisers, increases in tarmac and other hard landscaping, loss through development, drainage of ponds and domestic pets such as cats.

Links to other Action Plans

Birds

Moths and butterflies

Woodland

Grasslands

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Public Green Spaces and Gardens to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Gardens and Allotments	25, 435 sites	12	1.2	1NA
Churchyards and Cemeteries	22 sites	11	1.1	NA
School Grounds	38 sites	19	1.9	NA
Urban Green Spaces	Unknown	50%	5%	NA

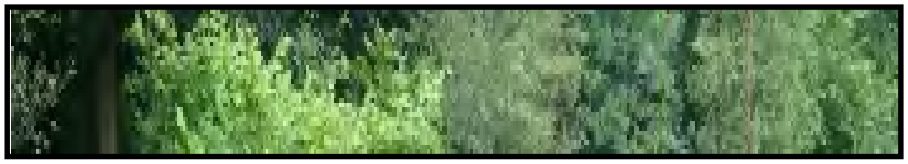
HAP-UR-TG1: Maintain extent of public green spaces and gardens in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-UR-TG2: Achieve favourable condition of public green spaces and gardens in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-UR-TG3: Restore public green spaces and gardens in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-UR-TG4: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with public green spaces and gardens in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 7 - BOUNDARY AND LINEAR FEATURES



Welsh Priority Habitats	Key Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Hedgerows	Kestrel Dunnock Polecat Common lizard Pipistrelle bat species Wood bitter vetch
Dry Stone Walls	
Highway Verges	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Hedgerows

Hedgerows are defined as any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m in length and less than 5m wide, where any gaps are less than 20m. Both species-rich and species-poor hedgerows provide important habitats for wildlife. They are a predominately lowland feature and support a range of birds and plants as well as mammals such as foxes, badgers and bats. Hedgerows are an important feature in the landscape allowing species such as bats to travel between different habitats.

Hedgerows can be found in a variety of habitats across the county although the current extent in Blaenau Gwent is unknown.

Threats to hedgerows include pollution, lapse of traditional management practices such as hedge-laying, over-mowing and colonisation of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

Dry Stone Walls

Dry stone walls are linear features which were traditionally created as field boundaries to control livestock. These features of the landscape can support a range of species, which exploit different habitats created within a wall. Cracks in the walls provide nesting sites for wrens and wagtail, basking and hibernation sites for amphibians and reptiles as well as foraging sites for small mammals. Exposed faces can provide suitable conditions for lichens and in shadier wetter areas there can be mosses, ferns and liverworts. Dry stone walls also provide important corridors for species travelling between habitats.

The current extent of dry stone walls in Blaenau Gwent is currently unknown.

Threats to dry stone walls include lapse of traditional management practices and development.

Highway Verges

Highway verges often represent remnant habitats that have become increasingly rare within agriculturally improved landscapes. Highway verges provide shelter and a source

of food for wildlife and can be important habitat features in their own right. Highway verges provide wildlife corridors and contribute to the overall network of habitats across the county. They link habitats and aid movement of species.

The current extent of highway verges in Blaenau Gwent is approximately 546433m2. This includes the verges along the main highways but does not include smaller verges in areas such as housing estates.

Threats to highway verges include pollution, lapse of traditional management practices such as hedge laying, over-mowing and colonisation of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

Links to other Action Plans

Bats

Birds

Otters

Moths and butterflies

Reptiles and amphibians

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Boundary and Linear Features to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Hedgerows	Unknown	50%	5%	5%
Dry stone walls	Unknown	50%	5%	5%
Highway verges	Unknown	50%	5%	5%

HAP-LF-TG1: Maintain extent of boundary and linear features in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-LF-TG2: Achieve condition of boundary and linear in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-LF-TG3: Restore boundary and linear features in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-LF-TG4: Expand boundary and linear features in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-LF-TG5: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with boundary and linear features in Blaenau Gwent

HAP 7 - Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree	Peregrine falcon Ring ouzel Neglected rustic moth Lesser horseshoe bat Brown long eared bat Dwarf streaked moss

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree

This action plan includes naturally exposed rock faces and escarpments. Natural rock exposures support a wide range of communities. Scree is typically dominated by ferns, lichens and bryophytes. Rock faces can provide important refuges for vascular plants and invertebrates, in addition several key species of birds use inland cliffs for nesting, including the peregrine falcon.

The current extent of inland rock outcrop and scree in Blaenau Gwent is estimated to be around 17ha and confined to two central areas in the county. Examples of this habitat can be found at Trefil and Tirpentwys quarry.

Threats to inland rock outcrop and scree include grazing animals, recreational activities and advancing vegetation cover.

Links to other Action Plans

Bats

Birds

Moths and butterflies

Reptiles and amphibians

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Post industrial habitats

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree	17	8.5	0.8	0.8

HAP-IR-TG1: Maintain extent of Inland rock and scree habitat

HAP-IR-TG2: Achieve condition of inland rock and scree in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-IR-TG3: Restore inland rock and scree in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-IR-TG4: Expand inland rock and scree in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-IR-TG5: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with inland rock and scree in Blaenau

HAP 9 - Post Industrial Habitat

Welsh Priority Habitats	Associated Species (see Appendix 3 for Full List)
Colliery sites	Lapwing Peregrine falcon Brown hare Scarce blue tailed damselfly A lady's mantle Peltigera lichen species
Quarries	
Refuse tips	
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	

Habitat Description, Current Status, Distribution and Threats

Colliery Spoil

Areas of colliery spoil have been created through disposal of waste from coal mining, which took place across Blaenau Gwent until the end of the 20th Century. Whilst many colliery sites and areas of coil spoil have been reclaimed in an attempt to landscape areas for future use, others have been left undisturbed to naturally revegatate over time. These old colliary sites and spoil tips now support a diversity of habitats and species, many of which are typical of the acidic conditions found on colliery spoil. Habitats can include grasslands, heathland, scrub and often areas of wetland. Species such as birds, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles are all found here and in fact some species such as the lapwing will often favour colliery spoil habitats for breeding.

Blaenau Gwent contains a number of disused colliary sites and old spoil tips, these tend to be distributed along the valley bottoms and along the ridgeways. A number of these sites have already been reclaimed and are currently providing good habitat for wildlife. Examples of this habitat can be found at sites such as Rhyd Y Blew, Bryn Serth and Benwards fields.

Threats to these areas are primarily from development and changing land use. Many areas are also under threat from human activities such as fly tipping and off road motorcycling.

Quarries

Quarries are used for the extraction of minerals such as limestone, coal and sandstone. The rock exposures and areas of scree, which can be found at both active and disused quarries, provide habitats for a diversity of species. Rock faces and areas of scree are important for breeding birds such as peregrine falcon and ring ouzel and provide habitat for mosses and liverworts. Associated wetland features are important for invertebrates

such as the scarce blue tailed damselfly and also reptiles and amphibians. Bats can often be found roosting in caves and using rock faces as corridors for commuting between roosting and foraging areas. A large part of the boroughs calcareous grassland is found around the limestone quarries, which supports plant species such rough hawkbit.

There are a number of quarries across Blaenau Gwent including the active quarry at Trefil and the quarry at Tirpentwys cut, which is no longer in use.

All quarries are threatened by human activities such as fly tipping whilst old quarries are threatened with pressures to re-open and extract minerals. There is the also the potential that adjacent habitats may be lost through extended quarrying and through infilling.

Refuse Tips

Once landfill tips are no longer used they are covered and often seeded, to create an area of grassland. These areas will often develop into important habitats for a variety of species including birds, mammals and invertebrates.

Refuse tips are distributed across the whole of Blaenau Gwent. Sites which are currently providing good habitat for wildlife include those found at Ben Wards Fields, Greenmeadows, Winchestown and Beaufort Hills.

Threats to refuse tip include pressures from development and disturbance from human activities such as off road motorcycling and fly tipping.

Open Mosaic Habitats On Previously Developed Land

This UK BAP priority habitat is defined as an area of at least 0.25ha, which has been disturbed in the past and contains some vegetation. The vegetation will comprise of early successional communities consisting mainly of stress tolerant species. These habitats will need to contain areas of unvegetated bare substrate often with pools. They will form mosaics with one or more of the early successional communities in addition to bare substrate.

This habitat includes colliery spoil, extraction sites, coastal, contaminated and derelict land, which although may individually be LBAP habitats, must meet the above criteria to be classified as open mosaic habitats on previously developed land.

These habitats are distributed across Blaenau Gwent and include landfill, contaminated and derelict land, spoil and quarries. Examples of this habitat can be found at Winchestown, Rassau, Parc bryn bach and Beaufort hills.

The main threats to these habitats include loss and fragmentation through development, inappropriate and lack of management and human disturbance.

Links to other action plans

Birds

Bats

lapwing

Otters

Moths and butterflies

Reptiles and amphibians

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Boundaries and linear features

Public greenspace and gardens

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets and Actions

Summary of Targets for Woodlands to be Achieved by 2015

Priority Habitat	Maintain Extent (ha)	Achieve Condition (ha)	Restore (ha)	Expand (ha)
Colliery spoil	Unknown	50%	5%	NA
Quarries	64.8	32.4	3.24	NA
Refuse tips	58.7	29.4	2.94	NA
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Unknown	50%	5%	5%

HAP-PI-TG1: Maintain extent of postindustrial habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-PI-TG2: Achieve condition of postindustrial habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-PI-TG3: Restore postindustrial habitat in Blaenau Gwent

HAP-PI-TG4: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority species associated with postindustrial habitat in Blaenau Gwent

8 SPECIES ACTION PLANS

SAP 1 - BATS

The following bat species are included in this Species Action Plan:

- Brant's (*Myotis brandtii*)
- Brown long eared (*Plecotus auritus)*
- Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*
- Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*)
- Leislers (*Nyctalus leisleri*)
- Lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)
- Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*)
- Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)
- Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*)
- Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus)*
- Whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*)

Ecology

All UK bats are nocturnal (active at night), insectivorous (insect eating) and belong to the sub-order *Microchiroptera*. The smallest species of bat found in the UK is the pipistrelle which weighs as little as 3g and is able to fit through gaps measuring as little as 5mm. The UK's largest bat species is the noctule which can weigh up to 40g and has a wingspan of up to 40cm.

Bats can to roost in a range of places, with different species preferring different types of roost. The principle criteria for favourable roosting sites are sheltered conditions away from predators (and disturbance) and close to good foraging habitat, namely water sources and woodland or hedgerows. Structures satisfying these criteria can be crevices in trees or walls, in buildings where suitable voids exist or in caves or rock fissures. Roosts are used by bats for different activities at different time periods; movement between roosts to satisfy changing requirements is common. The main types of roost are maternity, mating, summer, transitional and hibernating

Generally bats emerge from their roosting sites at dusk and spend the night hunting for insects, some eating on the wing and some preferring to land to eat. During a typical evening various types of insects will be consumed by the different bat species. Most bats species feed on flying insects however some will glean insects off vegetation or take insects from the surface of waterbodies. On average a pipistrelle bat will eat around 3000 flying insects per night, to satisfy the high energy demands associated with flight. During winter the number of flying insects is often low and consequently food is usually too scarce to meet the energetic demands of flight and the maintenance of a high body temperature. Bats deal with these periods of prey shortage by reducing their energy needs by entering hibernating and only waking to feed of drink on mild nights.

Bats have a relatively low reproductive rate compared to other mammals of a similar size. Females tend to have only one 'pup' per year or even none at all if the weather conditions are poor. This low reproductive rate is compensated for by having a relatively long life span when compared to other small mammals. Some bats have been recorded as living in the wild for up to 30 years.

Status

All bat species experienced a marked decline in the latter half of the 20th Century. As a result all British bat species are strictly protected by national and international legalisation. All species are listed on Appendix II of the Bonn Convention and Appendix II of the Bern Convention (except for the pipistrelle which is listed on Appendix III). All bat species in Britain are covered by Annexe IV (a) of the European Habitats Directive. In addition, lesser and greater horseshoe bats are listed on Annex II of the same Directive. All bats and their roosts are protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Seven species of bat are also priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan with five of these species found in Blaenau Gwent (soprano pipistrelle, brown long eared, Noctule and Lesser horseshoe bats). As Priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, bats are also Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Wales under Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006.

Threats

Bats have been adversely affected by land use changes in the countryside, which result in loss and fragmentation of habitats on which they depend. Many species require a diverse habitat containing a range of natural and manmade structures for roosting and hibernation sites as well as insect rich foraging areas. Agricultural intensification has resulted in loss of hedgerows and important trees, which act as corridors for feeding and roosting sites. Destruction of old buildings and suitable trees has also limited hibernation and roosting sites. Species that roost in buildings such as pipistrelle have also been affected by the use of toxic preservatives to treat timber. Increased use of pesticides and loss of invertebrate rich habitats such as wetlands has also reduced prey numbers of flying insects. Bats are also affected by light pollution, which can reduce their hunting efficiency.

Distribution

Details on the approximate number and the distribution of bat species in Blaenau Gwent is currently unknown. It is, however, thought that common and soprano pipistrelles are the most common species found in the County. It is also recognised that the County is an important area for lessor horseshoe bat, which are found only in Wales and southwest England.

Links with other action plans

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

SAP-B-T1: Maintain and expand range and population size of bat species within Blaenau Gwent

SAP 2 - BIRDS



The following bird species are included in this Species Action Plan:

- Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)
- Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)
- Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
- Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)
- Short eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)
- Long eared owl (*Asio otus*)
- European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)
- Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)
- Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)
- Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)
- Little ringed plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
- Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)
- Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)
- House martin (*Delichon urbium*)
- Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)
- Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)
- Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
- Pied flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)
- Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)
- Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

- Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- Red grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*)
- Woodlark (*Lululla arborea*)
- Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)
- Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)
- Red kite (*Milvus milvus*)
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
- Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
- Willow tit (*Parus montanus*)
- Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*)
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
- Honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)
- Green woodpecker (*Picus viridus*)
- Wood warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)
- Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)
- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
- Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)
- Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Dartford Warbler (Sylvia undata)
- Ring ouzel (*Turdus torquata*)
- Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
- Mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Ecology

As members of the Class *Aves* all bird species are characterised by the presence of feathers, beak and the ability to lay hard-shelled eggs. Most birds can fly, distinguishing them from most other vertebrates and their bodies are uniquely adpated to flight. There is a huge amount of diversity within the Class with species varying immensly in morphology, behaviour and the habitats that they are found in. Most bird species exploit different habitats, some are resident remaining in one location all year around and others are migratory, travelling to different locations in order to find places to breed and find food.

Breeding occurs across the spring and summer months. Eggs are laid in a nest, which is incubated by the parents and once hatched, the parents will care for the young until they are fully fledged. Diet varys between species. Some species eat a variety of foods from seeds and fruits to nectar and pollen or some can be carnivorous, eating insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, mammals or other birds. Some birds are omnivores and will change their diet depending on the food that is available.

Status

The bird species included in the LBAP are species, which are known to be important in Blaenau Gwent due to their status as either rare, declining or threatened locally or nationally.

All birds receive general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which prohibits the killing, injuring, taking, or selling, of any wild bird or their nests or eggs. Certain bird species which are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) receive special protection which means that they are protected from disturbance during the breeding season. The majority of the LBAP species are included in the Section 42 list, species of Importance for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales, which has been produced by WAG under the NERC Act 2006. The Section 42 list includes 51 bird species, 34 of which are found in Blaenau Gwent. 24 LBAP species are also UK BAP species and are therefore a priority for conservation in the UK.

Many of the species are also included on the Wales red list produced by the RSPB. - All species in Wales have been assessed against criteria to determine their status and to produce a list of species which are of conservation concern. Red listed species are those that are globally threatened, with a population or range that has declined rapidly in recent years and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recovery. Amber species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in the UK and Europe, they may have a population or range that has declined moderatley in recent years or a population that has declined but made a substantial recovery. Rare breeding birds and those with internationally important or localised populations are also included in this category.

Threats

Declines in population size and range of species have been caused primarily due to the loss and fragmentation of habitats, which is the result of development, changes in land such as farming intensification and forestry and also inappropriate land management. Other factors which are likely to have had an impact on bird populations include increased pollution and disturbance such as off road motorcycling. Whilst climate change may result in milder winters and consequently better survival of many resident species, it is also likely to result in a decline in wintering populations of wintering wildfowl and waders, as these species do not travel as far from their breeding grounds. Factors outside of the UK are also likely to effect populations of migratory species such as the ring ouzel, these may include hunting pressures or other environmental changes at their breeding grounds or stopovers.

Distribution

Surveys carried out by the BTO, JNCC and the RSPB to assess the population of breeding birds in Wales, show that there have been declines in many species of birds since 1994. In Gwent, the number of wild bird species totals 288 as recorded in the 2nd Gwent atlas,1998-2003. Surveys have indicated that there has been a decline in the range of many species across Gwent with 36 species having a reduced range of more than 10% (recorded as the number of tetrads occupied). These surveys have also indicated that there has been a large increase in the diversity of species in the north west Gwent including the county of Blaenau Gwent. Improvements across this area have included the reclamation of former industrial sites such as mining spoil tips, planting of trees and the clean up of rivers and streams. One such example is that of Parc Bryn Bach which is located on the site of a former Ironstone and Coal quarry and the former Bryn-Bach Colliary, Pit and Pond. The site was developed into a country park in 1989 as part of a reclamation scheme. The establishment of vegetation, in woodlands and around the margins of the lake, has resulted in a significant increase in bird species found at the site.

The diversity of habitats in Blaenau Gwent is important for a vast range of both resident and migratory bird species. These species can be associated with one or a variety of habitats. Deciduous woodlands with open under storey provide habitat for the wood warbler alongside other summer visitors such as the tree pipit and pied flycatcher whilst denser woodlands are more ideal for bullfinch. Coniferous plantations are important breeding site for long eared owl and cross bills and in areas of felled woodland nightjars can be found. Other species such as the goshawk, kestrel and sparrowhawk can be found in both broadleaved and coniferous woodland and where wet woodland is present warblers may breed. Areas of water are important for many species, dipper, grey wagtail and kingfisher can be found along rivers and streams particularly where these are well covered with vegetation. Marshy grassland habitats also support reed bunting, stonechat and snipe. Open moorland provides breeding habitats for the skylark and meadow pipit, merlin, grey partridge and red grouse. Many species are also associated with urban habitats. Species such as the house sparrow, swallow and house martin are dependant on buildings to nest whilst parks and gardens are becoming more important for species such as the song thrush as habitat in the wider countryside becomes less suitable. Other sites such as post-industrial habitats are important for a number of species such as lapwing, which can be found on sparsely vegetated colliery sites that have now been reclaimed. Peregrine falcons will nest on the ledges of old quarries and ring ouzel can sometime be found on areas outside of quarries where there is scree and abundant heather.

Links with other action plans

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock outcrop and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

SAP-BI-T1: Maintain and expand range and population size of priority bird species

SAP 3 – LAPWING



Ecology

The Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) is distinctive with its black and white appearance and 'peewit' calls. Although once a familiar part of our countryside, today the lapwing is a rare and threatened species in the UK and in Wales. In 1998 surveys estimated the Welsh population to be 1700 pairs, following a 77% decline in numbers since 1987. Lapwing are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and as a result of their rapid decline they are now included in the Red list of Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales produced by the RSPB and are a Species of Principal importance for conservation of biodiversity in Wales (NERC Act 2006).

Blaenau Gwent lies within the Heads of the Valleys area, which supports approximately 10% of the Welsh lapwing population and is one of a few remaining strongholds for the species - it is of particular note as one of only two upland breeding populations of lapwing in Wales.

Old coal spoil tips, which are a characteristic feature of the area, support short, sparse grassland vegetation, with occasional shallow pools and damp ground where drainage is poor. This provides the two key features for lapwing nesting ground: bare open sites with good all round visibility, and damp conditions to provide a source of invertebrates for feeding. Such conditions underlie much of the common land and farmland of the area but it is the partially re-claimed sites, now described as 'brownfield' or 'post-industrial' sites, that have been most favoured by lapwing, for example Rhyd y Blew and Bryn Serth at Ebbw Vale. Post breeding season flocks of lapwing in the area may remain for a few months after the breeding season, if weather conditions remain mild. They will typically gather at lakes and reservoirs such as Garnlydan and Beaufort Hill.

Status

Lapwing populations underwent a dramatic reduction in populations in Wales. The population has plummeted from around 7500 pairs in the late 1980s to less than 1000 pairs. Lapwing is included in the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List and classified as a bird of conservation concern by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, but not a priority species. The species also receives general protection in the UK under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and under Annex 11 of the Bonn convention.

Threats

Lapwings have been adversely affected by changes in farming and land management practices. More intensive farming methods affect the quality of lapwing breeding habitat by altering sward composition through reseeding and drainage. Lapwings are a ground nesting species and require a tussocky uneven grass sward to lay eggs and provide cover from foxes and crows. The switch from spring sown to autumn sown cereals reduced nesting habitats as the latter crops are too dense for nesting. Higher livestock densities increased lapwing predator populations due to increased food availability. Greater stock numbers in grazing pastures increases egg loss from trampling. Extra tree planting and fencing also provides perches for crows to sight lapwing nests. Similar land use changes on brownfield sites and through land reclamation schemes have also adversely affected lapwing habitat.

Distribution

Little information is available on the distribution of lapwings in Blaenau Gwent. A population of around 60 breeding pairs was formerly found on Rhyd Y Blew and pairs have been found on less favourable sites in Blaenau Gwent.

Links with other action plans

Birds

Grassland

Wetland

Post industrial habitats

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

SAP-L-T1: Maintain and expand range and population size of Lapwing

SAP 4 - MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES

The following species of moths and butterflies are included in this Species Action Plan:

Main list:

Moths

- Grey mountain carpet (*Entephria caesiata)*
- The Silurian (*Eriopygodes imbecilia*)
- Double line (*Mythimna turca)*
- Grey scalloped bar (Dyscia fagaria)
- Heath rustic (*Xestia agathina*)
- Large ear (*Amphipoea lucens*)
- Northern rustic (*Standfussiana lucernea*)
- Red sword-grass (*Xylena vetusta*)
- Scarce silver-lines (*Bena bicolorana*)
- Neglected rustic (*Xestia castanea)*
- Wormwood (*Cucullia absinthii*)

Butterflies

- Dark green fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja)*
- Pearl bordered fritillary (*Boloria euphrosyne*)
- Small pearl bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene)*
- Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)
- Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)
- Wall brown (*Lasiommata megera*)
- Dingy skipper (*Erynnis tages*)

*Research list:

- Knot grass (*Acronicta rumicis*)
- Flounced chestnut moth (*Agrochola helvola)*

- Bearded chestnut moth (*Agrochola lychnidis)*
- Ear moth (*Amphipoea oculea*)
- Mouse moth (*Amphipyra tragopoginis*)
- Dusky brocade (*Apamea remissa*)
- Garden tiger (*Arctia caja)*
- Centre barred sallow (*Atethmia centrago)*
- Dark brocade (*Blepharita adusta*)
- Mottled rustic (*Caradrina morpheus*)
- Latticed heath (*Chiasmia clathrata*)
- Small square spot (*Diarsia rubi)*
- Small phoenix (*Ecliptopera silaceata*)
- September thorn (*Ennomos erosaria*)
- Dusky thorn (*Ennomos fuscantaria*)
- August thorn (*Ennomos quercinaria*)
- Gallium carpet (*Epirrhoe galiata*)
- Autumnal rustic (*Eugnorisma glareosa*)
- Garden dart (*Euxoa nigricans*)
- Double dart (*Graphiphora augur*)
- Ghost moth (*Hepialus humuli*)
- The rustic (*Hoplodrina blanda*)
- Rosy rustic (*Hydraecia micacea*)
- Brindled beauty (*Lycia hirtaria)*
- The lackey (*Malacosoma neustria*)
- Dot moth (*Melanchra persicariae*)
- Broom moth (*Melanchra pisi*)
- Shoulder striped wainscot (*Mythimna comma)*
- Powdered quaker (*Orthosia gracilis*)
- Grass rivulet (*Perizoma albulata subsp. Albulata*)
- Shaded broad bar (*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*)
- White ermine (*Spilosoma lubricipeda*)
- Buff ermine (*Spilosoma luteum*)
- The anomalous (*Stilbia anomala*)

- Hedge rustic (*Tholera cespitis*)
- Feathered gothic (*Tholera decimalis*)
- Blood vein (*Timandra comae*)
- The cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*)
- Oak hook tip (*Watsonalla binaria*)
- The sallow (*Xanthia icteritia*)
- Dark barred twin spot carpet (*Xanthorhoe ferrugata)*

* Research species are those species identified as being of conservation concern i.e. through the NERC act for which further research is a priority action

Ecology

Lepidoptera is the order of insects that includes moths and butterflies; it is one of the largest orders of insects, containing in excess of 180,000 species. In the UK there are thought to be in the region of 2500 species of moth, and 55 butterfly species.

Moths and butterflies undergo complete metamorphosis, going through a four-stage life-cycle starting with the development of an egg, which then hatches into larva before undergoing pupation to turn into an adult. The larva are known as caterpillars and feed on vegetation using their chewing mouth parts. Following the pupal life-stage adult moths and butterflies emerge as winged insects; they have two sets of wings covered in very small scales and exhibit mouth parts adapted for sucking nectar from flowers.

Moths and butterflies contribute hugely to the biodiversity of the UK, acting as important pollinators for many plant species and providing a vital step in numerous food chains by providing food supplies for animals such as birds, bats and other invertebrates. Moths and butterflies have a somewhat contradictory impact on the economy, on one hand successfully pollinating important crops and on the other luckily in only very few cases, causing significant damage to other crops.

One of the most notable moths is the Silurian moth *Eriopygodes imbecilla,* a species which is only known to be found in one location - in the hills of Blaenau Gwent between 400 and 500m. They favour mossy hummocks of grass with bilberry and bedstraw growing through. Larvae feed at night and rest by day in the mossy hummocks, which are thought to provide a secure, warm hiding place. The adult moths fly in June and July and the species overwinter as young larvae. More research is required to establish the breeding requirements and limits of its range.

Status

The majority of the species included in the LBAP are UKBAP Priority Species as well as being Species of Principal Importance under the NERC act 2006. The Silurian moth is an IUCN Red Data Book species for which Blaenau Gwent is the only known station.

Threats

Threats to moths and butterflies in Blaenau Gwent include loss of habitat due to agricultural intensification, overgrazing, loss of woodland clearings, moorland fires,,

drainage of wetlands, invasion by scrub, inappropriate management, development pressures and pollution.

Distribution

Moths and butterflies have suffered dramatic declines across the UK. The Pearl Boarded Fritillary was last recorded in Blaenau Gwent in Cwm Merdogg in 1986. The Silurian moth has been found in good numbers at Blaentillery Quarry and 11 Silurian moths were found in 2001 in high mountain gullies around Abertillery.

Links with other action plans

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Boundary and linear features

Inland rock and scree

Post industrial habitat

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

SAP-MB-T1: Maintain and expand range and population size of moth and butterfly species

SAP 5 - Otters

Ecology

The Eurasian otter *(Lutra lutra)* is a sub-aquatic mammal belonging to the family Mustelidae, which also includes species such as badgers, weasels and pine martens. There are thirteen species of otter although only *Lutra lutra* are found in Wales and the UK. The Eurasian otter can grow up to 120cm in length and weigh in the region of 8kg. They feed mostly on aquatic species, predominantly fish (accounting for approximately 80% of their diet) and frogs, but may become opportunistic and prey upon other foods such as small mammals and birds.

Otters have no specified breeding season and therefore breed during any month producing litters of 2-3 cubs. Newborn cubs weigh only 40g and mature slowly, their eyes open at about 5 weeks after birth and they become fully weaned at approximately 14 weeks. Juvenile otters remain dependent upon their mothers until around 15 months of age when they will disperse and establish their own territories.

Status

Otter populations experienced a sharp decline in numbers nationally during the 1950s – 1970s. The species became extinct or rare across much of the UK, particularly southern England. Populations remained in Wales and numbers are now recovering as a result of the ban on the use of organo-chloride pesticides and improvements in water quality and fish populations in rivers. Otters are strictly protected through national and European legislation, the species is listed in Appendix I of CITES, Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats and Species Directive. Under UK law they are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and are listed as 'globally threatened' in the IUCN Red Data Book. Otters are also a UKBAP priority species. As a Priority species, the otter is a Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Wales under Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006.

Threats

The initial decline of otters is attributed to the pollution of watercourses with cyclodiene pesticides or PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls), with the slow rate of recovery being due to low breeding rate and habitat loss associated with changes to riparian habitat from agricultural and industrial land practices. PCBs build up in the otter's fatty tissue which is a result of magnification through the food chain, known as bioaccumulation. This makes otters particularly vulnerable as the top predator in riverine ecosystems. PCBs are

endocrine disrupting chemicals and it is thought that damage to the reproductive function of otters due to these chemicals was the primary cause of the species decline. Poor water quality also led to reduction in prey populations of fish. Other threats include loss of habitat and reduced habitat quality through river improvements schemes. For example construction of concrete banks can lead to loss of vegetation and other important features for shelter. Within its home range an otter may use around 30 places of shelter where it rests and grooms between periods of nocturnal foraging and lies up during the day. If the site is sufficiently secluded it may also be used for breeding. Additional threats include collisions with vehicles, accidental trapping in mink and eel traps and increased disturbance due to development near waterways.

Distribution

Otters occur at very low population densities, a male generally occupying a 'home range' of 20-30km along the length of a watercourse whilst a female will travel approximately 10-20km.The size of the range is dependant on food availability and habitat. Otters are found within rivers and streams, which are local biodiversity action plan habitats, however, they are not exclusively confined to waterways and often travel overland. Approximate numbers for Blaenau Gwent are unknown.

Links with other action plans

Rivers and streams

Wetland

Woodlands

Boundary and linear features

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

SAP-O-T1: Maintain and expand range and population size of otters within Blaenau Gwent

SAP 6 - REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



The following species of reptiles and amphibians are included in this Species Action Plan:

- Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)
- Common Toad *(Bufo bufo)*
- Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)
- Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)
- Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Grass Snake *(Natrix natrix)*
- Adder (*Vipera berus*)
- Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)
- Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*)

Ecology

There are six species of reptile and eight species of amphibian native to the UK. Reptiles include lizards and snakes, and amphibians include frogs, newts and toads, together these two groups of animals are classified as herpetofauna.

Amphibians are cold-blooded animals that undergo metamorphosis, changing from entirely aquatic juveniles with gills into air-breathing adults capable of movement on land. Adult amphibians return to spawning ponds to lay large numbers of eggs (common frogs produce up to 4000 eggs and great crested newts produce in the region of 200-300 eggs). The early life stages of a common frog are as follows: eggs typically hatch within 2 weeks of spawning; upon hatching young larvae (tadpoles) have external gills, after about 4 weeks these are absorbed and internal gills are used. By five weeks old the formation of lungs and hind legs has started, these are fully developed by 7-8 weeks old. At approximately week 12 the majority of changes to the tadpole occur; it stops feeding and sheds its outer skin, its mouth widens and tongue grows, eyelids develop and fore limbs begin to form. The final stages of development in late May and June see the fore limb development completed and the tail absorbed, leaving a fully formed juvenile froglet approximately 10mm in length, adapted to terrestrial life. The success rate of egg hatching and froglet development are very dependent upon ambient weather conditions,

with periods of cold temperatures significantly slowing development. These early life-stage developments are similar for all native amphibians.

Frogs, newts and toads have similar habitat requirements, being found in a great diversity of areas ranging from woodland, grassland, marsh, moors and ponds. Slow worms, adders, smooth snakes and common lizards are most commonly found in woodland margins, tall grassland and heath-land, whereas sand lizards and grass snakes have more specific habitat requirements. Sand lizards are almost exclusively found on dry heath and meadows with a predominantly sandy substrate. Grass snakes, however, demonstrate a more aquatic tendency and spend a large proportion of their time hunting in ponds, lakes and ditches.

All reptiles are carnivorous, feeding on a range of foodstuffs depending on the size of the species. Amphibians generally feed on invertebrates, both aquatically and terrestrially, with some species, such as great crested newts, being more voracious and commonly feeding on other newt species. Common lizards, and slow worms have a diet similar to the amphibians, consisting mostly of invertebrates. The snake species are highly predatory with grass snakes feeding predominantly on frogs, newts and fish; adders feeding on anything they are able to over-power, but mainly small mammals.

Reptiles are also cold-blooded animals, unlike amphibians however, they have no aquatic life-stage and do not undergo any metamorphosis. Some species, such as grass snakes lay between 7 and 40 (dependent on age and size of female) soft-shelled eggs in warm places such as garden compost heaps; fully formed miniature snakes then hatch after approximately 70 days incubation. Other species, adders for example, bear live young; this species gives birth to between 3 and 20 juveniles in late summer, typically during September. Adders are non-maternal, leaving the juveniles to fend for themselves.

Status

Four reptile species are found within Blaenau Gwent. These are the adder (*Vipera berus*), grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*). All of these species receive protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (as amended). They receive protection from intentional killing, injury and sale. All British reptiles are priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. As priority species, reptiles are also considered to be Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Wales under the NERC Act 2006. This Act places a duty on all government departments to have due regard for the conservation of these species; and on the Secretary of State to further, or promote others to further, the conservation of these species.

Five species of UK native amphibians occur in Blaenau Gwent. Of these species only great crested newts *(Triturus cristatus*) and common toad *(Bufo bufo*) receive anything above protection against commercial sale under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Great crested newts are covered by the highest degree of legislative protection afforded to species in Wales through Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. In addition the species is protected under European law through Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive, as well as Appendix II of the Bern Convention. Great crested newts and common toad are

also priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and are Species of Principal Importance.

Threats

Reptile population reductions have been primarily caused by habitat loss and fragmentation due to development and land use changes including agricultural intensification and afforestation. Natural succession of heathland and moorland habitats to scrub and woodland also reduces habitat suitable for reptiles due to loss of basking sites. Toads are primarily terrestrial species and have also been affected by these changes.

The decline in amphibians has also been caused by loss of terrestrial and freshwater habitat by infilling or drainage of ponds and over-management of ditches resulting in loss of muddy bottoms. Lack of pond management, leading to their loss due to natural succession, is also a major factor. Increased predation of frogs has also been caused by stocking of ponds with fish, which feed on tadpoles. Collection of frog spawn may also result in reduced breeding success of the species. Amphibians are susceptible to the pollution and the toxic effects of agrochemicals due to their permeable skins and also the disease Chytridiomycosis.

Distribution

Slow worms have a widespread but rather patchy distribution across Wales. They require fairly thick vegetation interspersed with sunny areas for thermoregulation and underground or covered refuges. They are found in a wide variety of habitats including rough grassland, heathland, moorland, downland, hedgerows, scrub and woodland edge. Good populations can sometimes be found on railway embankments, motorway verges and allotments.

Common lizards have a widespread distribution across Wales and the rest of Britain. They prefer undisturbed ground, with dense but short vegetation and patches of bare ground or promontories that are fully exposed to the sun. South facing slopes are often favoured. They are found in a variety of open habitats including roadside verges, railway embankments, woodland clearings, rough grassland, scrub, heathland and coastal sand dunes.

Grass snakes are widespread in Wales and can be locally common. The grass snake is essentially an aquatic species, occurring mainly where there are good populations of amphibians. Nearby open areas with direct sunshine in the vicinity of dense cover are also important, as are suitable egg laying sites. Their main food items are amphibians and fish, which they hunt when swimming or in vegetation.

The adder has a widespread but patchy distribution throughout Britain and in Wales is most abundant in the west. There is a paucity of information for adder populations in Blaenau Gwent. It is thought to be well distributed throughout the county borough and is often associated with commons and forestry plantations characteristic of the area. They require undisturbed, open sunny areas in the vicinity of thick cover. South facing chalk or sandy slopes with mixed vegetation may be ideal, and adders can be found in heathland,

moorland, coarse grassland and scrub. Adders are venomous and small mammals make up most of their diet.

Great crested newts are sparsely distributed in Wales. On land, the great crested newt prefers woodland and scrub habitats, though also uses hedgerow and rough grassland with suitable underground refuges. For breeding sites, medium sized ponds with neutral or hard water and abundant aquatic vegetation and an absence of fish are preferred. The numbers and distribution of great crested newts in Blaenau Gwent are unknown.

The common toad's preferred habitats are rough grassland, scrub and open woodland within 1.5km of their breeding site. For the breeding site, large ponds with abundant aquatic vegetation are preferred, though they will also use fishing lakes and slow-flowing rivers.

The presence of frogs (*Rana temporaria*) is a good indicator of healthy wetlands. Although widespread across Wales, they have experienced a decline in numbers in parallel with loss of ponds.

Links with other action plans

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Public green spaces and gardens

Boundaries and linear features

Post industrial habitats

Action Review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

SAP-RA-T1: Maintain and expand range and population size of reptile and amphibian species

SAP 7- Invasive Species

Status

Many non-native species of plant and animal are found in the UK. During Victorian times many plant collectors knowingly introduced foreign species as much prized specimens to their gardens or estates, perhaps the best example of this is rhododendron *(Rhododendron ponticum),* introduced for its magnificent blooms. This practice still occurs today, the UK has a great passion for horticulture and many species of plant from the whole world over can be found in gardens throughout the UK. Most species however, are not invasive, and have no associated impact; however, the few species that are invasive bring-about far reaching affects.

Several invasive species are found within Blaenau Gwent. Examples of plant species include cherry laurel *(Prunus laurocerasus),* rhododendron *(Rhododendron ponticum),* Japanese knotweed *(Fallopia japonica),* giant hogweed *(Heracleum mantegazzianum)* and Himalayan balsam *(Impatiens glandulifera).* Invasive faunal species include mink *(Mustela vison),* signal crayfish *(Pacifastacus leniusculus)* and grey squirrel *(Sciurus carolinensis).*

Under the Wildlife and countryside act 1981 it is an offence to release any animal or to allow any plant to grow which is not ordinarily resident in the UK or is listed on schedule 9.

Threats

Invasive species pose threats to protected habitats and species in Blaenau Gwent. After habitat destruction invasive non-native species are considered to pose the most significant threat to biodiversity. Invasive plants can have an adverse effect on native plants in a number of ways: depriving native plants of nutrients, light and space; diluting native species by cross-breeding; and, altering plant populations. Invasive plants are characteristically able to spread rapidly and compete aggressively with native species to form large populations that dominate a habitat. Species such as Japanese knotweed can quickly spread through rhizomatous growth and come to dominate certain habitats excluding native vegetation. This can pose a threat to local BAP habitats such as rivers and streams and ground flora within lowland and wet woodland.

Invasive animal species also pose significant threats to biodiversity. Mink can prey on native species such as water vole and aquatic bird species. Grey squirrels out compete native red squirrel and cause damage to trees inhibiting natural regeneration.

Distribution

Rivers in particular are highly vulnerable to colonisation by invasive plants as they allow the easy passage of waterborne seeds and plants. Species, which have spread in this

manner, include Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. Japanese knotweed is a particular problem in South Wales where it thrives in the cool moist climate Japanese knotweed has been found in over 500 sites in Blaenau Gwent. Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed are also particularly problematic species. Mink and grey squirrel are widespread.

Links with other action plans

Woodland

Grassland

Heathland

Wetland

Rivers and streams

Public green space and gardens

Inland rock and scree

Boundary and linear features

Post industrial habitat

Action review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

IS-T1:	**Reduce and control the population of invasive species across Blaenau Gwent**

9 GENERAL ACTION PLANS

GAP 1 - LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN PROCESS

The Local Biodiversity Partnership is an alliance of a wide range of local government and non-government organisations working together to protect and enhance biodiversity in Blaenau Gwent. Only through this partnership is it possible to carry out biodiversity projects locally and deliver both LBAP and UKBAP targets.

It is essential to ensure that the biodiversity partnership continue to drive the LBAP forward, helping its implementation and promotion throughout Blaenau Gwent. This can be made possible through the continued efforts and support from all the members of the partnership.

The Biodiversity Partnership currently meets four times a year and meetings are steered by representatives from Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Countryside Council for Wales and Wales Biodiversity Partnership.

Action review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

GAP-APP-T1:	**Ensure that LBAP partnership is effective in delivering LBAP actions and meeting targets**
GAP-APP-T2:	**Ensure that LBAP is dynamic and focusing actions towards priority species and habitats**
GAP-APP-T3:	**Integrate LBAP into plans, policies and strategies**

GAP 2 - BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION

In order to protect and enhance biodiversity, it is vital to have baseline biological information and to ensure that this is complete, up-to-date and easily accessible to all.

The co-ordination of surveys for priority species and habitats can provide information on the biodiversity resources that are available in Blaenau Gwent. This information can include details on the extent, distribution and condition of habitats and populations of species which allows us to set practical and realistic conservation targets. Continued monitoring will allow the assessment and reporting of progress towards the set targets, which can then be amended accordingly to ensure that actions are focused towards those species and habitats that require it most.

By sharing this information and making it available to a wide range of individuals and groups, conservation can be more effective and it is possible to inform a wide audience of what is being carried out to protect biodiversity.

Both recorders and SEWBReC play an important role in the collection and management of biological data. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBReC so that up to date biological information can be used in the production, implementation and review of the LBAP. Information on the LBAP and the work that is being carried out toward actions and targets is accessible on BARS - http://http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk//

Action review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

GAP-BI-T1: To commission surveys and support local recorders in carrying out surveys of priority species and habitat

GAP-BI-T2: Continue to monitor priority species and habitats and records

GAP-BI-T3: Ensure that any work carried out towards conservation of priority species and habitats is recorded

GAP-BI-T4: To work with and support the Local Record Centre (SEWBReC)

GAP 3 – INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Through the interpretation of biodiversity information and education to a wide audience, it is possible to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and what needs to be done to conserve and enhance it.

The concept of 'biodiversity' needs to be understood and this can be achieved by educating a wide range of individuals and organisations on what biodiversity can be found in the borough, why it needs to be protected and how this can be done. Support from a wide partnership is fundamental to achieving conservation targets. By gaining an understanding/sympathy for biodiversity conservation, it is possible to engage many people in this – whether it is inputting into the LBAP, surveying, practical conservation work or simply trying to minimise their impact on biodiversity.

Information on Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership is available on BGCBCs website – biodiversity pages – www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk. This also contains information on the LBAP and events which are being organised.

Action review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

GAP-IEAR-T1:	**To increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity, and what can be done to protect and enhance it through the interpretation of biodiversity information**
GAP-IEAR-T2:	**Highlight opportunities on how to get involved in biodiversity conservation**
GAP-IEAR-T3:	**Promote the LBAP document and process**
GAP-IEAR-T4:	**Raise the profile of biodiversity including priority species and habitats**

GAP 4 - POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Policies, legislation and strategies exist to protect and enhance biodiversity. It is important to adhere to these and where possible further develop them to ensure that biodiversity resources are maintained.

Blaenau Gwent Biodiversity Partnership needs to ensure that where possible, biodiversity resources are identified and protected. Biodiversity needs to be fully integrated into local and national policies and stratgies through the role of the Ecologist with support from the Countryside Council for Wales and Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Action review

See http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ for lead partner actions and for local action progress

Targets

GAP-PL-T1: To ensure that biodiversity resources are protected and enhanced through the planning and development control process

GAP-PL-T2: Ensure that actions through the planning system and development control comply with EU and UK legislation and policies

GAP-PL-T3: Ensure that biodiversity is integral to council plans, policies and strategies

GAP-PL-T4: Ensure that all sites with high biodiversity interest are protected and managed appropriately

10 APPENDIX 1. MEMBERS OF BLAENAU GWENT BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)
Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP)
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Cymru (BTCV)
Butterfly Conservation (BC)
Coed Cymru (CC)
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Environment Agency Wales (EAW)
Forestry Commission (FC)
Gwent Badger Group (GBG)
Gwent Amphibian and Reptile Group (GARG)
Gwent Fungus Group (GFG)
Gwent Ornithological Society (GOS)
Gwent Police (GP)
Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC)
South East Wales Rivers Trust and the Riverfly Partnership (SEWRT/RP)
Tidy Towns and Keep Wales tidy (TT/KWT)
Valleys Bat Group (VBG)
Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP)
Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)
Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru(WW)

Organisation	Contact Details
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Business Resource Centre Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate Tredegar NP22 3AA Ecology/Biodiversity: Tel.01495 355702 Trees & TPOs: Tel. 01495 355546 www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)	97 Dragon Parade Harrogate North Yorkshire HG1 5DG http://www.bsbi.org.uk/
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP)	Planning Department Plas Y Ffynnon Cambrian Way Brecon Powys LD3 7HP www.breconbeacons.org.uk
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)	Unit 1 The Innovation Centre Festival Drive Victoria Business Park Ebbw Vale NP23 8XA www.btcvcymru.org
Butterfly Conservation (BC)	Calvert Terrace Swansea SA1 6AR www.butterfly-conservation.org
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	Unit 7 St. Mellons Business Park Cardiff CF3 OLT Tel. 02920 772400 www.ccw.gov.uk
Coed Cymru (CC)	Coed Cymru, The Old Sawmill, Tregynon, Newtown, Powys SY16 3PL www.coedcymru.org.uk
Environment Agency Wales (EAW)	Rivers House St. Mellons Business Park Cardiff CF3 OEY Tel. 08708 506506 www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Forestry Commission (FC)	Planning Licensing Coed y Cymoedd Cantref Court District Office Brecon Rd Resolven Abergavenny SA11 4DR Tel. 01873 850060 / 01639 710221 www.forestry.gov.uk
Gwent Amphibian and Reptile Group (GARG)	70 Upper Power Street, Newport Gwent NP20 5FT Tel: 01531 631736 www.sewbrec.org.uk
Gwent Badger Group (GBG)	Elm Tree Caer Licyn Lane Langstone Newport NP16 2JZ Www.monmouthshiregreenweb.co.uk.GwentBadgerGroup/index.htm
Gwent	Porcini 12 Golding Way

Fungus Group	Ledbury HR8 2PN http://www.gwentfungusgroup.org.uk/
Gwent Ornithological Society (GOS)	www.gwentbirds.org.uk
Gwent Police	Gwent Police Headquarters Croesyceiliog Cwmbrân NP44 2XJ www.gwent.police.uk
Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT)	Seddon House Dingestow Monmouth NP25 4DY Tel. 01600 740600 www.gwentwildlife.org
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Sutherland House Castlebridge Cowbridge Road East Cardiff CF11 9AB Tel. 02920 353015 www.rspb.org.uk
South East Wales Biological Records Centre (SEWBReC)	13 St. Andrews Crescent Cardiff CF10 3DB Tel. 02920 641110 www.sewbrec.org.uk
South East Wales Rivers Trust/Riverfly partnership	South East Wales Rivers Trust, Former Glancynon Vestry Glancynon Terrace Abercynon, Glamorgan CF45 4TG http://www.southeastwalesriverstrust.org.uk/index.htm
Tidy Towns/Keep Wales Tidy	33-35 Cathedral Rd Cardiff CF11 9HB Tel: 02920 256767 http://www.keepwalestidy.org/index
Valleys Bat Group	http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/valleys-bat-group.page
Wales Assembly Government	Nature Conservation Branch Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ Tel. 02920 823363 www.wales.gov.uk
Wales Biodiversity Partnership	www.biodiversitywales.org.uk
Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru	Sluvad road New inn Pontypool Torfaen NP4 0TA

11 APPENDIX 2: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to all those who have helped in some way towards the review of Blaenau Gwent's Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Those that have contributed include:

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12 APPENDIX 3: SPECIES INCLUDED IN BLAENAU GWENT LBAP

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Birds														
Barn owl	*Tyto alba*		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Barn swallow	*Hirundo rustica*			✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
Brambling	*Fringilla montifringilla*		✓	✓				✓				✓		
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓		✓
Common linnet	*Carduelis cannabina*	✓	✓			✓	✓					✓		✓
Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*	✓	✓			✓		✓				✓		✓
Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*		✓					✓						
Dartford warbler	*Sylvia undata*		✓		✓	✓	✓							
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Eurasian curlew	*Numenius arquata*	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓					✓
Eurasian sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Grasshopper warbler	*Locustella naevia*	✓	✓			✓		✓				✓		✓
Green woodpecker	*Picus viridis*		✓			✓		✓			✓			✓
Grey partridge	*Perdix perdix*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓		
Hawfinch	*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*	✓	✓					✓						
Hen harrier	*Circus cyaneus*		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Honey buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*			✓	✓			✓						
House martin	*Delichon urbium*			✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓		✓
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*		✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*			✔	✔					✔				
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	✔	✔			✔			✔					✔
Lesser redpoll	*Carduelis cabaret*	✔	✔					✔				✔		
Little ringed plover	*Charadrius dubius*			✔	✔				✔	✔			✔	✔
Long eared owl	*Asio otus*			✔			✔	✔				✔		✔
Marsh tit	*Parus palustris*	✔	✔					✔				✔		
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*		✔		✔	✔	✔					✔		✔
Mistle thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*			✔				✔			✔	✔		✔
Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	✔	✔				✔	✔						
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus*			✔	✔	✔		✔			✔	✔	✔	✔
Pied flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca*		✔					✔						

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Red grouse	*Lagopus lagopus*	✔	✔			✔	✔					✔		
Red kite	*Milvus milvus*			✔	✔			✔				✔		
Reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	✔	✔			✔			✔			✔		✔
Ring ouzel	*Turdus torquatus*	✔	✔			✔	✔						✔	✔
Short eared owl	*Asio flammeus*			✔		✔	✔	✔				✔		✔
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	✔	✔			✔	✔							✔
Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*		✔			✔			✔					✔
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	✔	✔			✔		✔			✔	✔		✔
Spotted flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	✔	✔					✔						
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	✔	✔			✔		✔			✔	✔		✔
Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*		✔			✔	✔					✔		✔
Tree pipit	*Anthus trivialis*	✔	✔					✔				✔		

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Willow tit	*Parus montanus*	✓	✓					✓				✓		
Woodlark	*Lullula arborea*	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓		
Wood warbler	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	✓	✓					✓				✓		✓
Fish														
Atlantic Salmon	*Salmo salar*	✓	✓							✓				
Brown trout	*Salmo trutta*	✓	✓							✓				
Bullhead	*Cottus gobio*			✓	✓					✓				
European Eel	*Anguilla anguilla*		✓	✓						✓				
River Lamprey	*Lampetra fluviatilis*	✓	✓							✓				
Sea Lamprey	*Petromyzon marinus*	✓	✓							✓				
Fungi, lichen, mosses and liverworts														✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
An earth star	*Geastrum pectinatum*			✔		✔					✔			
A lichen	Peltigera neckeri			✔		✔		✔						✔
A lichen	Peltigera polydactylon			✔		✔		✔						✔
Big Blue Ink Gill	*Entoloma bloxamii*		✔			✔								
Bog Earwort	*Scapania paludicola*			✔					✔		✔			
Bog notchwort	*Cladopediella fuitans*			✔					✔					
Bog moss flapwort	*Odontoschisma sphagni*			✔					✔					
Cruet collar moss	*Splachnum ampullaceum*			✔					✔					
Compact bog moss	*Sphagnum compactum*			✔			✔		✔					
Dark Purple Earthtongue	*Geoglossum atropurpureum*		✔			✔	✔				✔			✔

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Date Coloured waxcap	*Hygrocybe spadicea*		✓			✓					✓			
Dwarf streaked moss	*Rhabdoweisia fugax*			✓							✓		✓	
Flexuous Bog-moss	*Sphagnum flexuosum*			✓		✓			✓					
Forcipated pincerwort	*Cephalozia connivens*			✓					✓					
Irish frillwort	*Moerckia hibernica*			✓					✓	✓			✓	
Long fruited thread moss	Pohlia elongata var. elongata			✓									✓	
Olive Earth Tongue	*Microglossum olivaceum*		✓			✓					✓			
Pink meadow waxcap	*Hygrocybe caylptriformis*			✓		✓					✓			
Serrated earth moss	*Ephemerum serratum var serratum*			✓					✓					

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Soft bog moss	*Sphagnum tenellum*			✓			✓		✓					
Smooth Stonewort	*Nitella flexilis*			✓					✓	✓				
Tooth streaked moss	*Rhabdoweisia crispata*			✓									✓	
Transparent frillwort	*Jungermannia hyalina*			✓						✓				
Violet Coral	*Clavaria zollingeri*		✓		✓	✓					✓			
Violet crystalwort	*Riccia huebeneriana*			✓					✓					
Weedy Frillwort	*Fossombronia incurva*			✓					✓	✓				✓
	Hieracium cirrhatum			✓		✓					✓			
Invertebrates - Moths and Butterflies														

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Anomalous moth	*Stilbia anomala*	✓	✓			✓	✓							✓
August Thorn	*Ennomos quercinaria*	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Autumnal Rustic	*Eugnorisma glareosa*	✓	✓			✓								
Beaded Chestnut	*Agrochola lychnidis*	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Blood-vein	*Timandra comae*	✓	✓			✓								
Brindled Beauty	*Lycia hirtaria*	✓	✓					✓						
Broom Moth	*Melanchra pisi*	✓	✓			✓	✓							
Buff Ermine	*Spilosoma luteum*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Centre-barred Sallow	*Atethmia centrago*	✓	✓					✓						
Dark Brocade	*Blepharita adusta*	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Dark green fritillary	*Argynnis aglaja*			✓		✓		✓	✓					

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	*Xanthorhoe ferrugata*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Dingy skipper	*Erynnis tages*	✓	✓			✓					✓			✓
Dot Moth	*Melanchra persicariae*	✓	✓			✓					✓			✓
Double Dart	*Graphiphora augur*	✓	✓					✓						
Double line	Mythimna turca		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓			
Dusky Brocade	*Apamea remissa*	✓	✓					✓						
Dusky Thorn	*Ennomos fuscantaria*	✓	✓					✓						
Ear Moth	*Amphipoea oculea*	✓	✓			✓			✓					
Feathered Gothic	*Tholera decimalis*	✓	✓			✓								
Flounced Chestnut	*Agrochola helvola*	✓	✓					✓			✓			
Galium Carpet	*Epirrhoe galiata*	✓	✓			✓	✓							
Garden Dart	*Euxoa nigricans*	✓	✓			✓					✓			

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Garden Tiger	*Arctia caja*	✔	✔			✔		✔			✔			✔
Ghost Moth	*Hepialus humuli*	✔	✔			✔								✔
Grass Rivulet	*Perizoma albulata subsp. Albulata*	✔	✔			✔								
Grayling	*Hipparchia semele*	✔	✔			✔	✔	✔						✔
Grey Mountain Carpet	*Entephria caesiata*	✔	✔				✔						✔	
Grey scalloped bar	Dyscia fagaria			✔			✔		✔					
Heath rustic	Xestia agathina			✔			✔							
Hedge Rustic	*Tholera cespitis*	✔	✔			✔								
Knot grass	*Acronicta rumicis*	✔	✔			✔		✔						
Large ear	Amphipoea lucens			✔		✔								
Latticed Heath	*Chiasmia clathrata*	✔	✔			✔								✔

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Mottled Rustic	*Caradrina morpheus*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Mouse Moth	*Amphipyra tragopoginis*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Neglected Rustic	*Xestia castanea*	✓	✓				✓							
Northern rustic	Standfussiana lucernea			✓									✓	✓
Oak Hook-tip	*Watsonalla binaria*	✓	✓					✓						
Powdered Quaker	*Orthosia gracilis*	✓	✓			✓		✓						
Red sword grass	Xylena vetusta			✓					✓					
Rosy Rustic	*Hydraecia micacea*	✓	✓			✓		✓						
Scarce silver lines	Bena bicolorana			✓				✓						
September Thorn	*Ennomos erosaria*	✓	✓					✓						
Shaded Broad-bar	*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*	✓	✓			✓								✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	*Mythimna comma*	✓	✓			✓			✓					
Silurian moth	*Eriopygodes imbecilla*	✓	✓			✓	✓							
Small heath	*Coenonympha pamphilus*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
Small pearl bordered fritillary	*Boloria selene*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓
Small Phoenix	*Ecliptopera silaceata*	✓	✓					✓						
Small Square-spot	*Diarsia rubi*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
The Cinnabar	*Tyria jacobaeae*	✓	✓			✓	✓							✓
The Lackey	*Malacosoma neustria*	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓			
The Rustic	*Hoplodrina blanda*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
The Sallow	*Xanthia icteritia*	✓	✓			✓		✓						
Wall brown	*Lasiommata megera*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
White Ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*	✓	✓			✓		✓						✓
Wormwood	Cucullia absinthi			✓										✓
-Dragonflies and Damselflies														
Beautiful demoiselle	*Calopteryx virgo*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Black darter	*Sympetrum danae*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Black tailed skimmer	*Orthetrum cancellatum*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Brown hawker	*Aeshna grandis*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Emerald dragonfly	*Lesetes sponsa*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Hairy dragonfly	*Brachytron pratense*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Golden ringed dragonfly	*Cordulegaster boltonii*			✓					✓	✓				✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Keeled skimmer dragonfly	*Orthetrum caerulescens*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Scarce blue tailed damselfly	*Ischnura pumilio*			✓					✓	✓				✓
Other invertebrates														
Brown banded carder bee	*Bombus humilis*	✓	✓			✓								
Shrill carder bee	*Bombus sylvarum*	✓	✓			✓								
Mammals														
Badger	*Meles meles*			✓	✓			✓						
Brandt's bat	*Myotis brandtii*			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Brown hare	*Lepus capensis*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓		
Brown long eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Common pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Daubenton's bat	*Myotis daubentonii*			✔	✔			✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔
Dormouse	*Muscardinus avellanarius*	✔	✔		✔			✔				✔		
Harvest mouse	*Micromys minutus*	✔	✔			✔						✔		
Leislers bat	*Nyctalus leisleri*			✔	✔	✔		✔			✔	✔		✔
Lesser horseshoe bat	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔			✔	✔	✔	✔
Natterer's bat	*Myotis nattereri*			✔	✔	✔		✔			✔	✔		✔
Noctule	*Nyctalus noctula*	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔			✔	✔		✔
Otter	*Lutra lutra*	✔	✔		✔			✔	✔	✔		✔		
Polecat	*Mustela putorius*	✔	✔			✔		✔			✔	✔		
Serotine bat	*Eptesicus serotinus*				✔	✔		✔			✔	✔		✔
Soprano pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔			✔	✔		✔

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Water vole	*Arvicola terrestris*	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				
West European Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Whiskered bat	*Myotis mystacinus*				✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Reptiles and Amphibians														
Adder	*Vipera berus*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
Common frog	*Rana temporaria*			✓	✓ **(sale only)**	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Common lizard	*Zootoca vivipara*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
Common toad	*Bufo bufo*	✓	✓		✓ **(sale only)**	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Grass snake	*Natrix natrix*	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓
Great crested newt	*Triturus cristatus*	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Palmate newt	*Lissotriton helvetica*			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Slow worm	*Anguis fragilis*	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓		✓
Smooth newt	*Lissotriton vulgaris*			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Vascular plants														
A lady's mantle	*Alchemilla glabra*			✓		✓		✓			✓			
Bird cherry	*Prunus padus*			✓				✓			✓	✓		
Black poplar	*Populus nigra*			✓				✓			✓	✓		
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*			✓	✓			✓			✓			
Blunt leaved pond weed	*Potamogeton obtusifolius*			✓					✓					
Bogbean	*Menyanthes trifoliata*			✓					✓		✓			
Brown sedge	Carex disticha			✓		✓								
Common butterwort	*Pinguicula vulgaris*			✓		✓			✓					
Common cudweed	*Filago vulgaris*			✓		✓	✓							

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Corn mint	*Mentha arvensis*			✔		✔								
Crowberry	*Erica tetralix*			✔			✔							
Cyperus sedge	*Carex pseudocyperus*			✔		✔								
Dwarf thistle	*Cirsium acuale*			✔		✔								
Fat duckweed	*Lemna gibba*			✔					✔					
Galingale	*Cyperus longus*			✔				✔	✔					
Goldilocks buttercup	Ranunculus auricomus			✔		✔								
Green field speedwell	*Veronica agrestis*			✔		✔								
Greater Yellow Rattle	*Rhinanthus angustifolius*			✔		✔								
Grey field speedwell	*Calystegia pulchra*			✔		✔								
Hairy bindweed	*Calystegia pulchra*			✔		✔						✔		
Hoary plantain	*Plantago media*			✔		✔								

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Intermediate lady's mantle	*Alchemilla xanthochlora*			✓		✓								
Ivy leaved bellflower	*Wahlenbergia hederacea*			✓		✓								
Knotted pearlwort	*Sagina nodosa*			✓		✓								
Large leaved lime	Tilia platyphyllos			✓				✓			✓	✓		
Limestone bedstraw	Galium sterneri			✓		✓								
Many stalked spiked rush	*Eleocharis multicaulis*			✓		✓			✓					
Midland hawthorn	*Crataegus laevigata*			✓		✓					✓	✓		
Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress	*Cardamine impatiens*			✓				✓						
Pink water speedwell	*Veronica catenata*			✓					✓					
Petty whin	*Genista anglica*			✓		✓	✓							
Purple willow	*Salix purpurea*			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			

	Latin Name	UK BAP	Section 42	Regional/local importance	Protected	Blaenau Gwent BAP Habitats								
						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Shoreweed	*Littorella uniflora*			✓					✓					
Small cudweed	*Filago minima*			✓		✓								
Small nettle	*Urtica urens*			✓		✓						✓		
Small pondweed	*Potamogeton berchtoldii*			✓					✓					
Smooth brome	*Bromus racemosus*			✓		✓								
Spiked water milfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*			✓					✓					
Viper's bugloss	*Echium vulgare*			✓		✓					✓			
Wayfaring tree	Viburnum lantana			✓				✓				✓		
White water lily	*Nymphaea alba*			✓					✓		✓			
Whorled caraway	*Carum verticillatum*			✓		✓			✓					
Wild mignonette	*Reseda lutea*			✓		✓								
Wood Bitter-vetch	*Vicia orobus*		✓	✓		✓						✓		
Wood club-rush	*Scirpus sylvaticus*			✓		✓		✓	✓					

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						Grassland	Heathland	Woodland	Wetland	Rivers and Streams	Public Open Spaces and Gardens	Boundary and Linear Features	Inland Outcrop Rock and Scree	Post Industrial
Wood spurge	*Euphorbia amygdaloides*			✔				✔						
Yellow bartsia	*Parentucellia viscosa*			✔		✔								
Yellow rattle	*Rhinanthus minor*			✔		✔					✔			
Yellow sedge	*Carex viridula ssp brachyrhyncha*			✔		✔								
Yellow water-lily	*Nuphar lutea*			✔					✔		✔			

13 APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY

Agri-Environment Scheme - is a term used to describe national (or local) schemes that pay farmers to farm in an environmentally sensitive way.

Ancient Woodland
Woodland known to have existed continually in a location since before 1600

Biodiversity
The total variety of life on Earth or within a given part of it.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
A plan setting out the current status, issues and treats for a species or habitat, and a programme of specific and timed actions with identified responsible agencies to restore, maintain and enhance the biodiversity interest.

Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan
Drawn up in response to the Biodiversity Convention signed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. This document (HMSO 1994) identified the means by which the United Kingdom should contribute to the global conservation of biodiversity, in particular, establishing the Biodiversity Steering Group to compile action plans for habitats and species.

Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report
This report (HMSO 1995) prioritised important habitats and species for which action plans are to be produced. Each habitat or species action plan is national in scale and incorporates an assessment of current status, actions to be taken, quantifiable national targets and estimated costings. Species action plans are to be reviewed every 5 years, while those for habitats run through to 2010.

Biodiversity Conservation
Sustaining and using wisely the whole variety of life.

Biodiversity Partnership – All parties helping to deliver the objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Conservation
The wise use and continuance of a scarce resource

Convention on Biological Diversity
This Convention was signed by the Prime Minister and 150 other Heads of State or Governments at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. Under Article 6A of the Convention, signatories must develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Diversity
The number of species present in a community or habitat.

Ecology
The science of the inter-relationships between living organisms and their environment.

Ecological Survey
An inventory of the attributes of a site or area, usually in terms of habitat and associated species and normally following a standardised procedure.

Environment
The external surroundings (i.e. physical and chemical conditions) experienced by and influencing habitats and species.

Foraging Habitat
A place used by animals to search for food.

Habitat
A place in which a particular plant or animal lives, feeds and breeds. Often used in a wider sense, referring to major assemblages of plants and animals found together such as woodlands and grasslands.

Habitat Action Plan (HAP)
A conservation plan for a habitat based upon knowledge of its ecological and other requirements that identifies actions needed to maintain and improve its status.

Habitat Creation
Land management actions aimed at establishing a habitat on a site where it has not occurred before.

Habitat Enhancement
Land management actions aimed at improving the quality of habitat(s) that exist on a site.

Habitat Restoration
Land management actions aimed at restoring a habitat on a site where it has previously existed, but subsequently been lost.

Hibernation
A period of dormancy in winter when an animals temperature and other body processes drop to a low level.

Invertebrates
Animals without a backbone.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Local Authorities may establish Local Nature Reserves in consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Management
The manipulation of a site to maintain or increase its habitats and populations of a species, through recognised techniques, such as coppicing or grazing.

Mitigation
Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts. e.g. changing the way the development is carried out to minimise adverse effects through appropriate methods or timing.

Monitoring
The process of repeated observations of one or more elements of the environment such as populations of species over time.

Natural Green space - Is classed as, land, water, or geological features that have been naturally colonised by plants and animals.

Population
A collection of individuals (plants or animals), all of the same species and in a defined geographical area.

Priority Habitats
Those threatened habitats identified nationally and locally as being in greatest need of conservation action in order to ensure their future survival in the country or county.

Priority species
Those threatened or declining species that have been identified, nationally or locally, as being of greatest need of conservation action in order to ensure their future survival, in the country or county.

Protected habitat
Habitat within a designated International, National, or Local site.

Protected species
Species protected by law, e.g. the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, and the Habitats Regulations 1994.

Riparian
The edge of streams or rivers.

Semi-natural
Vegetation that has been modified by humans but still of significant conservation interest because it is composed of native plant species.

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
A site regarded to be of local importance for wildlife. cSINC stands for Candidate SINC that hasn't yet qualified as a SINC. Also, referred to by some bodies as Wildlife Sites.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
An area of land or water notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as being of national importance for nature or geological conservation. The statutory designation applies throughout Great Britain.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
A site of international importance designated by the UK Government under the EU Habitats Directive on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

Species
A group of organisms of the same kind who reproduce amongst themselves.

Species Action Plan (SAP)

A conservation plan for a species based upon knowledge of its ecological and other requirements, which identifies the actions needed to maintain and improve its status.

Special Protection Area (SPA)
A site of international importance designated by the UK Government under the EU Birds Directive on the Conservation of wild birds.

Sustainable Development - The concept and practice of development that ensures use of a resource or environment does not degrade the usefulness of the resource over time.

Unitary Development Plan (UDP)
The forward planning document for Unitary Authorities, replacing county structure plans (held by Council Councils) and District Local Plans (District Councils).

14 APPENDIX 5: FURTHER INFORMATION

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15 APPENDIX 6: OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

The following websites are additional to those listed under Appendix 1.

Organisation	Website
Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)	www.algae.org.uk
Biodiversity Action Reporting system (BARS)	http://http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk//
British Herpetological Society	www.herpconstruct.org.uk
CIRIA (Biodiversity benchmarking for construction projects and working with wildlife: training pack	www.CIRIA.org.uk
Natural England	www.naturalengland.org.uk
Floral Locale	www.floralocale.org
The Barn Owl Trust	www.barnowltrust.co.uk
The Bat Conservation Trust	www.bats.org.uk
The Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs	www.defra.gov.uk
The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)	www.ieem.org.uk
The Mammal Society	www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal
The Otter Trust	www.ottertrust.org.uk
The Wildlife Trust Partnership	www.wildlifetrusts.org
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	http://www.ukbars.defra.gov.uk/
Wales Biodiversity Partnership	www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

Page: 13

[P1]Does this need to be updated to reflect the recent changes? (No longer 1994 amended Regs)