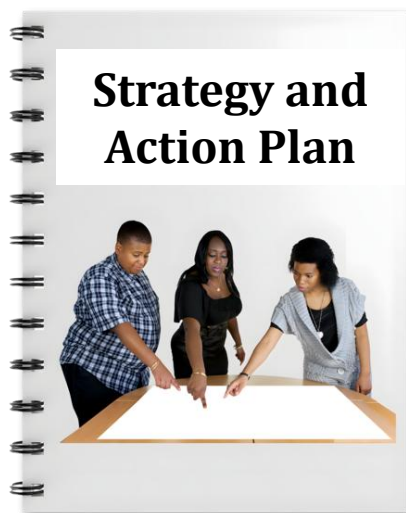


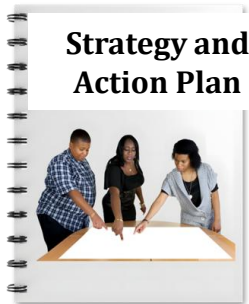
Causeway Coast and Glens Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2032



This is an Easy Read Consultation.

**Tell us what you think about our
Plan.**

What is this consultation about?



Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has written a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.



The Plan covers the years 2026 to 2032.



The Council wants to protect and improve nature and biodiversity across the Borough.



This Easy Read explains why the Plan is important and asks what you think about it.



The Council wants to hear what people think to make the Plan better.

What is biodiversity?



Biodiversity means all living things.

This includes

- ✓ People
- ✓ Animals
- ✓ Birds
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ Insects
- ✓ Trees
- ✓ Flowers
- ✓ Plants



Biodiversity also includes the places where living things live. These places are called **habitats**.

What are habitats?



Habitats include

- ✓ Woodlands
- ✓ Rivers
- ✓ Beaches
- ✓ Parks
- ✓ Gardens
- ✓ Meadows
- ✓ Peat Bogs



Healthy habitats can help protect the environment and fight climate change.

Why is biodiversity important?



Biodiversity helps support life on earth.

Healthy biodiversity provides

- Food
- Clean water
- Clean air
- Medicines
- Protection from flooding
- **Pollination** of crops and plants
- Places to relax and enjoy nature
- Better physical and mental health



Pollination is how flowers make seeds. Bees, butterflies, wind, and other things move pollen from one flower to another.



Without biodiversity, people and wildlife could not survive.

Biodiversity in Causeway Coast and Glens



Causeway Coast and Glens is one of the most important areas for nature in Northern Ireland.



The Borough includes

- Coastlines
- Rivers
- Estuaries, where a river flows into the sea
- Woodlands
- Meadows
- Peat bogs



Many rare plants and animals live here. These include



- Red squirrels
- Kingfishers
- Rare wildflowers



The area also contains many protected places that are important for nature and wildlife.



The Council believes all habitats and species are important.



But the Council says biodiversity is getting worse across the world and Northern Ireland.



There are not as many plants and animals as there used to be. Some could disappear if they are not protected.



The Council says we must act now to protect biodiversity.

What is harming biodiversity?



The strategy looks at 5 main threats.



1. Habitat Loss – Sometimes places where wildlife lives are damaged or lost because of

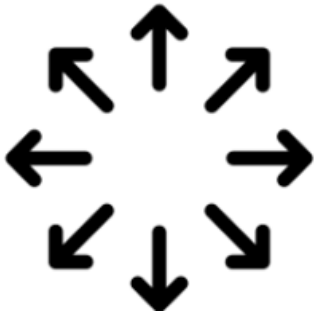
- Changes in farming
- Changes in land use
- Building developments



When habitats disappear, wildlife has fewer places to live.



2. Invasive Species – Some plants and animals have been brought from other countries



Some of these plants and animals spread quickly and can harm local wildlife.



Examples include

- Japanese Knotweed
- Himalayan Balsam
- Grey Squirrels

These species can damage habitats and threaten local wildlife.



3. Pollution can harm wildlife and habitats.
The Council wants to reduce pollution.

Examples include

- Fly-tipping
- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Chemicals
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution



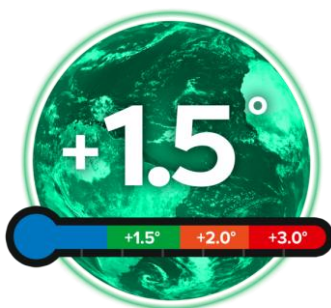
4. Climate Change is changing weather patterns around the world

It can cause

- Flooding
- Storms
- Rising temperatures



Climate change can damage habitats and wildlife.



The Council says healthy habitats can help reduce the impact of climate change.



5. Overuse of natural resources

People depend on nature every day.



Sometimes people use more from nature than it can replace. For example, if a tree is cut down, it can take many years for another tree to grow back.

This can damage habitats and wildlife.



The Council wants people to enjoy nature while also protecting it.

What laws and responsibilities does the Council have?



There are laws that help protect nature and wildlife.

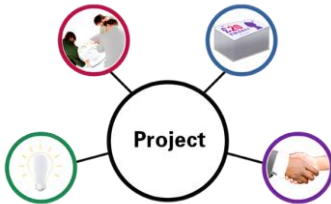


These laws say public bodies, including councils, should help protect and improve biodiversity.



The Council has a duty to think about biodiversity when making decisions and delivering services.

What is the Council already doing?



The Council has already completed several projects to help biodiversity.



These include

- Wildflower projects
- Letting some grass grow longer
- Helping pollinating insects
- Restoring sand dunes
- Conservation grazing projects
- Tree planting
- Supporting biodiversity projects



The Council wants to continue with this work.

Why do we need this Strategy?



The Council says protecting nature and wildlife is an important part of its work. That is why biodiversity should be a priority.



The strategy provides a clear Plan for protecting and improving biodiversity.



The Council believes biodiversity is important for

- Communities
- Wildlife
- The environment
- The economy
- Future generations



How does this Strategy link to other council plans?



The Strategy supports other council plans.



These include plans about

- Communities
- Health and Wellbeing
- The environment
- Climate Change
- Tourism
- Economic development



The Council says biodiversity should be considered in all its work.

What is the Vision?



The Council wants staff to think about biodiversity when planning projects and making decisions.



The Council wants protecting nature and wildlife to be part of all its work.



This is through the 5 themes of the strategy.

These are:



1. Restore

Repair habitats that have been damaged. For example, helping peat bogs recover and stopping invasive plants and animals from spreading.



2. Enhance

Make places better for wildlife.



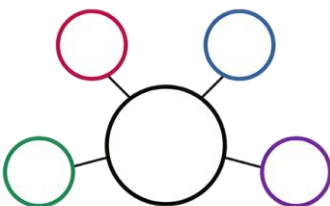
3. Protect

Protect the wildlife and habitats where animals and plants already live.



4. Increase

Create more opportunities for nature. For example, planting trees and providing places for wildlife to live.



5. Connect

Help join up wildlife habitats and help more people learn about and enjoy nature.

What actions will the Council take?



The Plan contains 90 actions.

Examples include



- Checking how many trees are planted every year
- Putting bird boxes on Council buildings
- Making nature trails
- Supporting schools to make more spaces for nature
- Supporting community biodiversity projects
- Making a biodiversity park
- Restoring peat bogs
- Restoring sand dunes
- Protecting beaches and coastal habitats
- Reducing pollution



- Reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides

- Managing invasive species

- Running education and awareness programmes

- Supporting volunteers

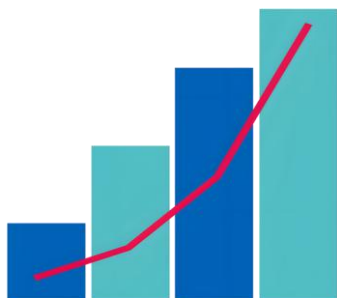


- Improving biodiversity information on Council websites

- Considering biodiversity when planning new buildings and projects



How will progress be measured?



The Council will

- Find out information about wildlife and habitats in Council areas
- Check biodiversity across Council land
- Review progress every year
- Report on achievements



The Council wants to make sure biodiversity is protected and improved over time.