



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

Nature Recovery Action Plan 2023-2026

Section 6 Duty Monitoring Report





Section 1 - Introduction and Context

Over the last 3 years, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has taken strides forward to improve biodiversity and habitat creation on our Service land, in line with the Nature Recovery Action Plan and Welsh Government requirements under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.



The Act delivers against the government's commitment to put in place legislation needed to plan and manage Wales's natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up way and highlights government commitment to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 came into law in March 2016, which supports the Welsh Government Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Part 1 of the Section 6 Duty was introduced under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to improve biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in Wales, essential to our well-being. The duty requires that **public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.** The enhanced biodiversity duty is to recognise the link between biodiversity and the long-term functioning of ecosystems.

MAWWFRS published its first 3-year Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in 2020 for the three-year period 2020-2023, in line with the requirements under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The requirement states that all public sector bodies are to publish an internal plan as well as a

Monitoring Report every 3 years to highlight what the organisation has undertaken to comply with the Section 6 Duty to enhance and encourage biodiversity to their site and influence the management and protection of the surrounding environment.

Although limited on Service land, the development and enhancement of the green spaces and biodiversity across mid and west Wales Fire Stations is one of the key aspects to the Vision of the Service - To deliver the best possible service for the communities of mid and west Wales. This commitment is also captured within the Service Community Risk Management Plan 2040, Objective 7.

This Monitoring Report will outline how MAWWFRS has worked towards the Welsh Government objectives within the Services second, Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) 2023-26 and our own objectives within the exercise of Fire Service functions. The Monitoring Report will be published in Summer 2026, alongside the Services next NRAP 2026-29.



Section 2 - Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

There has been a significant amount of work undertaken over the last 3 years towards objectives in line with the Section 6 Duty. Progress towards the objectives captured in the Service NRAP 2023-26 are highlighted within this Monitoring Report and are outlined below, under the relevant Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales objective.

Welsh Government Objective 1

Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

A significant step for environmental sustainability and raising awareness in the field, came with the publication of the Service's Community Risk Management Plan 2040, published in 2023. This embedded environmental considerations into the everyday activities and processes of the delivery of Fire Service activities. The Plan included 8 objectives to work to by 2040, and within the 8 Objectives was the specific theme for the environment – **Objective 7 - We will work in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way.** Each of the 8 Objectives is Chaired by a member of the Service's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and overall progress and governance is monitored via a CRMP Delivery Board of members of both ELT and Service Leadership Team (SLT). There were a number of actions outlined within Objective 7 which aligned to Section 6 Duty and the Welsh Government public sector target of net zero by 2030.

Embedded within Objective 3 and 5 within the Service CRMP was to review and target prevention and protection strategies within communities. One of the ways this is done is through youth projects, providing key safety messages and education to children and young people of mid and west Wales.

Plans include using behavioural change education to target the younger generations of rural workers to restore working practices that are safer for all users of the countryside and to the environment.

Within the remit of Community Safety and the Arson Reduction Team, MAWWFRS undertake a range of services which improve biodiversity in Wales with the aim of reducing the risk of fire in the local environment, making safer places to live, work and enhance and protect local biodiversity.

The Team work with South Wales and Dyfed Powys Police to combat antisocial behaviours and refer young people to early intervention schemes. They offer support, education and guidance to schools, businesses, farming community, graziers and landowners in relation to anti-social behaviour, arson, controlled burning as part of their land management, animal rescue, bale temperature testing, farm fire prevention advice, burn management plans for prescribed burning within the heather and grass burning regulations and promote interventions and campaigns. Wildfire leaflets are delivered to communities that have been affected by wildfire, the advice in which informs them of the best practise to stay safe.



The Arson Reduction Team's message is simple "Arson is a crime". Boards are installed in high-risk areas where Anti-Social Behaviour is identified.

In 2023, The Wales Wildfire Charter launched a strategic document outlining the approach of the Wales Wildfire Board to manage wildfire risk and minimise impact on the environment and communities. The charter aims to bring together Welsh Government, Emergency Services, public sector organisations and landowners to manage and develop the landscape and management of wildfire, forestry and livelihoods, emphasising the implementation of diverse management techniques to reduce wildfire impact on communities and the landscape of Wales.

As part of the arson reduction aim, Operation Dawns Glaw is a multi-agency taskforce supported by key agencies in Wales whose aim is to reduce, and where possible, eliminate the impact of grass fires across Wales. The aim is to develop and implement a collaborative, partnership response to the grassfire issue and formulate a coordinated programme of action based on prevention, education and response and consider developing threats from extreme weather events and climate change.

Throughout 2025/26 the CRMP Department held two Stakeholder engagement Balanced Rooms on the topics of Wildfire, in August 2025 and Flooding, in February 2026. These were very well attended and highly productive workshops held over 3 days to encourage input into areas of improvement, raising awareness and collaboration. Outputs from the workshops were presented to the Service's ELT to approve and work towards.

In 2022/23, a bespoke E-learning Environmental awareness training package was developed to raise awareness to all staff on areas of conservation of water, energy, biodiversity, waste and emissions. This package was rolled out to staff over a 3-year period which came to an end in 2025. A new, updated training package will be developed to move forward and continue with the aim of raising awareness of environmental issues.

The Service produce an Annual Environmental Report which highlights environmental statistics in terms of Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions from the estate, fleet and supply chain, as well as an overview of projects the Service has undertaken, such as green infrastructure development, environmental training and collaboration opportunities. The full Report can be found on the Service's external website.





Welsh Government Objective 2

Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Over the last number of years, MAWWFRS have worked closely with the Grounds Maintenance Team to ensure Service areas of green space are maintained and developed to encourage a range of biodiversity and habitat creation where possible. This includes cutting regimes, laying areas of wildflowers to encourage pollinators and improve bee lines, installing bird boxes and invertebrate boxes and ensuring the grounds are free of pesticides.

Two swift nesting boxes were installed at one of the larger buildings in Service Headquarters, Carmarthen, along with an audio device to encourage birds to the site. An area of wildflowers has been established behind Service Headquarters, Carmarthen, as seen in the images below.

If needed, consultation with external contractors and ecologists are undertaken to carry out species surveys before any work is started to ensure no unnecessary or detrimental damage will be done to wildlife at a local level.



Any significant removal of trees or individual branches on Service locations are either logged or chipped on site and left in situ to encourage bug habitats. Larger deadwood habitats have been established from felled trees following storms providing cover for microhabitats.

Within the Service Carbon Reduction Road Map 2030, which was published in 2024, there are a number of short, medium and long term commitments aimed to reduce Service fleet carbon emissions and improve air quality. With the aim to improve local air quality, MAWWFRS have introduced a fleet of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles and have incorporated the use of HVO to replace diesel in number of response vehicles, vastly reducing emissions from fleet.

To improve air quality at a local level, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, sustainable renewable energy technologies have been considered at larger sites, such as Solar PV panels and the use of HVO instead of heating oil.





Welsh Government Objective 3

Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation



Since 2024, the Service have successfully applied for a number of garden development packages from Local Places for Nature in collaboration with Keep Wales Tidy.

Underused green spaces on 9 Stations have benefited from this funding to develop welcoming areas to sit and enjoy their outdoor space and encourage a wide range of flora and fauna on Stations. The range of packages have included Wildlife, Food Growing and a Mini garden package.

Haverfordwest Fire Station has fully embraced their new garden opportunity and was successful in their category in the 'More than just fires' Service awards for their Wellbeing garden development and in the same year, was nominated in the Wales in Bloom, supported by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), Level 3 – Advancing section within the 'It's your neighbourhood' Category in 2025.

Below are a range of photos from Fire Station gardens, developed over the last 3 years, including Neath, Haverfordwest, Port talbot, Glynneath and Welshpool Fire Station.





Welshpool Fire Station has used the land at the front of the Station to encourage local community engagement with a food growing garden. Local residents were invited and attended the official opening on February 12th 2026. The event provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet the Station Crew, learn more about the project and see firsthand how the fully accessible space will benefit both the Service and the wider community. A link to the published article can be viewed below:

[Community Garden Officially Opens at Welshpool Fire Station](#)

In 2025, MAWWFRS collaborated with the Biodiversity Team at Neath Port Talbot Council to develop a green infrastructure project at two Stations within the Southern Division; Cymmer and Amman Valley Fire Stations. This project was used to encourage biodiversity to the Stations through the development of green roof infrastructures including bin shelters, bike sheds and green roof office spaces, as seen

in the image below at Cymmer Fire Station. Signs were included where possible to raise awareness of biodiversity and educate the users.

The main transport workshop in Dafen, has incorporated the use of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS). SuDS are a management practice that aims to reduce the negative impacts of surface water runoff in urban areas. They are designed to manage surface water naturally, mimicking the water cycle while providing environmental and flood management benefits.

Community engagement is also encouraged through Station open days in local stations which can also highlight what the Service deliver to members of their community. They are a great opportunity to raise awareness of risks associated with fire and community safety and the development of areas on Stations make the areas a welcoming place for community engagement days.





Welsh Government Objective 4

Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

MAWWFRS are keen to reduce the devastating impact of fire on communities, habitats and biodiversity across mid and west Wales.

Environmental commitments are a priority for MAWWFRS and biodiversity decline is recognised as a real issue. The Arson Reduction Team within Community Safety Department make consideration for wildfire impact by learning more about which habitats can be affected and where we can deal with the decline by working with environmental specialists and land managers. This means engaging with groups and organisations to promote sustainable grazing, the protection of sensitive habitats, wildlife and native plan species and working with farming communities.

Some key workstreams include refuse/ waste fires, fly tipping and illegal waste sites, controlled burning for land management, partnership work, campaigns and interventions, data analysis and sharing and community engagement and education.

The Team carry out Wildfire Patrols to gather evidence and identify specific high risk arson locations, provide community engagement

and education and collaborate with partner agencies to identify where and what prevention measures can be implemented such as use of the i-cut' machine to cut fire breaks in locations identified as vulnerable, targeted or high risk to wildfire or areas with access issue for a fire appliance.

Through youth engagement in communities targeting high risk areas, the Service hopes to provide a better understanding on what the Service can do to limit accidental fires from starting and in turn highlighting the damage that these fires can cause to the environment.

The negative impact of grass fires on the environment and nature can be huge, as well as the impact on public health, the economy and community safety. There can also be positives when the burns are carefully planned, periodically and controlled correctly. This can benefit agriculture and wildlife conservation. A lot of work is undertaken to raise awareness of the burn window between 1st October to 31st March, when vegetation becomes less nutritious and weather conditions are generally colder and wetter underfoot, making it easier to control a fire and reduce the risk of it burning out of control.





Wales Wildfire Board is a multi-agency approach to better understand and manage the risk of wildfire on the environment and the communities of Wales. The objective, delivered through the Wales Wildfire Charter, builds on the knowledge and experience gained over the last decade whilst paying cognisance to the every-present danger of climate change and the value of encouraging communities and individuals to work together to protect the areas where we live work and visit. Through a collaborative approach, agencies on the

Wales Wildfire Board hope to provide a better understanding of what can be done to limit the number of wildfires and minimise damage the cause.

#WildfireWise campaign from Wales Wildfire Board to educate individuals on the best practices for avoiding and preventing wildfires. 2025 saw the highest number of grass fire incidents across Wales since 2018, highlighting a worrying trend that puts people, property, community resources and wildlife at risk.



Bwrdd Tanau Gwylt Cymru Wales Wildfire Board

Commitment 1



Partnership

Commitment 2



Environmental and
Community Resilience

Commitment 3



Prevention and
Protection



There have been a number of multi-agency groups established through the Public Service Board (PSB) which have allowed for partnership working and an open discussion through forums in areas of climate adaptation and resilience as well as biodiversity. These include Local Nature Partnership groups, Climate Change Groups, Nature Recovery Groups and environmental PSBs.

Introduction of a biodiversity layer on to Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) on Fire Appliances in Pembrokeshire and Swansea areas has been implemented to highlight areas of importance within the county areas. Biodiversity threats

and species of importance will be different in each Divisional area, as such collaboration ensures the high risk areas have been included within the biodiversity layer for that area. The significant risks include:

- **Location of rare Juniper trees**
- **Location of adder hibernation habitats**
- **Breeding area for great crested newts**
- **Bat roost locations**
- **Breeding area for marsh fritillary butterfly**

As shown in the table below, there are only 4 Service Stations with over 40% of green space available to develop within the Service estate. Station personnel have embraced this and where possible have developed areas to encourage biodiversity in the smallest corner.

Percentage of green space	Less than 5% green space	Less than 5-39% green space	Over 40% green space
Number of locations	37	16	4

MAWWFRS have developed garden areas on 11 out of the 58 Fire Stations across the area we service. With only 20 sites over 5% of green space, this is a huge step in encouraging biodiversity to Stations, while reaching capacity of project development on available green space on Stations.

The Services' CCBD Team use social media platforms to raise awareness to members of the public of significant incidents and safety messages during extreme weather conditions, including flooding and wildfire. The platforms are also used to celebrate achievements such as community gardens and awards.



Welsh Government Objective 5

Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

MAWWFRS work towards the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard 2016 which highlights the Services commitment to minimising its impact on the environment and ensures continual environmental improvement throughout Service activities and delivery. In February 2026, the Service maintained Level 5 accreditation for the 12th year. The accreditation ensure that the Service are compliant with environmental legislation and ensures impacts from Service delivery remain low.

As part of the Standard, the Service are required to publish an Annual Environmental Report which highlights environmental projects and monitoring in areas including carbon emissions, waste, fuel and water. Annual data is also used to report to Welsh Government on the Net Zero reporting requirements for all Public Sector organisations in Wales.

Station Audits are undertaken on a 4-year cycle, with high-risk sites such as workshops, undertaken more frequently. Audits are carried out on a range of aspects to ensure compliance and improvement in all areas of Service delivery. As part of the environmental audit, monitoring of environmental and biodiversity hazards are monitored and addressed and areas of improvement are identified such as conservation projects where available green space allows.

Awareness posters and information is circulated to Stations across the Service area to highlight consumption figures in terms of waste and utilities, with the aim of starting discussions at a local level to encourage a reduction in figures.

The Service have undertaken two multi agency Balanced Rooms on the theme of Wildfire and Flooding. Following detailed discussion against critical criteria, initial development options were consolidated and aligned to themes. The outcomes of which will be refined and approved at ELT level prior to publishing and implementation.

The Balanced Room workshops brought together a wide range of operational and departmental staff from across the Service, along with representatives from Unions and external partners, including the Coastguard, Natural Resources Wales, Mountain Rescue, Outreach Rescue, Public Health Wales and members of Local Authorities from across mid and west Wales. This approach ensured an inclusive environment where all voices were equally heard in the workshops. The themes emerging from the process included:

- **Prevention**
- **Collaboration and partnerships**
- **Enhanced specialist capability and consistency**
- **Learning and continuous improvement**

To enable the Service to monitor and manage water usage at incidents, flow meter monitoring devices have been installed on a number of fire engines within the Service. These devices provide data on pump output, indicating the volume of water being used, measured in litres per minute, during operational incidents.

During 2023/24, MAWWFRS worked in partnership with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, NRW and Public Health Wales to trial the use of UV treated water as an alternative to other



water sources, such as drinking water, at emergency firefighting incidents. It is hoped that this will reduce the reliance on clean water on such occasions which will, in turn, reduce any issues in the local communities, such as low water pressure. Monitoring of the Project is ongoing.

The Services Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT) unit has been constructed at the Services training centre at Earlswood, which allows for all year round training as well as a system for particulate capture and removal. This is in the early stages of use and will be monitored over the coming years.

Welsh Government Objective 6

Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

MAWWFRS are committed to the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard (2016). The Standard is used to audit the Services environmental management system, policies, procedures and practices which enable the Service to identify and manage the environmental impacts of our activities and operations. The Standard also aids in ensuring the Service comply with relevant legislation and other environmental requirements and ensures continual environmental improvement.



To monitor the Service environmental impact and projects, an Annual Environmental Report is published each Summer which captures

statistics, achievements and supports and compliments Welsh Government and Strategic objectives.

The Service has outlined its commitments to reduce emissions and work to improve biodiversity on Service locations within the Community Risk Management Plan 2040 which was first published in 2023. Within the eight commitments in the Plan, Objective 7 highlights the Service's environmental ambition to work in an 'environmentally friendly and sustainable way'. This is implemented and monitored through the CRMP working groups and the Delivery Board. The full Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) can be found [here](#).

The Service Carbon Reduction Road Map 2030 was published in Summer 2024 which outlined what the Service endeavours to do to reach the Welsh Government Net Zero target by 2030. The main areas within the plan to work towards decarbonising the Service are around Transport and sustainable travel, building management and grounds maintenance, procurement process and supply chain, waste and recycling and



Operational process, training and behaviour change.

The Sustainability and Environment Group meets quarterly to ensure progress in environmental targets and reports into the CRMP Objective 7, Our Environment Meetings. Relevant stakeholders sit on both meetings

which include the Service Leadership Team.

In line with Welsh Government Net Zero reporting requirements, all Welsh public sector organisations are required to complete and submit an annual monitoring spreadsheet, which requires figures in areas of electricity, fuel, fleet, travel, waste and supply chain.

What have the barriers been and what will be different for the next 3-year NRAP?

There is increasing pressure within the public sector to produce results with a limited budget, resulting on a heavy reliance on successful funding applications to enable projects outside of essential service delivery.

The Service owns a minimal amount of land where impacts can be felt towards significant biodiversity and habitat improvements.

Despite this, MAWWFRS will continue to building partnerships, collaborations and networks across mid and west Wales.



Section 3 – Conclusion and Review of Section 6 Duty

MAWWFRS is committed to working towards the objectives outlined within the Welsh Government legislative requirements and internal Service NRAP.



This Monitoring Report highlights the significant steps forward the Service has achieved over the years to encourage biodiversity action throughout the estate. The continual improvement on Stations to increase awareness and progress challenge to encouraging biodiversity on to Fire Service land.

Biodiversity continues to be on the Agenda at the Service Sustainability and Environment Group Meetings as well as the CRMP Objective 7, Our Environment, and delivery Board meetings. Which is supported by an Annual Environmental Report and annual external EMS audit.

An updated NRAP 2026-29 will be published in Summer 2026 in line with the financial year reporting schedule and will be available on the external MAWWFRS website.





Social Media

We encourage you to keep an eye on our
social media channels for updates

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Our Safety
Messages

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Our Safety
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OUR VISION

To deliver the best possible service for
the communities of Mid and West Wales.

