



Powys Teaching Health Board

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Section 6 Biodiversity Report

2025

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Foreword

As part of our statutory duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Powys Teaching Health Board is committed to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting the resilience of ecosystems across our estate. This responsibility is central to delivering our vision for a Healthy, Caring Powys and reflects our role as an environmental guardian for future generations.

The past decade has brought unprecedented changes to our daily lives, most notably through the Covid-19 pandemic. While Covid is now a well-managed aspect of NHS operations, its legacy continues to shape our practices - from increased remote working to the widespread use of PPE and single-use plastics. Despite these challenges, the Health Board has remained steadfast in its objectives to protect the environment and embed sustainability at the heart of our work.

Nature continues to face global and local decline, yet there are reasons for optimism. COP15, the UN Biodiversity Conference, agreed to protect 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030 and set ambitious goals to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2050. In the UK, new legislation on biodiversity net gain has been introduced, and in Wales, workplace recycling regulations will apply to NHS organisations from April 2026. These developments reinforce the importance of our own efforts.

Our Estates team actively seeks input from external wildlife organisations where

projects may impact local habitats, ensuring that any effects are minimised. We have also supported therapeutic horticulture initiatives at Bronllys, including the redevelopment of an unused building as a community welfare hub with office, meeting and washing facilities. We are delighted to be a key partner within the Awyr Iach programme from Bro Ddyfi Community Hospital. In 2025, Bronllys became the only NHS site in Wales to achieve the prestigious Green Flag Award.

This report sets out our progress over the past three years in delivering the goals of our Biodiversity Action Plan. It highlights initiatives that provide immediate benefits and, more importantly, create a lasting legacy of healthier habitats and greater species diversity alongside our healthcare services.

Powys Teaching Health Board continues to uphold sustainability as a central organising principle. This commitment runs as a golden thread through our Integrated Plan 2024–2029 and supports the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, including its five ways of working.

In 2025, we successfully achieved re-certification to the ISO 14001:2015 environmental management standard, earning commendation for advanced waste management and robust data systems.

We are privileged to operate within the natural beauty of Powys, and we are determined to preserve and enhance these green spaces through careful planning and the implementation of our biodiversity plan. This work requires dedication and

collaboration, and we invite everyone - staff, partners, and communities - to join us in recognising and reducing our impact on biodiversity. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.



Wayne Tannahill, Associate Director of Capital, Estates & Facilities

Introduction and Context

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, all public authorities operating in Wales have a statutory duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) fulfils this duty through a comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan, integrated within our ISO 14001:2015-accredited Environmental Management System (EMS). This framework ensures biodiversity is embedded in our planning and operational decisions and supports transparent reporting under Welsh Government guidance.

Powys covers a quarter of Wales' landmass yet is home to only around 5% of its population, making it the most sparsely populated county in England and Wales. This rural character shapes our approach to biodiversity: our estate spans nine community hospitals and ten clinic sites across 36 hectares, with varying opportunities for habitat creation. Some sites have limited green space, while others, such as Bronllys Community Hospital, are predominantly green and offer significant scope for biodiversity enhancement. We apply the principle of cumulative gains, ensuring that even small-scale interventions, such as pollinator-friendly planting or nest boxes, contribute meaningfully to biodiversity across the estate.

Our work aligns with global and national priorities. Internationally, COP15 - the UN Biodiversity Conference - adopted the Kunming–Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, committing to protect at least 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030 and halt biodiversity loss by 2050. Nationally, Wales' Nature Recovery Action Plan sets objectives to increase ecosystem resilience, tackle pressures on habitats and improve evidence and monitoring. We reflect these priorities in our Biodiversity Action Plan and in capital project briefs, ensuring biodiversity is considered from the earliest stages of design

Locally, we use qualified ecological advice to target measures that strengthen habitat connectivity and embed nature-based solutions. At Bronllys, our partnership with therapeutic horticulture charity Flora Cultura has created spaces that support well-being and biodiversity, with the national lottery community-funded Awyr Iach programme in Bro Ddyfi seeing PTHB a key partner in the project as part of thematic work on outdoor health. Furthermore, in 2025, Bronllys became the first NHS site in Wales to achieve a Green Flag Award, recognising its high-quality green space and biodiversity value.

Biodiversity delivery is embedded in our Integrated Plan, with the Capital, Estates & Facilities team leading implementation, with prioritise enhancements in grounds maintenance, early ecological input to capital schemes, and targeted interventions such as meadow creation, hedgerow planting, and pollinator corridors. These actions help connect our healthcare sites to the wider Powys landscape and contribute to national biodiversity targets.

Community involvement is central to our approach. Local volunteers and groups support gardening, tree planting and seasonal habitat works, helping to build resilient ecological

networks across Powys. These partnerships demonstrate the power of collective action in creating healthier habitats and supporting nature recovery.

Further details on the Health Board's biodiversity actions and progress can be found in the Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Annual Quality Statements at <https://pthb.nhs.wales/about-us/key-documents/>



Powys

Powys Teaching Health Board operates within an agreed model of care and principles set out in the Health and Care Strategy, which forms the foundation of our approach to delivering services. The population base and rurality of Powys mean that the Health Board does not directly provide secondary care services via a District General Hospital. Instead, PTHB commissions secondary healthcare and hospital services and coordinates the delivery of primary care. Most acute patient flows are to neighbouring District General Hospitals around the county's borders. This rural geography and complex commissioning arrangements are key factors in our ambition to bring care closer to home.

Alongside these service challenges, the management of our estate remains a critical priority. The cost of maintaining buildings and addressing backlog maintenance requires ongoing investment and careful planning. We continue to seek ways to reduce estate-related costs while maximising benefits for patients and ensuring our facilities remain safe, efficient and fit for purpose.

Carbon reduction and biodiversity have become central drivers of our estate strategy during the reporting period, reflecting the climate emergency declared by Welsh Government and the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. We have embedded biodiversity considerations into capital projects and grounds maintenance, ensuring that green spaces across our sites are managed to support pollinators, wildlife habitats and ecological connectivity. At Bronllys Community Hospital, for example, biodiversity improvements have complemented therapeutic horticulture initiatives, contributing to its achievement of a Green Flag Award in 2025.

We have also explored opportunities to expand green infrastructure across our estate, including meadow creation, tree planting and hedgerow restoration, in line with the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales. These measures not only enhance biodiversity but also provide co-benefits such as improved well-being for patients and staff.

Consideration of sustainable transport has also been integrated into our planning. While not a biodiversity measure in itself, reducing reliance on fossil fuels supports wider environmental objectives. During this reporting period, we continued to expand low-carbon electric vehicle charging infrastructure using Welsh Government-provided low carbon infrastructure grants. This enabled us to extend public-facing electric vehicle charge points at Bronllys Community Hospital and Ystradgynlais Community Hospital, reinforcing our commitment to reducing emissions and promoting sustainable travel.



Duty and Responsibilities

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, all public authorities in Wales, including Health Boards and Trusts, must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions and, in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems. This duty requires consideration of key aspects of ecosystem resilience: diversity within and between ecosystems, connectivity, scale, condition, and adaptability.

In line with Section 6(7), public authorities must publish a report every three years detailing actions taken to comply with this duty. This document represents Powys Teaching Health Board's update for the period 2023–2025, outlining progress made to reduce impacts and improve biodiversity across our estate.

The Health Board recognises its statutory responsibilities and has embedded biodiversity considerations into operational and strategic planning. This includes early integration of biodiversity measures in capital projects to maximise opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement. Our approach also addresses potential impacts through buildings management, procurement, staff awareness and training, and grounds maintenance practices that prioritise biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Despite the intrinsic value of biodiversity and the benefits it provides to people, global and local evidence shows continued decline driven by human activity. Through our Biodiversity Action Plan, we aim to reverse this trend within the areas we manage, supporting regional, national and global efforts to halt biodiversity loss. Our plan commits to practical measures such as pollinator-friendly planting, habitat connectivity improvements, and sustainable land management, alongside collaboration with local communities and partners to preserve and enhance green spaces.

During the reporting period, several notable biodiversity projects have been delivered across our estate:

- Bronllys Community Hospital Green Flag Award (2025) – Achieved for excellence in green space management, including pollinator-friendly planting, wildflower meadow creation, and habitat improvements.
- Therapeutic horticulture partnership at Bronllys – Refurbishment of an unused building into a community welfare hub, supporting biodiversity and patient well-being projects.
- Award-nominated biodiversity studies – BIG Biodiversity Challenge nomination for biodiversity studies to measure and record improvements to biodiversity across all PTHB hospitals.
- Pollinator corridors and wildflower planting, tree and hedgerow planting schemes – Implemented at sites with available land to improve habitat connectivity and carbon sequestration.
- Biodiversity input in capital projects – All major schemes continue to include ecological assessments and mitigation measures, ensuring biodiversity is considered from design stage onwards.

The Health Board's Biodiversity Action Plan is designed to evolve over time. While some interventions deliver immediate benefits, biodiversity recovery is a long-term process. For this reason, our reporting combines annual updates with broader objectives aligned to a 5–10-year horizon, ensuring continuity and measurable progress.






Governance is provided by the Health Board's Environment and Sustainability Group (ESG), which reports to the Deputy Chief Executive-led Innovative Environments Group. The ESG ensures a structured approach to environmental management, including biodiversity, and oversees compliance with ISO 14001:2015 standards and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. This governance framework promotes consistency, transparency and continual improvement across the organisation.

Highlights, Key Outcomes, Issues & Action Reporting

Over the course of the 2023–2025 reporting period, Powys Teaching Health Board has taken significant steps to reduce its environmental impact and embed sustainability across its operations. Building on previous progress, the focus has shifted towards accelerating the pace of change—ensuring that environmental considerations, particularly carbon reduction and biodiversity enhancement, are central to decision-making and service delivery.

Our certified ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System continues to provide a structured framework for managing environmental responsibilities, supporting consistent improvement and compliance. Through this system, we are delivering targeted actions that benefit patients, staff, and the wider environment.

This work is being delivered across five key areas of focus, each contributing to our overarching goals for biodiversity, sustainability, and ecosystem resilience.

				
<p>Waste We aim to reduce or eliminate waste streams from our processes as far as practicable. Generating less waste, promoting reuse and recycling, recovering as much as possible from waste products.</p>	<p>Energy & Water PTHB will strive to secure energy and water with the least environmental impact, maximise our renewable energy use, optimise building performance and continue to rollout a program of building improvements.</p>	<p>Travel We are committed to reducing our travel-related emissions through remote working and digital triage, and consultations. promoting the use of EV vehicles, and install a network of EV charge points across the organisation</p>	<p>Procurement We shall embed life-cycle processes into our purchasing decisions and develop suitable weighting to sustainable procurement services.</p>	<p>Buildings & Biodiversity All new buildings and refurbishments shall meet or exceed BREEAM standards and maximise decarbonisation benefits. Biodiversity will be protected and enhanced across the estate and surrounding areas.</p>

Over the last three years we have achieved against the following objectives:

- ✓ Maintain an environment policy and ensure reference to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
- ✓ Develop biodiversity surveys for all hospital sites.

- ✓ Biodiversity impacts and aspects are considered as part of the health board's environmental management system.
- ✓ Relevant legislation/obligations and updates are tracked as part of the environmental management system.
- ✓ Develop, maintain, and deliver site-specific grounds maintenance plans, ensuring the provision for biodiversity and ecosystems improvements.
- ✓ Understand the biodiversity impact of any capital works and consider alternatives wherever practical.
- ✓ Ensure control of contractor's documentation is adhered to and that all contractors are trained appropriately to minimise harm to the environment.
- ✓ Comply with any planning consent issues pertaining to water, habitats, and species management.
- ✓ For any major Welsh Government-funded capital scheme look to achieve BREEAM 'very good' for refits and 'excellent' for new build and comply with clause LE05 (long term impacts on biodiversity).
- ✓ Major Welsh Government-funded capital schemes should, when appropriate and when the size or impact of a scheme could be detrimental to the environment, consult with local wildlife organisations to strengthen the provision of biodiversity and ecosystem improvements.
- ✓ Ensure biodiversity protection and enhancement is a consideration during evaluation and assessment of capital improvement projects.
- ✓ Consider alternative less harmful to the environment substances as part of COSHH evaluations.
- ✓ Carry out and maintain tree surveys for hospital sites.
- ✓ For every tree felled on PTHB land at least 2 native local trees are planted in appropriate places.
- ✓ Improve biodiversity potential across all owned sites.
- ✓ Maintain documented evidence of progress and publish in line with the section 6 biodiversity duty.

Green Flag award

Welsh Government Nature Recovery Action Plan contributed to:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery



In 2025, Powys Teaching Health Board proudly became the only NHS site in Wales to hold a current Green Flag Award, awarded to Bronllys Community Hospital. The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark for excellence in the management of outdoor recreational spaces across the United Kingdom and internationally.

For PTHB, this award represents the culmination of many years of dedicated work to make the site accessible, informative, and ecologically valuable. The hospital grounds have been carefully developed to serve as a stepping-stone habitat for both local and migrating species, supporting biodiversity while enhancing the well-being of patients, staff and visitors. This

achievement is a testament to the commitment and expertise of the Estates team, whose efforts have transformed the site into a model of sustainable land management.

Claire Madsen, PTHB's Executive Director of Allied Health Professions, Health Science and Digital said "Bronllys Hospital has a long history of using its green spaces to benefit patients and staff. From our woodland walk to our new partnership with Flora Cultura to enable patients to get involved with gardening as well as our veterans garden, we try to ensure that as much of the hospital site is available for staff and patients. I am very proud to receive Keep Wales Tidy's Green Flag award, and we hope to continue a partnership for the future."

Owen Derbyshire, Keep Wales Tidy Chief Executive said "Congratulations to everyone at Bronllys Hospital on achieving a Green Flag Award – a fantastic recognition of your commitment to creating and maintaining high-quality green space. Bronllys is currently the

only hospital site in Wales to hold a full Green Flag Award, and that’s something truly worth celebrating. It’s a powerful example of how healthcare settings can provide not just medical care but also access to nature and green space that supports the wellbeing of patients, staff and the wider community.”

While the award is a significant milestone, it also marks the beginning of an ongoing journey. Continued effort will be required to maintain and build upon this success, but the foundations are now firmly in place.

Tree Maintenance

Welsh Government Nature Recovery Action Plan contributed to:

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring



Trees and woodlands across our estate provide a wide range of ecosystem services, benefiting staff, patients, visitors and biodiversity. These include carbon sequestration, regulation of the hydrological cycle, flood risk reduction, and cultural and spiritual enrichment - services that are often undervalued in healthcare settings. However, the retention and maintenance of trees also present risks, particularly in relation to public safety, and must be managed responsibly.

In 2024, Powys Teaching Health Board commissioned a local tree surveyor to undertake an annual assessment of trees across our estate. This included health checks and risk assessments focused on potential hazards to people. Following the survey, a number of remedial actions were carried out to manage risks while preserving ecological value. Wherever possible, dead and dying trees were retained as standing deadwood or reduced to monoliths to support saproxylic species and provide valuable habitats. Felled wood was retained on site and repurposed into habitat piles, enhancing microhabitats for invertebrates and small mammals.

In line with biodiversity surveys conducted in 2023, solitary bee habitats were created by drilling various-sized holes into felled trunks and branches following major arboricultural works at Bronllys Community Hospital. These interventions support pollinator populations and contribute to wider biodiversity goals.



Also in 2024, approximately 360m² of amenity grassland was rotovated and sown with a species-rich wildflower mix. By late spring, the area had become a vibrant display of colour, with a noticeable increase in invertebrate activity. Encouraged by this success, three additional areas were converted to wildflower meadows, increasing the total coverage to approximately 1,905m². These meadows are now managed under agreed grounds maintenance plans, which include cutting and removing grass clippings to reduce soil fertility and promote botanical diversity. The introduction of yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) has further supported this effort by suppressing dominant grasses and allowing a wider range of wildflower species to flourish.

These actions demonstrate our commitment to enhancing biodiversity across the estate, in line with our Biodiversity Action Plan and statutory duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.



Community Engagement

Welsh Government Nature Recovery Action Plan contributed to:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

To help develop and strengthen relations with local community groups, in 2024 the Health Board refurbished 'P block' as a community welfare facility. This included changing and toilet facilities, office and meeting rooms, storage, shower facilities, a kitchen with running hot and cold water, recycling provision and heating.

The space is open to all approved community groups, with Flora Cultura (also known as *Flora in the Orchards*/Flora yon y Perllannau), an external horticultural social therapist charity that provide physical and mental rehabilitation, bolster self-worth and confidence, whilst offering social inclusion and a sense of wellbeing through a variety of gardening and horticulturally-related craft activities, are utilising the space on a weekly basis.



The benefits to people and nature from the work Flora Cultura are undertaking is obvious; helping to maintain the two orchards on site, enhancing habitats, clearing scrub and developing wildflower areas, creating raised beds for food growing and created accessible paths, all whilst undertaking one function of the organisation: helping adults with mental health conditions, physical or learning disabilities, sensory loss, autism and other neurological conditions.

Flora Cultura comment on their website: 'In November 2024 Flora Cultura made a permanent home in the Orchards at Bronllys Community Hospital.

... and so the work begins.

It's not about the destination, it's about the journey.

We are all journeying: the people who come to us in search of help; the team behind the charity; the volunteers who want to make a difference; the team at Bronllys Hospital who hope

their staff, patients and visitors will benefit from time in our gardens; and the garden itself which has been neglected for so long.

The space is growing, we have so many plans and everyone who works in the gardens is creating something for our community... ...restorative, healing and beautiful.'

Powys Teaching Health Board is proud to be a community partner in the Awyr Iach programme - an innovative, National Lottery-funded outdoor health initiative delivered through Bro Ddyfi Community Hospital in Machynlleth. Awyr Iach, meaning "Fresh Air" in Welsh, builds on the legacy of the original Machynlleth chest hospital, where patients were once prescribed time in nature to aid recovery. Today, this ethos has been revitalised through a modern, inclusive programme that connects people with nature to improve health and well-being.



The Health Board's involvement in Awyr Iach reflects a deep commitment to community engagement and the recognition that biodiversity and green space are vital components of public health. The programme offers free, professionally-led nature-based activities for all ages and abilities, including woodland skills, foraging, walking, mindfulness, and crafts. These activities take place in hospital green spaces and specially developed Woodland Wellbeing Hubs, helping to restore habitats while supporting physical and mental health.

Awyr Iach is informed by local need: a community survey involving 445 residents revealed that 80% wanted a nature-on-prescription service to complement clinical care. The programme directly addresses issues such as anxiety, depression, mobility challenges and social isolation—while also enhancing biodiversity through habitat creation, sustainable land use and ecological education.

Through this partnership, PTHB is enabling biodiversity enhancement not only through land stewardship but also by fostering a culture of nature connection and outdoor health. Awyr Iach exemplifies how healthcare settings can serve as catalysts for environmental and social regeneration, and how biodiversity can be woven into the fabric of community well-being.

Powys Teaching Health Board continues to benefit from the dedication and enthusiasm of a wide range of community groups who support biodiversity and environmental enhancement across our estate. With the support of the Health Board's Community Liaison Officer, these partnerships have delivered tangible improvements to green spaces, supported therapeutic horticulture, and fostered inclusive community involvement.

Groups such as The Rotary Club, Brecon MIND, Defence Garden Services, Men's Sheds, League of Friends, On the Verge, Ministry of Justice, Game Change Project, Cultivate, Bro Ddyfi Patient

Forum, HQ 160 Brigade, RSPB, Keep Wales Tidy, Ashfield CLT, and Gerddi Bro Ddyfi Gardens, among others, have contributed time, expertise and energy to projects that enhance biodiversity and improve the health and well-being of our communities.

In addition, the Health Board has renewed a lease with Powys County Council for the development of community allotments at Victoria Memorial Hospital, Welshpool. These allotments provide valuable green space for local residents, promote sustainable food growing, and contribute to habitat creation and pollinator support - reinforcing our commitment to biodiversity and community well-being.

Capital projects

Welsh Government Nature Recovery Action Plan contributed to:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

Capital projects, by their nature, can pose risks to the local environment during both design and construction phases. To manage and mitigate these risks, Powys Teaching Health Board's Capital Team implements a proportionate but robust programme of environmental audits. These are complemented by internal audits carried out by the Environment Team, in line with our ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System.

To support biodiversity protection, a register of European Protected Species and Section 7 species has been developed. This register informs project planning and is updated annually as new schemes are designed and commissioned, ensuring that biodiversity considerations are embedded from the outset.

In 2025, the Capital Team formalised its commitment to biodiversity by adopting the following principle: *For any capital project with a value exceeding £100,000, or where there is a potential material impact on wildlife, we will seek input from relevant local and specialist wildlife organisations to inform project planning and delivery.*

This approach ensures that biodiversity is not only protected but actively enhanced through capital investment, aligning with our statutory duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and our Biodiversity Action Plan.

ISO14001

Welsh Government Nature Recovery Action Plan contributed to:

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery



In 2025, Powys Teaching Health Board successfully maintained its certification to the ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS) standard for the eighth consecutive year. While continued certification may appear routine, this year's achievement is particularly noteworthy. The external audit resulted in zero non-conformance and only two

observations and included several observations of good practice - two of which were formally highlighted in the final audit report.

This year also marked a significant milestone in the maturity of the EMS. For the first time, the certification truly reflected an organisation-wide system, with increased participation from departments beyond the traditional Estates and Facilities functions. This broader engagement demonstrates a growing culture of environmental responsibility across the Health Board and a shared commitment to sustainability and continual improvement.

The EMS continues to provide a structured framework for managing environmental risks and opportunities, including biodiversity, waste, energy, and compliance with legal obligations. It supports the Health Board's delivery of its statutory duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and ensures that environmental considerations are embedded into decision-making processes at all levels.

Maintaining ISO 14001 certification is not only a mark of operational excellence but also a reflection of the Health Board's commitment to transparency, accountability and environmental stewardship. It provides assurance to stakeholders that environmental impacts are being actively managed and that the organisation is aligned with national and global sustainability goals.

Looking Forward

Powys Teaching Health Board remains committed to strengthening its approach to biodiversity protection and enhancement across all areas of operation. As we move beyond the 2023–2025 reporting period, our focus will be on deepening integration of biodiversity into strategic planning, capital development, estate management, and procurement practices.

We will continue to monitor and measure our environmental impacts, using data to inform decision-making and drive continuous improvement. Biodiversity will remain a central theme - from the way we manage our grounds and green spaces, to how we design new facilities and procure goods and services. We aim to ensure that biodiversity is considered not as an add-on, but as a core value embedded throughout the organisation.

Our Biodiversity Action Plan will evolve to reflect emerging evidence, policy developments, and local ecological priorities. We will build on successful initiatives such as wildflower meadow creation, pollinator corridors, tree and hedgerow planting, and habitat enhancements, scaling these efforts where possible and adapting them to new contexts.

Collaboration will be key. We will continue to work closely with public sector partners, including local authorities, Natural Resources Wales, and the Powys Nature Partnership, to develop joint projects and programmes that support regional biodiversity goals. We will also seek input from specialist wildlife organisations to inform capital projects and ensure that ecological risks and opportunities are properly assessed and addressed.

Community engagement will remain a priority. We will support volunteer-led initiatives, therapeutic horticulture, and citizen science opportunities that connect people with nature and foster stewardship of our green spaces. These efforts not only benefit biodiversity but also contribute to the health and well-being of our patients, staff and wider communities.

Finally, we will ensure that our reporting remains transparent, evidence-based and aligned with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. By continuing to invest in biodiversity, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales and align with local, national and global need to protect and enhance biodiversity.

