



Cardiff and Vale UHB Biodiversity report

Quarter 4 25/26 (Jan 2026-Mar 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 report

This is a brief report covering one quarter's actions only as we move to best practice of annual reporting against our actions. Our [last report](#) was published in December 2025 covering the three year period prior, so this report covers actions undertaken only between January 2026 and March 2026 (Quarter 4 2025/26).

We will subsequently report annually for each financial year, with the next annual report covering progress against our plan for April 2026 to March 2027. This will bring our reporting in line with our corporate planning and reporting cycles.

Actions undertaken

Work with partner organisations

(contributing to [NRAP](#) objectives 1, 2 and 6)

During Q4 25/26 we engaged with partners including Cardiff Council Parks Team and Cardiff Local Nature Partnership, to scope potential areas for collaboration on biodiversity.

We also discussed and agreed biodiversity actions with our Capital, Estates and Facilities team in the Health Board.

Combined, these contributed to our [biodiversity plan for 26/27](#).

Integration of biodiversity loss into our climate change risk assessment

(contributing to [NRAP](#) objectives 1 and 4)

During Q4 25/26 we continued our work to develop a climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan for Cardiff and Vale UHB. We have also contributed to regional assessments carried out by Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Boards.

As part of our assessment we have identified biodiversity loss as an internal and external risk impacting on the Health Board.

We currently have a [decarbonisation plan](#) in place for the Health Board, which we regularly update, which indirectly supports the protection of biodiversity.

Supporting sustainable food systems

(contributing to [NRAP](#) objectives 1 and 6)

Cardiff and Vale UHB hosts [Food Sense Wales](#), an organisation acting across Wales to influence how food is produced and consumed, ensuring that sustainable food, farming and fisheries are at the heart of a just, connected and prosperous food system.

The Health Board also lead co-ordination of the two Sustainable Food Places networks in our local area, [Food Cardiff](#) and [Food Vale](#).

Through Food Sense Wales, Food Cardiff and Food Vale, we are supporting more sustainable agriculture and food consumption, reducing biodiversity loss associated with these activities.

'Business as usual' actions

(contributing to [NRAP](#) objectives 2, 3 and 4)

These include:

- Grass cutting, weeding, planting and management of borders/ courtyard gardens and 'seeded' roofs (Hafan-y-Coed), litter and leaf picking
- 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: BREAM Assessments, Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SABS), Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) etc.
- Meadow at University Hospital Llandough

Future reporting and review of biodiversity action plan

From 2026/27, we have brought our biodiversity planning and reporting into alignment with our usual corporate planning and reporting cycles, in line with best practice cited in the guidance:

- We will incorporate the review of our **biodiversity action plan** and section 6 duty into our routine planning cycle. We will update the plan each year by identifying and prioritising outstanding actions as part of our annual plan/integrated medium term planning process. We will therefore update and publish a refreshed biodiversity plan as part of our 2027/28 annual plan, before **April 2027**.
- We will **report** on biodiversity actions undertaken in the C&V UHB annual report, which is published a few months after the end of each financial year.