



BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty 2022-2025 Report

Date Action Plan Adopted by Council: 24/09/2024

Three Year Review Approved by Council: 25/11/2025

Date due to review: n/a – new action plan due in early 2026

version: 2 – New policy – KB

Policy type: Statutory – Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6



Introduction and Context

Buckley Town Council covers four wards. It has a population of 16,124 (2021 Census - ONS).

It operates from the Council Offices on Mold Road, Buckley which is Grade II listed.

The Precept in 2022/23 is £333,092. The Precept in 2025/26 is £398,378

The Council owns and maintains Coronation Gardens and the town centre hanging baskets and also contributes to the maintenance of the Commons and burial grounds.

The Council also provides free accommodation to the Buckley Community Fridge Collective which operates from the Old Library building and is a surplus food organisation tackling food waste going to landfill and supporting our community.

The Council is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The following significant environmental areas are within the Council's boundary which has formed from Buckley's rich heritage in pottery and brickmaking but are managed by other public bodies.

SSSI: Buckley claypits and Commons

SSSIs are the most important sites for Wales' natural heritage. They are highly protected to safeguard the range, quality and variety of habitats, species and geological features in all parts of Wales. They are the cornerstones of conservation work, protecting the core of our natural heritage.

SAC: Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites

The Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been chosen to make a significant contribution to conserving habitats and wildlife species that live there, named in the EC Habitats Directive.

Etna Country Park, Buckley - A former clay hole and landfill site - now a country park

Buckley has the following play areas /recreational grounds within its boundary:

Little Mountain, Meadow View, Buckley
Forest Walk, Buckley
Prince of Wales, Buckley
Lyme Grove, Buckley
Berwyn Close, Buckley
Princess Avenue, Buckley



The Flash, Eglwys Close, Buckley
Mayfield Drive, Buckley
Bod Offa, Buckley
Elfed High School Skate Park, Buckley
Higher Common, Hawkesbury Road, Buckley
Ewloe Heath, Buckley
St Matthew's, Criccieth Close, Buckley
Mount Pleasant, Buckley
Waverley Drive, Drury, Buckley
Ffordd Rowland, Buckley
Heritage Drive, Buckley
Bryn Awelon, Buckley

Buckley has over 120 trees protected via Tree Preservation Orders administered by Flintshire County Council – details of these trees and map locations can be found on the Flintshire Council website [Trees in Flintshire](#)

There are protected Bats and Badgers in the Buckley area.

There are four primary schools and one secondary school in Buckley.

Buckley has the following Churches and/or Cemeteries within its boundaries:

Buckley Cemetery, Elfed Drive, Buckley
Emmanuel Church, Bistre Parish Church
All Saints Church, Lane End
St Matthews Church in Wales, Buckley
The Good Shepherd, Drury
St Johns URC, Buckley
Our Lady of the Rosary, Catholic Church, Buckley
Pentrobin Methodist Church
Drury Lane Methodist Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Buckley Cross Methodist Church

In addition to the above areas, there are a range of natural water causes /wetlands, the Trap Pool, footpaths, Solar hill, heritage trails etc.



Buckley Town Council Biodiversity Report 2022-2025

Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) Objectives: Action carried out to:	Action Carried Out	Monitored by:
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	The Council embedded biodiversity and environmental factors into the procurement of services through its tenders. The Council remains committed to sustainability and carbon reduction. New LED Christmas lighting was installed in 2024 to reduce energy consumption. Council reports include (when appropriate) a review of its environmental impact. The Council to agree on an escalation process should the Councillors have an issue with the environmental impact of a decision.	Council tenders, reports and Council decisions.
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	The Council raised awareness of biodiversity by signposting residents to relevant public and specialist bodies, including: - Public Authorities - Clwyd Badger Group - Wildlife Trust - Amphibian and Reptile Trust - Clwyd Bat Group A new section on the Council's website containing links to raise awareness is in development. Badger cards were made available from Council reception.	New section on website. Training



	Councillors and staff attended biodiversity training. Site visits for Councillors to the areas of importance for biodiversity.	
Safeguard principal species and habitats	The Council has been mindful of environmental and biodiversity impacts when considering planning applications. The Council supported the Principal Authority's Tree Officer by responding positively to applications for Tree Preservation Orders. The Council is aware that it has several protected species and habitats and will work with specialists to make certain they are protected accordingly. Reports of any damage or interference with protected species or habitat were referred to the Rural Crime Team.	Comments on planning / TPO applications. Reporting to Rural Crime team.
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological networks	The Council introduced pollinator-friendly plants in summer planting of hanging baskets which support local biodiversity. The Accessibility Audit for Coronation Gardens was completed in 2024, allowing the Council to appoint a contractor to design a new entrance to the gardens, which addresses the access and biodiversity.	A new scheme of planting. Accessibility audit completed.
Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	Within the Council building, we considered and improved : - Reducing energy consumption. - Reducing waste. - Review of energy supplier and owner. - Reviewed our events practices. - Reviewed buildings and offices.	Review of internal factors. A new boiler that is more energy efficient was installed in 2023. Support specialist organisations.



	The Council supported organisations addressing invasive species through the correct methods.	
Use improve and share evidence	Regular dialogue with the County Council to discuss local issues, such as pollution, flooding etc. The Council is working in partnership with Flintshire County Council on the Green Infrastructure Audit for Buckley Town Centre and the Buckley Place Making Plan, which is now adopted and published. Cynllun Creu Lle Bwcle	Ongoing dialogue with Flintshire County Council
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Budget provision to support the biodiversity duty has been made available. The community grants now support projects which support biodiversity, carbon reduction and environmental improvements. Invite the Environmental organisations to events.	

Review of Section 6 Duty

What has worked well?

The new planting scheme of summer hanging baskets in 2024 has maintained a beautiful display whilst improving biodiversity by choosing insect and bee-friendly pollinator plants. Further work will continue during our next 3-year plan to ensure more native species are used.

Budget provisions are made in the Council's annual budget setting process.

What have the barriers been?

A lack of knowledge in this area by most Councillors means that biodiversity has not always been factored into the Council's decisions. Only the Town Clerk and 1 Councillor have attended any Town Council biodiversity training; although some County Councillors have received training via their role in Flintshire.



A lack of social media in the Council during these three years has hindered raising awareness in this area with the wider public. Development of a specific area on the Website has not yet taken place.

What will you change?

Training for staff and Councillors in this area will help plan for future measures.

Improve liaison with the Flintshire Biodiversity Officer and One Voice Wales Biodiversity Team and seek advice when needed.

Encourage community involvement and raise awareness.

How and when will the S6 duty be monitored and the S6 plan reviewed?

We are in the Section 6 reporting year of 2025. A new Biodiversity Action Plan will be written in 2026, to be reviewed annually.