



***Rhayader Town Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 - 2028***  
***Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty***  
***Council Group 2 for NRAP Objectives***  
***Adopted by the Council: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026***

### **Introduction and Context**

Rhayader is a market town in Powys, Wales. It has a population of approx. 2,010. It is the first town on the banks of the River Wye, 20 miles (32 km) from its source on the Plynlimon range of the Cambrian Mountains. The town is one of the principal centres of population in the historic county of Radnorshire. It is situated roughly midway between North and South Wales on the A470, 13 miles north of Builth Wells and 30 miles east of Aberystwyth on the A44.

The Town is a gateway to the Elan Valley where environmental land management is a high priority in the water catchment for Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and the Elan Valley Trust.

Rhayader Town Council is committed to reducing the decline of biodiversity in its area and realises the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement for the communities' health & wellbeing and enables behaviour change towards a sustainable lifestyle.

Rhayader Town Council currently has 14 Councillors and employs a part time Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Toilet Caretaker. It also contracts the services of a Town Caretaker. Its 2026-2027 Precept is £67,419

It is responsible for:

- Llangurig Road Allotments & field - 5 full size allotment plots
- Weirglodd Allotments - 20 full size allotment plots
- The Weirglodd Pump Track
- Dark Lane Car Park public toilets
- Cwmdauddwr public toilets
- Rhayader Cemetery public toilets
- The Old Council Pound, at Cwmdauddwr
- The Old Council Pound, at Tanners Road
- Cwmdauddwr Car Park
- Flower planters around the town and the flower beds on the Llangurig Road roundabout.

Council representatives or trustees are present on all local community organisations including the Waun Capel Park Trust, Groe Park Trust and the Elan Valley Trust. Through these links the Council can help support and enable sustainable practices.

A public authority, in complying with Section 6, must have regard to,

- The Section 7 list of habitats and species of principle importance for Wales
- The State of Nature Report published by Natural Resources Wales
- Any area statement which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.

Complying with the Section 6 duty will also help Public Authorities subject to the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to maximise their contributions to the Well-being goals. At present this is not a statutory obligation for Rhayader Town Council.

NRAP Objective	Biodiversity objectives in summary	Action planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1	<b>-embed biodiversity into decision making &amp; procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the impact of the existing environmental policy and enhance as required.</li> <li>• Councillors to consider impacts on biodiversity when reviewing planning applications</li> <li>• Create a land management plan for the Council</li> <li>• Allocation of finances within the annual budget to support initiatives</li> </ul>	Aug 26 Ongoing July 26 Dec 26	Clerk & Councillors
	<b>-raise awareness of biodiversity &amp; its importance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange further training and information for Councillors</li> <li>• Develop the Biodiversity group, work to engage others</li> <li>• Involve the community and school in the biodiversity Project at the Weirglodd</li> <li>• Use of the Council website to provide information and raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife</li> <li>• Develop further signage and interpretation working in partnership with the Rhayader Tourism Partnership</li> </ul>	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Oct 26 Ongoing	Clerk & Councillors
2	<b>-safeguard principal species and habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with Powys CC on mowing regimes</li> <li>• Ensure wildlife friendly maintenance of hedges and boundaries</li> <li>• Continue to enhance the communal areas at the allotments to support wildlife</li> <li>• Continue to plant flower beds and planters with pollinator friendly plants</li> </ul>	Ongoing Ongoing Summer 26 Ongoing	Clerk & Councillors
3	<b>-restore &amp; create habitats and resilient ecological networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new Pollinator Pitstops throughout the town</li> <li>• Develop a Biodiversity Project Plan for the Weirglodd site when it is transferred to the Town Council to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New sensory garden area for the benefit of wildlife and for residents health and wellbeing</li> <li>○ New wild flower planting on field edges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing June 26	Clerk & Councillors

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Additional native hedging where appropriate</li> <li>○ Installation of Bird boxes and bug houses</li> <li>● Work with others to further develop the community orchard.</li> <li>● Work with Rhayader by Nature to develop projects</li> <li>● Work with One Voice Wales biodiversity officer to develop projects</li> <li>● Seek grant funding for additional projects</li> </ul>	<p>July 26</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
4	<b>-tackle negative pressures on species and habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor for invasive species</li> <li>● Continue to improve recycling</li> <li>● Continue manage compost at the allotments</li> <li>● Continue to encourage organic cultivation principles at allotments</li> <li>● Continue to manage land without pesticide and other chemicals</li> <li>● Litter picking by Town Caretaker</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Clerk & Councillors
5	<b>-use, improve, and share evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor species at allotments and the Weirglodd site</li> <li>● Continue to improve the Planters and flower beds to encourage more diverse pollinator species</li> <li>● Make better use of the website to share information</li> <li>● Results of actions to be shared</li> </ul>	<p>Summer 26</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 26</p> <p>Oct 26</p>	Clerk & Councillors
6	<b>-support capacity and/or other organisations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with others- Rhayader by Nature, One Voice Wales and Powys CC for advice and support</li> <li>● Coordinate and support activities with Waun Capel Trust and other local groups</li> <li>● Provide information on the website for the community</li> <li>● Award grants to local groups supporting biodiversity projects</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 26</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Clerk & Councillors

<b>Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan</b>			
<b>Date reviewed</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
<b>What has worked well?</b>			
<b>What were the barriers?</b>			
<b>What could be changed?</b>			
<b>Next review due:</b>	2027		2028

## Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) Objectives

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity.  Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP objectives for Action Reporting (see template Annex 1)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that own or occupy an office building only and</li> <li>whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.</li> </ul>	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA	NRAP objectives 1, 4, 6
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds,</li> <li>whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or</li> <li>that can influence those who own or manage land.</li> </ul>	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales	NRAP objectives 1,4,6 as above  NRAP objectives 2, 3, 5 relating to own grounds
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.</li> </ul>	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP objectives

The **Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP)** sets out six objectives for reversing the decline of biodiversity which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the section 6 duty:

The **6 objectives** to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

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