



Cardiff and Vale UHB Biodiversity plan 2026/27

April 2026

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

Background and context

Biodiversity and the biodiversity duty

Declines in biodiversity, and the increasingly apparent impacts of climate change on our natural environment, are a risk to the health of people in Cardiff and Vale and globally.

The **Environment (Wales) Act** introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the '[section 6' duty](#)) which applies to public bodies including the Health Board. The duty requires the Health Board to publish a report of what action it is taking to maintain and enhance biodiversity, at least once every 3 years; and to set out and regularly review a biodiversity action plan.

Well-being of Future Generations Act and our internal governance

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** requires the Health Board to act in line with the five ways of working (all of which are relevant to biodiversity: long-term, integration, collaboration, involvement and prevention) and contribute to the seven national well-being goals (including 'a resilient Wales' which includes maintaining and enhancing a biodiverse natural environment, and ecosystems with the capacity to adapt to climate change).

Under the Act the Health Board has set four well-being (strategic) objectives as part of our [long-term strategy](#), **Shaping our Future Well-being**, one of which is '**Acting for the future**' and includes action to improve environmental sustainability.

Internal governance arrangements for setting and reporting on actions to protect and improve biodiversity are via the Sustainability and Climate Response Board, which sits under the Shaping our Future Generations portfolio, responsible for delivering the 'Acting for the future' objective.

The UHB operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) and has achieved the International Standard ISO14001 Accreditation and is externally assessed through the British Standards Institution (BSI). The UHB also operates an overarching Environmental Management Policy which includes Energy, Water and Sustainability Management.

Our activities impacting on biodiversity

Cardiff and Vale UHB is categorised as a Group 3 organisation under the Environment (Wales) Act; these organisations 'own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not'.

The Health Board principally impacts on biodiversity through the following activities:

Category	Activities
Procurement	Purchase, manufacture, supply and transport of goods and materials to the UHB
Energy and emissions management	Direct and indirect combustion emissions affecting air quality and biodiversity
New buildings	Development of plans for new Health Board buildings
Water and effluent disposal	Use of water, water treatments and disposal of effluent to drain affecting water based biodiversity. This includes rainwater and sewage systems

Category	Activities
Waste management	Generation, management, recycling and disposal of waste will directly affect biodiversity
Sustainable travel and transport	Traffic management, UHB vehicle use and sustainable travel options will directly affect biodiversity
Land management	Maintenance of grounds, gardens, paths, roadways and roofs will directly affect biodiversity

This plan

This plan describes the main actions we intend to undertake during the financial year April 2026 to March 2027 to enhance and protect biodiversity, and sits alongside our organisation’s annual plan.

In developing the plan we considered the suggested actions in the [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) template](#) for feasibility and applicability in our context.

The high level actions described here will be supplemented by a more detailed internal plan for project management purposes.

Reporting arrangements

This work will report into the Health Board’s Sustainability and Climate Response Board, which sits under the Shaping our Future Generations portfolio.

We will publish a report on progress made against the actions at the end of the year. This will align with the Health Board’s routine reporting cycle and publication of the Cardiff and Vale UHB Annual Report.

Action plan 2026/27

The actions listed here represent new actions for 2026/27. A list of 'business as usual' actions we routinely undertake to protect and enhance biodiversity are included in the following section.

Work with partners

We will:

- Increase our engagement with the **Local Nature Partnerships** in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan (*NRAP objectives 1, 2, 4*)
- Engage with **Cardiff Council Parks team** to identify any areas for collaboration, for example social prescribing and tree planting (e.g. **Coed Caerdydd**), and investigate if there is any interest from primary care contractors in delivering interventions on their sites (*NRAP objective 3, 4*)

Management of our sites

We will:

- Scope the recommendations from the **ecological surveys** carried out on our sites, for feasibility for implementation this financial year (*NRAP objectives 1, 2, 6*)
- Review the specification of our main **grounds maintenance contract** when the existing contract expires, to incorporate recommendations from the ecological surveys and any other recommendations where feasible, e.g. from key local stakeholders (*NRAP objectives 1, 2, 3*)
- Explore whether there is any interest from local **third sector and voluntary groups** in supporting management of any areas of our estate (*NRAP objective 3*)
- Explore any barriers to use of the **Meadow at University Hospital Llandough** by staff and patients (*NRAP objective 3*)
- Review whether there is scope to enhance **biodiversity improvements included in planning applications** developed by the Health Board, for example SuDS, green walls and nature-based solutions for climate adaptation (*NRAP objectives 1, 2, 3*)

Increase capacity and knowledge

We will:

- Run **biodiversity training** with Estates (face to face) and Cardiff and Vale UHB Green Group (over Teams), making the Teams training available more widely afterwards for any staff interested (*NRAP objective 5*)
- Deliver regular **internal communications** on the importance of biodiversity to health (*NRAP objective 5*)
- Include questions in relevant **staff surveys**, on staff views on experience and impact of green space (*NRAP objectives 5 and 6*)

Governance and risk

We will:

- **Regularly review this plan**, report progress against it internally to the Sustainability and Climate Response Board and alongside our public annual report, aligning to the UHB planning cycle (*NRAP objectives 4, 5*)

- Raise poor biodiversity as a key **climate risk** to the UHB, requiring a greater focus, capacity and resourcing to respond appropriately (*NRAP objectives 3, 4, 5*)

‘Business as usual’ actions

Routine actions, which contribute to NRAP objectives 2, 3 and 4, include:

- Grass cutting, weeding, planting and management of borders/ courtyard gardens and ‘seeded’ roofs (Hafan-y-Coed), litter and leaf picking, participation in ‘No Mow May’
- Not using pesticides on our sites
- Annual Tree Surveys undertaken as required and specialist contractors engaged for tree maintenance and preservation.
- UHW Lakeside Pond managed and maintained through specialist contractor.
- Control of wildlife managed as necessary through specialist contractor and appropriate pest control measures adopted.
- Capital Schemes are developed and designed in line with relevant biodiversity standards and guidelines including: BREAAAM Assessments, Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SABS), Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) etc.
- Hosting [Food Sense Wales](#) within the Cardiff and Vale UHB Public Health Team
- Our wider decarbonisation actions, set out in our decarbonisation plan