



TIPS FOR BIODIVERSITY



INTRODUCTION

Football Clubs across Wales have a unique opportunity to support nature recovery while creating healthier, more attractive and more resilient facilities. Even small changes to how Club grounds are managed can provide valuable habitats for wildlife, support pollinators and contribute to wider environmental goals.

Biodiversity is not just about protecting nature. It can also improve the appearance of Club facilities, strengthen community engagement, support education opportunities and enhance the experience of players, volunteers and visitors.

This resource provides practical tips that Clubs can use to begin or accelerate their biodiversity journey.

This resource will support your Club to:

- Understand simple actions that can improve biodiversity.
- Identify opportunities to support wildlife on Club grounds.
- Engage members, volunteers and local communities in nature projects.
- Enhance habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.
- Support national biodiversity and nature recovery objectives in Wales.
- Inform your Biodiversity Action Plan and Green Goals.





BENEFITS

Why Biodiversity Matters

Wales is experiencing significant declines in many species of plants, insects and wildlife. Football clubs can play an important role in helping reverse these trends by creating and protecting habitats within their facilities and surrounding land.

Many biodiversity improvements require little investment and can often be delivered through volunteer action, community partnerships and simple changes to grounds management practices.

Every Club, regardless of size, can contribute to creating a greener future for Welsh football.



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TOP TIPS

Tips for biodiversity

The following pages of this resource provide some examples of practical tips that Clubs can use to begin or accelerate their biodiversity journey.

It is not an exhaustive list, and further specific resources can be found in the [biodiversity topic](#) of the Together Greener Programme.





BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

Complete a Biodiversity Audit

Before taking action, it is important to understand what biodiversity already exists on your site.

A biodiversity audit will help identify:

- Existing habitats.
- Opportunities for improvement.
- Areas suitable for wildlife projects.
- Current strengths and challenges.

The Together Greener '[Biodiversity Audit](#)' provides a simple starting point for Clubs.



PROTECT

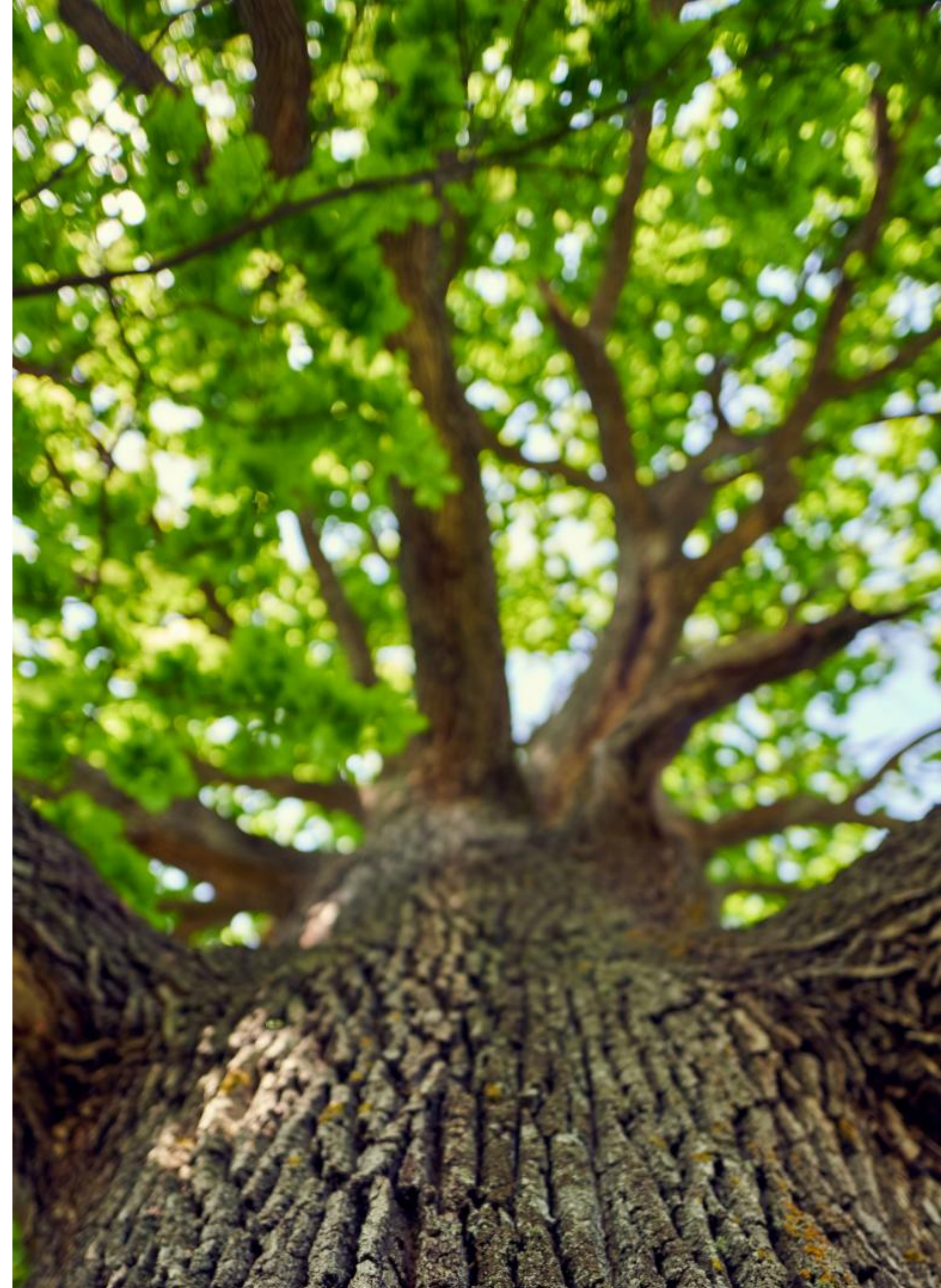
Protect Existing Nature First

One of the most effective biodiversity actions is protecting habitats that already exist.

Before creating new features, consider how your Club can safeguard:

- Mature trees.
- Native hedgerows.
- Wildflower areas.
- Wetland habitats.
- Existing wildlife corridors.

Protecting existing habitats is often more beneficial than creating new ones from scratch.





PLANT

Plant Native Trees and Hedgerows

Native species provide food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife and are better adapted to local conditions.

Examples suitable for many parts of Wales include:

- Oak.
- Rowan.
- Hawthorn.
- Blackthorn.
- Hazel.
- Holly.

Native hedgerows can also help define boundaries, reduce wind exposure and improve the appearance of facilities.

When planning planting projects, consider local species and seek advice where necessary.





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POLLINATORS

Create Space for Pollinators

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies are essential for healthy ecosystems.

Clubs can support pollinators by:

- Creating wildflower areas.
- Planting pollinator-friendly flowers.
- Reducing mowing in selected locations.
- Leaving some grass areas to grow naturally.

Even small patches of pollinator habitat can have a significant positive impact.

The Welsh Government supports initiatives that help protect pollinators through its [Action Plan for Pollinators](#).





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GRASS

Reduce Mowing Where Appropriate

Not every area of grass needs to be maintained as a short playing surface.

Areas can often be managed less intensively, especially around:

- Boundary fences.
- Car parks.
- Spectator areas.
- Unused corners of sites.

Reducing mowing frequency can:

- Increase biodiversity.
- Lower fuel use.
- Save staff and volunteer time.
- Reduce maintenance costs.

Clear signage can help explain why areas are being managed differently.





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WILDLIFE

Create Homes for Wildlife

Many species struggle to find suitable nesting and shelter opportunities.

Clubs can support wildlife by installing:

- Bird boxes.
- Bat boxes.
- Bug hotels.
- Log piles.
- Deadwood habitats.
- Hedgehog-friendly spaces.

These projects are often inexpensive and can provide excellent opportunities for youth engagement and education.





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AWARENESS

Raise Awareness and Celebrate Success

Biodiversity improvements are most successful when Club members understand and support them.

Consider:

- Biodiversity notice boards.
- Educational signage.
- Social media updates.
- Nature-themed events.
- Community planting days.
- Wildlife recording activities.

Where possible, use bilingual Welsh and English communications to maximise engagement.

Sharing progress can inspire members and demonstrate your Club's commitment to sustainability.



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COLLABORATE

Work with Local Partners

Many organisations across Wales are already working to protect and restore nature. Potential partners include:

- Local authorities.
- Schools and colleges.
- Wildlife trusts.
- Community groups.
- Conservation charities.
- Volunteer organisations.

Partnerships can provide expertise, volunteers, funding opportunities and additional community impact.

Working together often allows Clubs to achieve more ambitious biodiversity projects.





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FURTHER IDEAS

Additional Ideas for Clubs

Beyond the tips above, Clubs may also wish to consider:

Create a Mini Pond or Wetland

Small ponds and wetland areas can become biodiversity hotspots, supporting amphibians, insects, birds and pollinators while helping manage surface water.

Join research Projects

Encourage members to record wildlife sightings using national recording schemes and biodiversity monitoring programmes such as the [**RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**](#).

Engage Young People

Youth players are often enthusiastic champions for environmental action.

Consider involving junior sections in:

- Tree planting.
- Wildlife surveys.
- Pollinator projects.
- Nature awareness campaigns.

These activities can build environmental awareness and strengthen connections with the club.



REVIEW

Monitor and Review Progress

Biodiversity improvement is an ongoing journey.

Review your progress annually by considering:

- Have new habitats been created?
- Have additional trees or hedgerows been planted?
- Has the area managed for biodiversity increased?
- Are more species being observed?
- Has awareness among members improved?

Monitoring progress helps demonstrate success and identify future opportunities.





FURTHER SUPPORT

Improving biodiversity does not require large budgets or complex projects. Many of the most effective actions can be delivered through simple changes to grounds management, community engagement and thoughtful planning.

The most successful Clubs often start with a small number of achievable actions and build on these over time. Every tree planted, wildflower area created, and habitat protected contributes to a healthier environment and a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Inform one of your two mandatory Green Goals.
- Complete your Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Identify priority biodiversity projects for your club.
- Engage members and volunteers in nature recovery.
- Support funding and partnership opportunities.
- Track biodiversity improvements year on year.

Even small actions, such as reducing mowing in selected areas, planting native species or installing a bird box, can make a meaningful contribution to biodiversity and help create a greener future through football.

Further information on Biodiversity can be found at www.faw.cymru/TogetherGreener-biodiversity

If you require support with this resource, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru