

**REPORT UNDER
BIODIVERSITY AND
RESILIENCE OF
ECOSYSTEMS DUTY
(Part 1, Section 6,
Environment (Wales) Act
2016)**



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Presteigne and Norton Town Council is committed to halting and, where possible, reversing the decline of biodiversity and realises the importance of biodiversity conservation and enhancement for our communities' health and wellbeing and enables behaviour change towards a sustainable lifestyle.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Under the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) all public bodies in Wales are required to;

- Maintain and enhance biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems
- Demonstrate an ecosystem approach by applying the principles set out in the Act
- Prepare and publish a plan outlining how they intend to fulfil the duty
- Publish a report, every three years, on the actions which they have taken to meet this duty. (This first report is due to be published by the end of 2019 covering the period 2016-2019)

A public authority, in complying with the Section 6 duty, 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 Presteigne and Norton Town Council.

Land under Management

The Town Council owns and manages the following areas of land –
Eddie's Meadow

Upper Went's Meadow (2 fields)

Lower Went's Meadow Site including 36 small organic allotments.

Football pitch/Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Went's Meadow/Wilson Terrace.

Former Water Reservoir Ground.

Land of Slough Road – Nature Reserve (just completed purchase on 30th November).

Eddie's Meadow: A formal management plan has been produced by the Radnor Wildlife Trust for this site which is managed as a hibernaculum. The site is untended apart from two access paths for walkers mown several times over a year.

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Upper Went's Meadow: Comprises one mown field area for recreation and one untended field which is mown once a year apart from access paths for walkers which are mown fortnightly. Includes a community orchard pruned annually.

Lower Went's Meadow: Mown once annually in the Autumn. Paths to provide access for walkers mown fortnightly. Hedge layed as needed to strengthen and encourage growth. Some paths recently cleared and stoned to allow for better access for the less abled. New information Board planned.

Football Pitch/MUGA: Recreation areas. Mown fortnightly.

Former Reservoir Ground: Tree covered. Information Boards and new pathways recently provided to encourage access and appreciation of the site. Owl and Bird boxes on site.

New Nature Reserve: This area of land (8.4 acres) has just been purchased with a heritage lottery grant and the intention is to create an accessible community woodland nature reserve using native tree and shrub species. The reserve will expand the existing natural broad-leaved woodland in this part of the Lugg Valley, enhancing the resilience of the woodland ecosystem and boosting the survival of naturally rare species such as the hazel dormouse which is resident nearby. Within the site will be an area of wetland which will be augmented by two ponds. Site surveys will be carried out to provide baseline information. The site adjoins the local primary school and will provide an access direct from the school enabling the very young of community to learn about nature and its importance at a young age.

A formal aboriculturalist survey is carried out every two years to ensure the health and safety of the trees on the sites and spot problems early.

All the above areas link closely to form a 'green belt' to the edge of the town of Presteigne.

The Council will aim to –
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance.
Safeguard principle species and habitats.
Restore & Create Habitats and resilient ecological networks.
Tackle negative impacts such as pollution, invasive species.
Support other organisations.

Ongoing Projects and Aims

1. Seek to fund formal management plans for those areas not presently covered.
2. Seek funding to inform and encourage appreciation of wildlife on the natural areas of the sites.
3. Continue to provide organic allotments.
4. Seek funding to restore and revitalise small pond and leat on site.
5. Safeguard existing species and habitats.
6. To continue to provide local species bulbs/plants for planting locally.
7. Liaise with Woodland Trust over management plan for Silia Wood.
8. To continue to liaise with the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust for joint projects involving Lower Went's Meadow and the adjoining Trust run Wothy Beds site.
9. Wildflower Planting to town roundabout.
10. To encourage Members to attend training/conferences on biodiversity issues.

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New Projects and Aims

1. Discussion with County Council on management of verges and promotion of wildflowers.
2. Provision of local variety bulbs for planting by volunteers around the town.
3. Grant Applications to improve access and knowledge of local wildlife, encourage visitors to sites.
4. Provide additional bat and owl boxes as funding permits.
5. Consider action to support pollinators and to be bee friendly.
6. To continue to look for opportunities to encourage biodiversity.
7. Consider providing support to local groups and organisations.
8. To complete the new Nature Reserve Project as listed above and continue to manage it for the future.