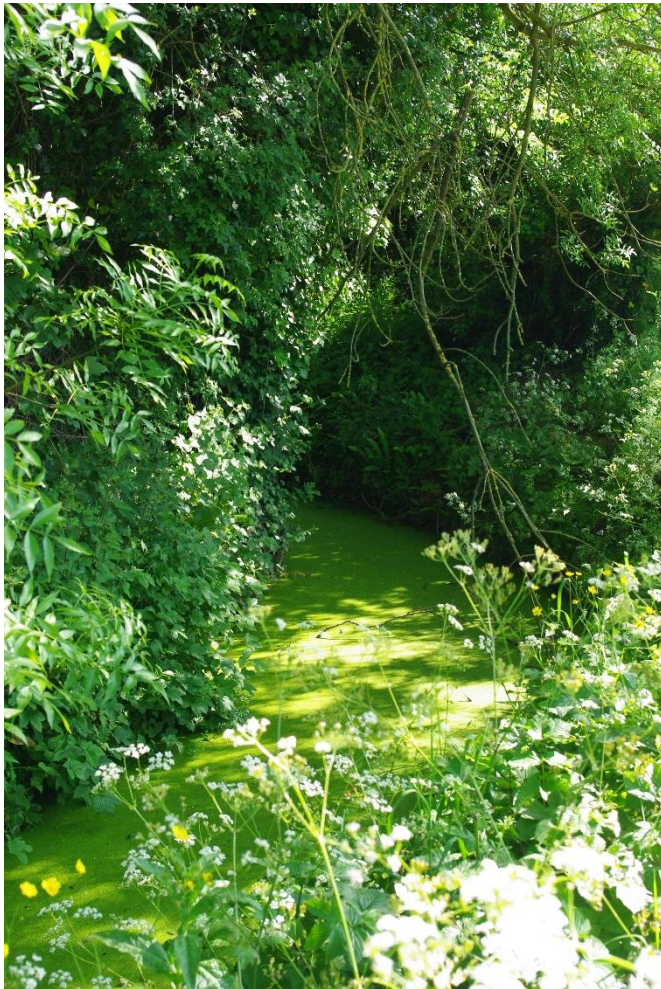


Redwick Community Council

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022



REDWICK
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

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The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Name of Town or Community Council: REDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Introduction and Context

- Redwick Community or Ward encompasses the village of Redwick and outlying dwellings with an electorate of 166 (Jan 2023) and a population of 206 (2011 census). The village is also part of the Llanwern Ward under the auspices of the unitary authority Newport City Council
- Redwick, originally a medieval village is sited on what is known as the Gwent Levels and is close to the shoreline of the River Severn. The village comprises of a diverse range of architectural styles attractively dispersed among small orchards and open spaces, all set within an ancient and striking man-made landscape of drainage ditches and flat fields. The working farms within and surrounding the village maintain a tangible sense of the agricultural origins of the settlement, as a working community.
- The 2022/2023 Precept for Redwick Community Council was £5,035.
- Redwick Community Council owns the Prince Charles patch, the Redwick Pound and manages the open playing field which hosts a small play park.
- The Gwent Levels are included within the CADW / ICOMOS / CCW Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest representing an example of man-made landscape dating back to the Roman period when land was reclaimed from the sea (River Severn). The village of Redwick also stands within a SSSI area, supporting a rich and diverse habitat abundant with wildlife throughout the year. The nearby River Severn is a registered RAMSAR site.
- The Redwick and Llandevenny SSSI is one of a series of six SSSIs, situated on the Gwent Levels. It lies alongside the Severn Estuary, a landscape that is man-made, a result of reclamation from the sea over the last two thousand years. The land is below high mean water level, and the sea (river/estuary) is kept out by extensive sea defences. Traditionally, fields are drained by a system of ridge and furrow or 'grips' (shallow trenches) into the extensive system of interconnected ditches that surround each field. The larger of these are known as reens, which discharge at intervals to the Severn Estuary via tidal flaps. This drainage system is the largest in Wales and contains a wide range of wetland plants and insects that are becoming increasingly uncommon.
- Redwick and Llandevenny SSSI has three special features: Reen and Ditch Habitat, Insects and other Invertebrates and the Shrilla Carder Bee.
- The important issues for the Redwick and Llandevenny SSSI are: 1. Ditch clearance, 2. Water Levels 3. Shading by hedgerows 4. Water Quality and 5. Development Pressure.

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- The Gwent Wildlife Trust’s flagship site Magor Marsh is on the northern boundary of Redwick at Whitewall, Magor. The Trust works with local landowners in respect of preserving wildlife habitat and mink control.
- Natural Resources Wales are responsible for the maintenance of the Reens in the area.
- Several public footpaths cross the levels, with the Wales Coastal Footpath running along the sea wall to the south of the village, overlooks the Severn Estuary.
- Redwick lies to the south of the main Swansea to London railway line. The M4 and M48 motorways (the main routes between Wales and England via the Prince of Wales Bridge and the Severn Bridge respectively) also lie to the north of the village.

Action Report

Action carried out or planned to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Council consider the environment and the village’s SSSI status when reviewing planning consultations to ensure impact on the environment by development is minimal.	Councillors/clerk during consultation
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	Councillors have undertaken litter picks to maintain a clean and tidy village	Records of litter pick in Council minutes.
-safeguard principal species and habitats	Council is aware of the need to control invasive species to protect the SSSI area and the RAMSAR sites within and adjacent to the village and the need to report them to the relevant departments.	Record of reports to relevant departments, e.g., Extensive Ragwort and Asian Hornet.
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	Newport City Council is signed up to the Welsh Government’s Pollinator policy and as a bee friendly city they constantly review their grass management and mowing regimes, adapting methods. Grass-cutting in May is reduced. Redwick CC provided tree saplings to members of the community as part of the project to plant trees for the Queen’s platinum Jubilee. The Council itself planted an oak tree to commemorate the event.	Making clear aims and actions in the 5-year plan for the playing fields site.

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	<p>The Council review's its own mowing regime and undertakes any hedge cutting within the period allocated by law.</p> <p>There are many orchards within the village which offer a source of nectar for bees and pollinators.</p>	
-tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	<p>When identified, the Community Council will address any problems arising from invasive species e.g., Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, and the recent threat of the Asian Hornet.</p> <p>The Council is conscious of invasive tree species such as Sycamore and reportable species such as Ragwort and the Asian Hornet.</p>	To raise awareness of invasive species and educate how they can be reported, and report when necessary.
-use improve and share evidence	The Council will update residents on its actions in relation to biodiversity and environmental issues via its website and in its Annual Report.	Use of websites and Annual Report to update residents on all biodiversity and environmental issues within the community.
-support capacity and/or other organisations	Work/liaise with the local Wildlife Trust, Newport City Council, The Woodland Trust,	Monitored via feedback to Full Council.
<p>Review of s6 duty</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?</p> <p>Because of the nature and size of the village, and the financial restraints put upon the Council in respect of how much Precept it can claim the Council are limited to what they can do project wise. However, they are forever conscious of the fact that most of the Redwick Community lies within the Redwick and Llandevenny SSSI area.</p> <p>Since the village is extremely rural with very few new properties, most dwellings have established gardens, vegetable patches and orchards. The nature of the historic landscape and the closeness of the village to the Gwent Wildlife Trust's flagship site</p> 		

Redwick Community Council

'Magor Marsh' provides an area of rich resource for wildlife, birds, bees and pollinators.

Council recognise that they need to continue to take an active part in meeting its obligations under the 'Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6 -The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022'.

- **How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?**

Council will review their section 6 duty annually.