

Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme

WcVA
CgGC

Published November 2023

Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Registered charity number 218093
Company limited by guarantee 425299
Registered in Wales

Annual report 2022/23

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Ministerial foreword

by Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

This year the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme celebrated its 5th anniversary, by continuing to support communities located near to landfill disposals sites across Wales. A wide variety of successful projects have benefitted biodiversity, environmental enhancement, waste minimisation or its diversion from landfill.

The scheme has funded 30 new projects including one of National Significance. Over the 12 months it has been successful in creating green spaces bringing neglected and rundown areas back into community use, restoring, maintaining and enhancing natural habitats to improve conditions for native species and running initiatives to encourage re-use, recovery and recycling of waste.

A highlight of the year is the work carried out by Incredible Edible Porthmadog and The Ysgol Eifion Wyn Educational Garden project. Teaching staff had wanted to revitalise the garden near the school playground for a number of years, but lack of time and resources meant this wasn't possible. With the help of the LDTCS Incredible Edible Porthmadog worked with the school to transform this green space into an educational garden where the children can learn about sustainable food growing, biodiversity and waste reuse.

This project highlights the contribution the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme is making through the local delivery of our Programme for Government commitments.

It is an example of how we can educate the next generation to try and achieve our future well-being in Wales.

This comprehensive report also highlights many other equally important projects. I am encouraged by the successes of the scheme this year and commend the projects on the positive contribution they have made to our environment in Wales.



JULIE JAMES MS
Minister for Climate Change

Chair's foreword



LDTCS funding helped Art Shell develop green, affordable and inclusive art studio spaces that are offered to Cardiff-based artists with barriers to accessing an art studio

Looking back over this year, the scheme has consistently received applications for fantastic community projects, some very innovative and some tried and tested approaches. Reading the content of this report, it's brilliant to see projects that came to the panel really taking shape and having impact in their communities.

The themes of the LDTCS really lend to enabling initiatives which deliver benefits both with short term and long lasting impact; both in the local communities and as a network of environmental projects across Wales.



**LINDSAY
CORDERY-BRUCE**

Chairperson of the Landfill
Disposals Tax Communities
Scheme (LDTCS)

Executive summary

This report contains a summary of the activities delivered with funding from the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS) grant programme.

This is the fifth operational year for the Wales-wide scheme and this year saw 30 projects awarded through two grant rounds. The local projects awarded aim to take action on the environment in areas within five miles of a landfill site or significant waste transfer station. The report also highlights case studies that

demonstrate how the scheme is delivering against key Welsh Government priorities and policies. The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme works in partnership with communities to help deliver Welsh Government's Programme for Government published following the 2021 Senedd Elections.

The scheme in numbers

Headline achievements of all LDTCS projects active 2022/23



Over 327 tonnes



**of waste
diverted
from
landfill**

26 facilities
updated with
nature-friendly
alternatives



73 initiatives
reduced food waste
through activities
such as composting



457
ponds and
water courses
managed
and enhanced



62 initiatives to
bring neglected and
run-down areas back
into community use

283 initiatives to
maintain or improve
community facilities



Over 48 tonnes
of greenhouse gas
emissions saved



83 initiatives created
and enhanced community
water and green spaces



1,472



initiatives
supported
participation
and
understanding
to embed
biodiversity

463

play, meeting,
and outdoor
classrooms
created



A full breakdown of all reported achievements in line with scheme targets can be seen at the end of this document.

Background to the scheme

THE LANDFILL DISPOSALS TAX (LDT) (WALES) ACT 2017 ESTABLISHED THE LANDFILL DISPOSALS TAX (LDT) IN WALES SETTING OUT THE OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TAX, ALONGSIDE THE TAX COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 (TCMA).

The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS) recognises there can be a negative impact for communities through the disposal of waste to landfill and provides funding for projects which offset these impacts. The projects focus on the five-mile radius surrounding a landfill site or waste transfer station which has sent more than 2,000 tonnes to landfill in the previous year. Sites may be added or removed from the list of eligible areas dependant on the tonnage reported to Natural Resources Wales in the previous reporting year.

The LDTCS is a Welsh Government grant programme distributed under contract for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024 by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

This fifth annual report focuses on case studies to demonstrate the breadth of activity taking place in communities affected by landfill and waste transfer stations across Wales.

The eighth LDTCS grant round launched in April 2022, with the first projects beginning in September 2022, whilst the ninth round launched in October 2022, with the projects beginning in April 2023.

Right: Timber bridges are built on the Ebbw Vale Garden City site by Tillery Action for You ►



General principles of the scheme

The scheme is underpinned by three general principles, which focus on community well-being and provide a framework to shape the operational delivery of the scheme.

1 IMPROVE QUALITY OF PLACE

- Promote positive environmental behaviours
- Offset the negative impacts on communities affected by the disposal of material as waste to landfill
- Enhance existing spaces – both open space and physical space

2 DELIVER WIDER COMMUNITY BENEFITS

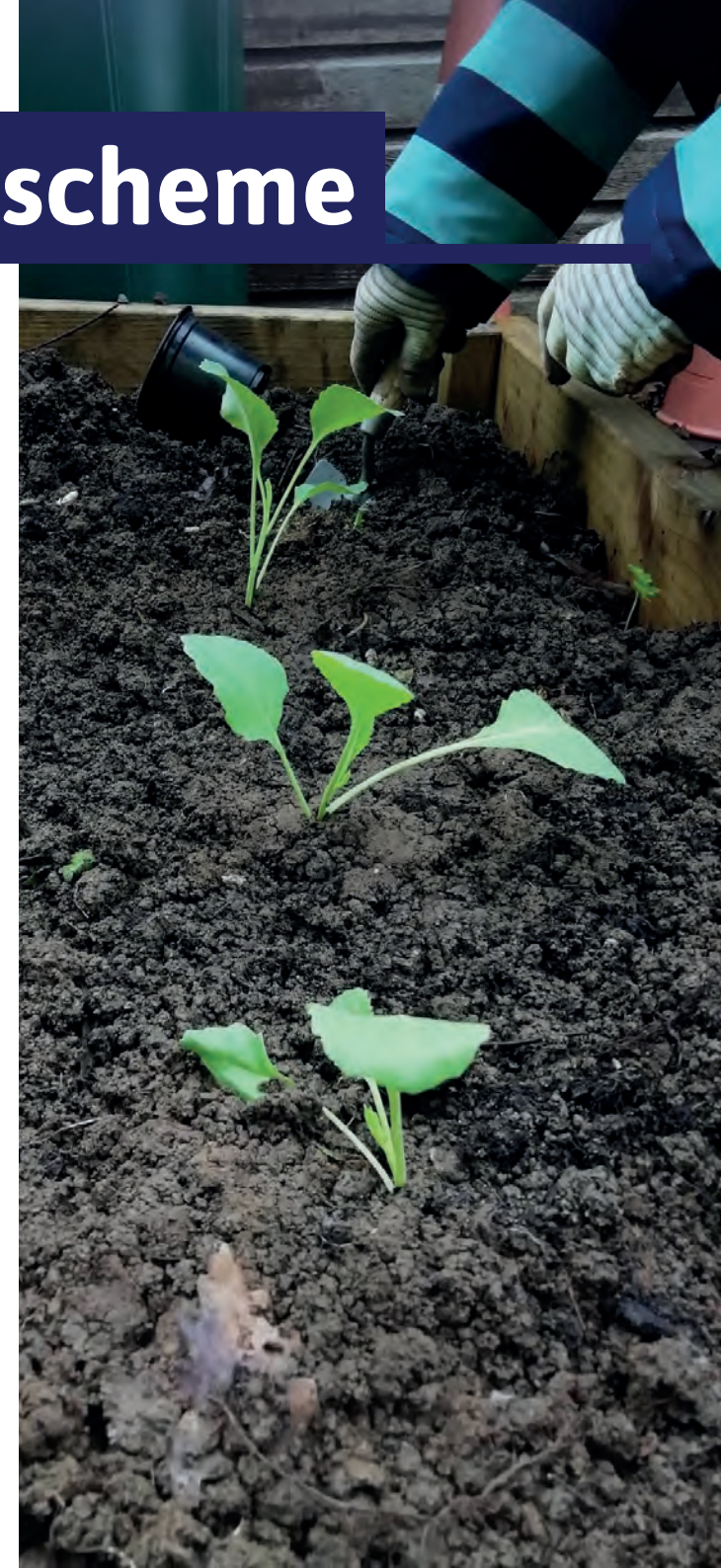
- Support community participation – volunteering, skills development, etc

- Promote and maintain good relationships between landfill site operators, communities, and the distributive body
- Support sustainable projects which do not rely on continuous funding

3 MAXIMISE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT REACHES INITIATIVES

- Maintain a cost-effective administrative model
- Make funding accessible by providing clear and understandable objectives and application guidance around the scheme and the application process

Right: Garnant Family Centre's Community Garden brings together families from the community, helping them engage with nature ►



How the funds work

WCVA ADMINISTERS THE FUND ON BEHALF OF THE WELSH GOVERNMENT. WCVA IS PART OF A WALES WIDE NETWORK OF SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NINETEEN COUNTY VOLUNTARY COUNCILS.

This network approach allows for central administration, with the added value of further local knowledge and support provided for groups at a county level. The fund value is £1.4 million per year. The grant programme supports local community and environmental projects in areas affected by the disposal of waste to landfill. Grants of between £5,000 and £49,999 are available, with the opportunity to apply for a one-off annual larger grant of national significance of between £50,000 and £250,000.

The scheme invites applications from groups carrying out activity under the three themes:

BIODIVERSITY

Create resilient ecological networks for the benefit of a range of habitats and species:

- a) Improve conditions to help native species, pollinators and provide opportunities for new planting;

- b) Restore, maintain and enhance natural habitats;
- c) Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity.

WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Bring wider community benefit through improving quality of place:

- a) Create community green spaces and supporting green infrastructure;
- b) Bring neglected and run-down areas back into community use;
- c) Maintain or improve community facilities, for example community halls.

WASTE MINIMISATION AND DIVERSION OF WASTE FROM LANDFILL

Promote awareness and best practice to reduce the amount of waste produced:

- a) Encourage prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste;
- b) Reduce food waste and support initiatives such as composting;
- c) Engage and support understanding to enable waste to be seen as a resource.

The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme funds activity which delivers sustainable community benefits. This takes many forms, from activity working with volunteers and training them in the skills required to conserve a local green space, to providing financial assistance to enhance a community facility in a way which improves its energy efficiency.



Applications are assessed based on their contribution to the benefit of the local community and the longer term impact the activity will make. All projects awarded funding will in some way contribute towards sustainable communities. This gives the community the chance to identify what action they think needs to be taken to address issues specific to the locality; enabling them to take community led action, build community stewardship and a sense of place.

◀ **Left:** Pembrokeshire FRAME's pop up shop displaying garments from local charity shops. The project raises awareness of sustainability and issues caused by fast fashion

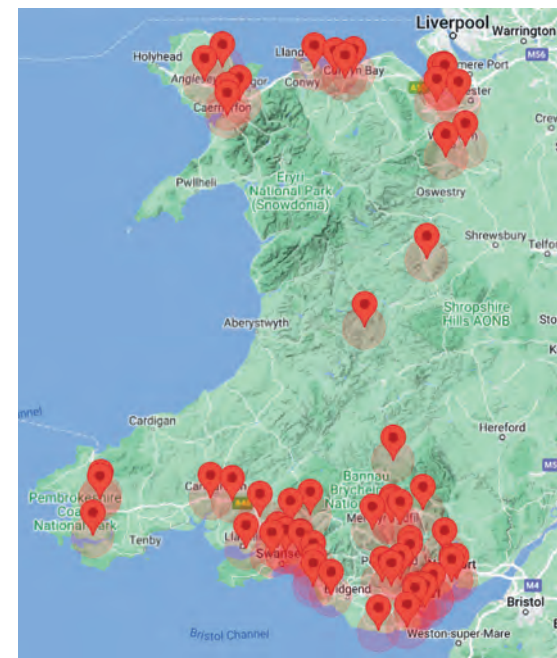
Eligible area coverage of Wales

Landfill site and waste transfer/treatment facilities operators report the number of tonnes of waste they send to landfill each year. A proportion of the tax collected from these landfill operators provides the funding that forms the LDTCS. If an operator reports over 2,000 tonnes of waste sent to landfill in a year, the site will be deemed as an eligible area for applications to the LDTCS. The scheme is aimed at improving the quality of the communities living in close proximity to landfill sites and waste transfer stations.

Each year Natural Resources Wales (NRW) provides WCVA with the data from the waste returns submitted from all operators of landfill sites and waste transfer stations across Wales.

This data shows those sites which have reported over 2,000 tonnes for the past year. The map of eligible sites is then updated by WCVA in time for the second round of the year. Enquirers are advised to check the map at the time of applying, as it is subject to change from round to round. The sites shown on the map during an open funding round indicate the sites deemed eligible under that particular funding round.

In the period April – September 2022 there were 56 eligible sites; the map was updated to 60 landfill and waste transfer sites in Wales in October 2022 following data received from NRW. This map will remain in place until the next update in October 2023.



Strategic alignment & contribution

THE ENVIRONMENT ACT (WALES) 2016 PROVIDES AN OVERARCHING STRATEGIC DIRECTION TO ENSURE NATURAL RESOURCES ARE MANAGED AND CONSERVED EFFECTIVELY IN WALES.

This, coupled with the findings of The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), outlines the value of natural resources in Wales and how they should be managed effectively and invested in to ensure maximum prosperity.

In June 2021 Welsh Government launched the 2021-2026 Programme for Government, which sets out 10 well-being objectives. The well-being objectives outline several environmental priorities, to which projects funded through LDTCS are directly contributing:

- Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation;

- Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do;
- Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work.

Included within each well-being goal, Welsh Government has committed to specific steps which will be reported against annually. They focus on the key enablers which allow people and communities to prosper and thrive, both now and in the future, as well as ensuring we preserve and restore Wales' natural environment and resources for future generations. Projects funded through LDTCS work towards achieving:

- Expanding arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces;
- Supporting 80 re-use and repair hubs in town centres;

- Continuing strong partnership with voluntary organisations across the range of Welsh Government responsibilities;
- Development of a Wales Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally sourced food in Wales;
- Supporting communities to create 30 new woodlands and connect habitat areas;
- Supporting innovative new social enterprise schemes such as bike maintenance repair cafes and bike recycling schemes;
- Addressing the climate change, biodiversity, and nature emergencies.

Case study

Sea Trust Wales

THE FINTASTIC FAUNA PROJECT COLLECTED IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC DATA ABOUT THE MARINE WILDLIFE OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE COAST, WHILE ALSO PROVIDED VALUABLE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE INTERESTED IN MARINE WILDLIFE.

Sea Trust Wales is a marine wildlife conservation charity based in Pembrokeshire, with a mission to encourage local people to take care of their marine wildlife. The charity received funding from the LDTCS to run the FINTastic Fauna project, which trained volunteers in collecting and recording marine wildlife data around the Pembrokeshire coast.

Sea Trust Wales built on the success of the Porpoise Photo-ID Project, which allowed local volunteers to be trained as 'citizen scientists' who collect vital data on the harbour porpoise population in Pembrokeshire. Whilst performing these porpoise surveys, they also recorded a high number of other large marine animals in the area, such as dolphins, whales, seals, sharks and turtles.

Right: Sea Trust Wales volunteers on a porpoise survey watch at Strumble Head ►



Studies of these species are great indicators of ecosystem health, but they weren't monitored consistently across the county. This gap in marine wildlife research, combined with a strong demand for volunteering opportunities in the area, brought about the FINtastic Fauna project.

As a result of the project, over 270 surveys were conducted and 690 sightings of large species recorded. In addition to the collection of valuable scientific data, the project ran various public events, talks and school visits to raise awareness in the local communities and further afield about the marine wildlife in the area and its positive influence on well-being.

What made the project a real success was its strong volunteer well-being focus. It is well documented that both volunteering and spending time in nature can be very beneficial for mental health and well-being. It is not surprising, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, that many people reached out to Sea Trust Wales, seeking volunteering opportunities involving the outdoors and nature.

The FINtastic Fauna project recruited 20 new volunteers, providing opportunities for social interactions across a range of age groups, bringing together community members that would not usually meet. Volunteers worked together to survey the wildlife and organise community events, which increased community connections and improved individual well-being. Inclusivity was key in the design of the project, which allowed people with disabilities and transport barriers to take part.

Andy, a volunteer on the project, has spoken about his volunteering experience with Sea Trust Wales. Andy became disabled in his mid-fifties through a climbing accident. This life-changing experience made him question if he 'was valuable and useful anymore'. Following his retirement, he immediately thought about volunteering, because he felt strongly about helping people, and he wanted to fill his time with doing something useful. Having been involved in wildlife his whole life, he decided to volunteer with Sea Trust Wales. 'One of the things

I've found in Sea Trust is that I know that what I do is really valued. It's a lovely exchange, where I trust them, but also, they trust me. I find that incredibly rewarding and refreshing. That may not be the case with other places.'

Andy carries out porpoise survey watches at Strumble Head and at Little Haven. Helping as a volunteer has given him the chance to talk to people who want to find out more about marine wildlife in the area. Working with fellow volunteers who he can share his knowledge with is also an important part of his experience: 'having had that shared experience, doing watches with them, it's just really, really nice.'



Andy with fellow Sea Trust Wales volunteers

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act is a ground-breaking piece of legislation requiring public bodies in Wales to work better with others (including each other and communities) and take a more joined up, long-term approach so their decisions have a positive impact on people living in the future as well as those living today. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals which all public bodies must work towards to ensure a cohesive approach across all policy areas.

All projects awarded under the LDTCS will in some way contribute toward the achievement of one or more goals of the act. In most cases there is a clear link to a specific goal or goals.

Right: The launch of the accessible pathway built around Llangattock Recreation Ground ►



Circular Economy Strategy, beyond recycling

The Welsh Government published its Circular Economy Strategy in March 2021 which outlines the Welsh Government's approach to sustainable waste management in Wales. The strategy aims to make the circular economy

in Wales a reality, keeping resources in use for as long as possible to avoid waste. The strategy focuses on preventing waste and how Wales's resources can be better valued, setting out a ten-year pathway so Wales can achieve:

BY 2025

26%

reduction
in waste

**Zero waste
to landfill**

50%

reduction in
avoidable food
waste

70%

recycling

BY 2030

33%

reduction
in waste

60%

reduction in
avoidable food
waste

The strategy sets out eight headline actions which will accelerate Wales' journey towards a circular economy. Through the theme of Waste Minimisation and Diversion of Waste from Landfill, the LDTCS contributes towards:

- Providing the tools to enable community action. Supporting the local actions which collectively make a big difference. Engaging with our schools and communities, working with citizens to support local initiatives and resource efficient actions.
- Supporting businesses in Wales to reduce their carbon footprint by becoming more resource efficient.
- Striving to achieve the highest rates of recycling in the world, including working with local government, businesses, social enterprises and communities to take the next steps in becoming a truly advanced recycling nation.

BY 2050

**One planet
resource use**

Zero waste

62%
**reduction
in waste**

**Net zero
carbon**



Case Study

Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE)

THE ACTION IN CAERAU AND ELY (ACE) BENTHYG PROJECT HAS HELPED PEOPLE SAVE MONEY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, BY RUNNING A 'LIBRARY OF THINGS' IN CARDIFF WHERE PEOPLE CAN BORROW HOUSEHOLD AND LEISURE ITEMS, RATHER THAN BUYING NEW.

ACE is a community-led charity in West Cardiff which works with and for the community to improve life in Ely and Caerau, two of the most deprived areas in Cardiff. The organisation was looking for creative ways to support local people and families who were struggling financially, without stigmatising them. This is how the idea came about for a project that allows people to borrow for a low cost fee instead of buying new.

ACE worked in collaboration with Bentyg Cymru, an organisation that supports communities across Wales

with setting up a Library of Things. These are very similar to libraries, but instead of books, people can borrow things that they don't use very often or can't afford. The aim is to make borrowing as easy as popping to the shops for a loaf of bread. This reduces the need to buy unnecessary new items, which saves people money, and it also helps the environment.

ACE Bentyg is run by a small team of volunteers, with support from a part-time staff member. During the course of the project, they built up a stock of over 370 donated items – everything from

◀ **Left:** Scott worked on the project and now volunteers with ACE

camping equipment to household tools and cooking appliances. Despite the initial challenges with storage capacity and insurance cover, the project got off the ground and proved to be a real success in the community: nearly 300 people signed up as members, borrowing an average of 30 items each month.

ACE Benthgy contributes to the Globally Responsible Wales well-being goal through making borrowing more normal in the community and encouraging the wise use of our natural resources. The project has linked up with other ACE services as well to maximise the benefits of sustainability, for example, it lends cooking equipment to members of the Local Food Pantry, it runs a repair café and it also functions as an e-waste recycling hub, enabling the recycling and repair of waste electronic items.

The project also contributes to achieving a Net Zero Wales: ACE estimated that over a nine-month

period 9,250kg of carbon was saved through borrowing their two most popular items, the pressure washer and the carpet cleaner.

In addition to the environmental benefits, the evaluation of the project highlighted the huge positive impact for struggling local families. For example, a low-income working family were able to take their children on a camping holiday for the first time, saving hundreds of pounds on the camping kits they could borrow from ACE Benthgy. 'I wasn't able to go out and buy tents and equipment. But with Benthgy, I had the opportunity for a few quid to borrow for the week. I was able to get everything we needed for the camping trip, and then bring it back which cost a fraction of the price, which, in today's climate, is very nice and very good for the people to have that opportunity.'

Right: A wide range of household and leisure items are kept in the ACE Benthgy storages, available for the local community to borrow ►



Nature Recovery Action Plan

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales links to, and complements, the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and The Environment Act, consisting of two elements:

1 Sets out the position with regards to biodiversity in Wales, the issues to be addressed, and the policies which will guide tackling the issues

2 Sets out specific actions identified to support and enhance biodiversity, over and above contributing to the delivery of the 'Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Wales'

The LDTCS contributes to several of the objectives identified including, but not exclusively:

1 Engaging and supporting participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

The LDTCS enables projects which work with volunteers and community members in raising awareness of the importance that biodiversity holds and providing skills in conservation and habitat management

2 Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.

Projects working under the theme of biodiversity will contribute to increasing the resilience of our natural environment with things like habitat creation

3 Safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance and improving their management.

Awards have been made to projects operating under the theme of biodiversity with a specific focus on S7 priority species.



Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust trained local volunteers in habitat survey and management

Case Study

Menter Môn

LDTCS FUNDING SUPPORTED THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES ON ANGLESEY, HELPING TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MENAI STRAIT

Menter Môn's Afonydd Menai project aimed to safeguard and raise awareness of water voles on Anglesey. This lovely riverside rodent is Britain's fastest declining mammal, due to habitat loss and degradation, and the spread of the American mink, a non-native predator which poses a huge threat to water voles.

Anglesey has remained an important stronghold for the water vole, housing two of the UK national key sites: Cors Erddreiniog and Cors Ddyga. Afonydd Menai was monitoring 19 river catchments spanning 21 communities in Anglesey and North Gwynedd. The project encouraged locals to get involved in guided walks and talks, litter picking, river biodiversity survey days, habitat restoration and mink management.

Afonydd Menai offered exciting volunteering opportunities for those keen to do their bit to protect native species on Anglesey, and they were also popular among students pursuing degrees related to the environment.

Right: Local people learning about signs of wildlife and their tracks ►





Thanks to these volunteers, the project established a network of River Custodians, who were trained to identify signs of water voles and check monitoring rafts.

Julie, a manager at a community allotment site in Amlwch, attended a water vole survey day organised by Afonydd Menai, after which she returned to the allotments to look for signs of water voles. Talking about her experience, she said 'I got so excited because I found one! We hope that we are going to get some signage, because lots of people come here for walks and to explore, and what I have learnt can be put on the sign, so that others can also learn more about nature.' Afonydd Menai continued to work with Julie, running events at the allotments in Amlwch, lending the group a camera trap and positioning a monitoring raft on site, which volunteers have been trained to check.

Afonydd Menai was able to reach a wide audience thanks to its successful collaboration with a range of organisations, projects and volunteering groups with a shared mission to protect the environment, such as RSPB, Menter Iaith, Keep Wales Tidy and Natur am Byth.

◀ **Left:** Julie (on the right) helping the local community learn more about water voles

Applications made to LDTCS 2022/23

Round 8 Main Grant – opened in April 2022

Number of
applications
received –

35

Total value
of grants
requested -

£1,240,841.08

Number
approved –

16

Value of
approved -

£623,266.15

Round 9 Main Grant – opened in October 2022

Number of
applications
received –

49

Total value
of grants
requested –

£1,965,647.89

Number
approved –

13

Value of
approved –

£540,984.26

Round 9 Nationally Significant Grant – opened in October 2022

Number of
applications
received –

6

Total value
of grants
requested –

£974,675.46

Number
approved –

1

Value of
approved –

£250,000

Total applications made to LDTCS Main Grants 2022/23

Number of
applications
received –

84

Total value
of grants
requested –

£3,206,488.97

Number
approved –

29

Value of
approved –

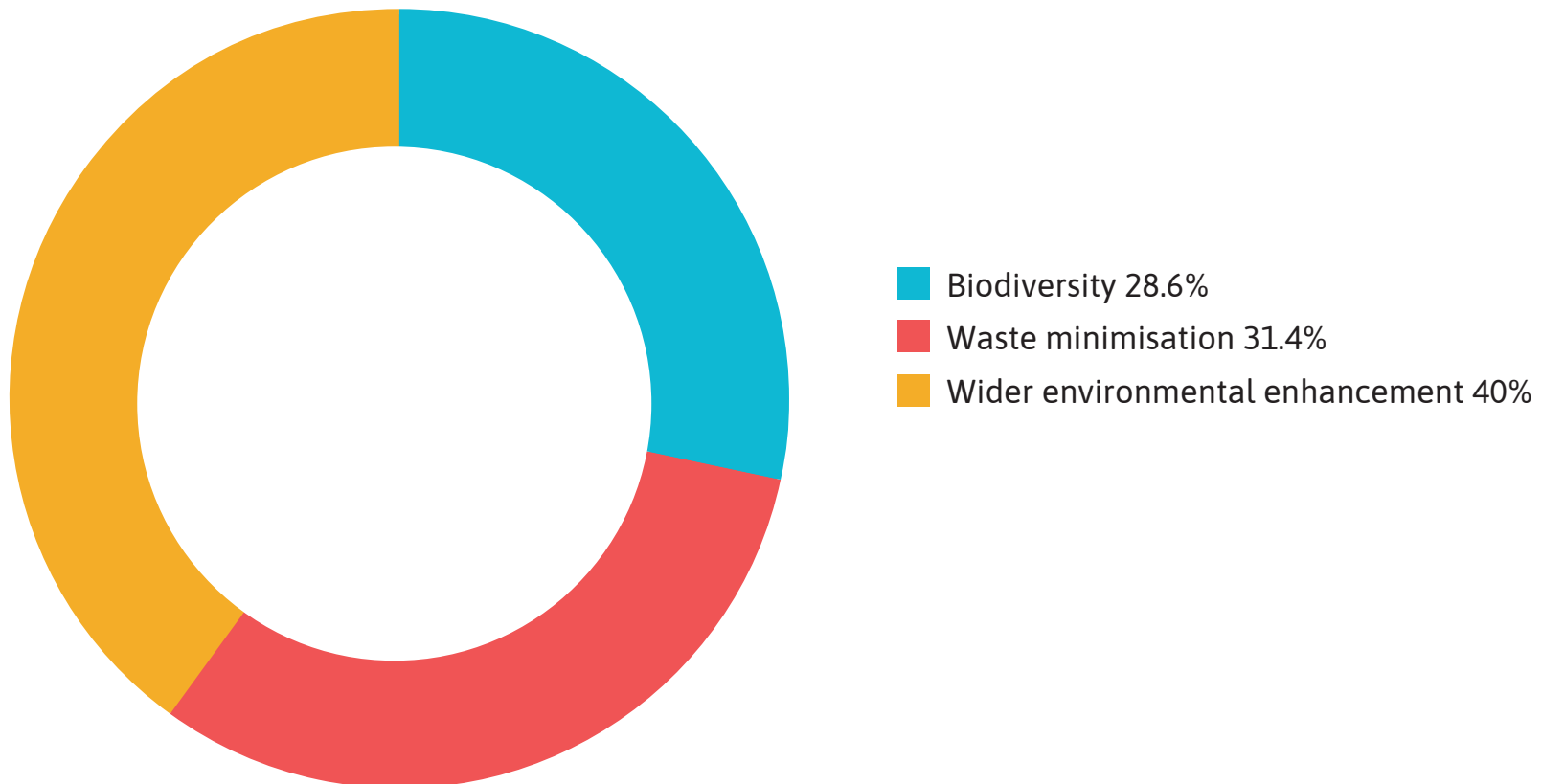
£1,164,250.41

Priority theme contributions

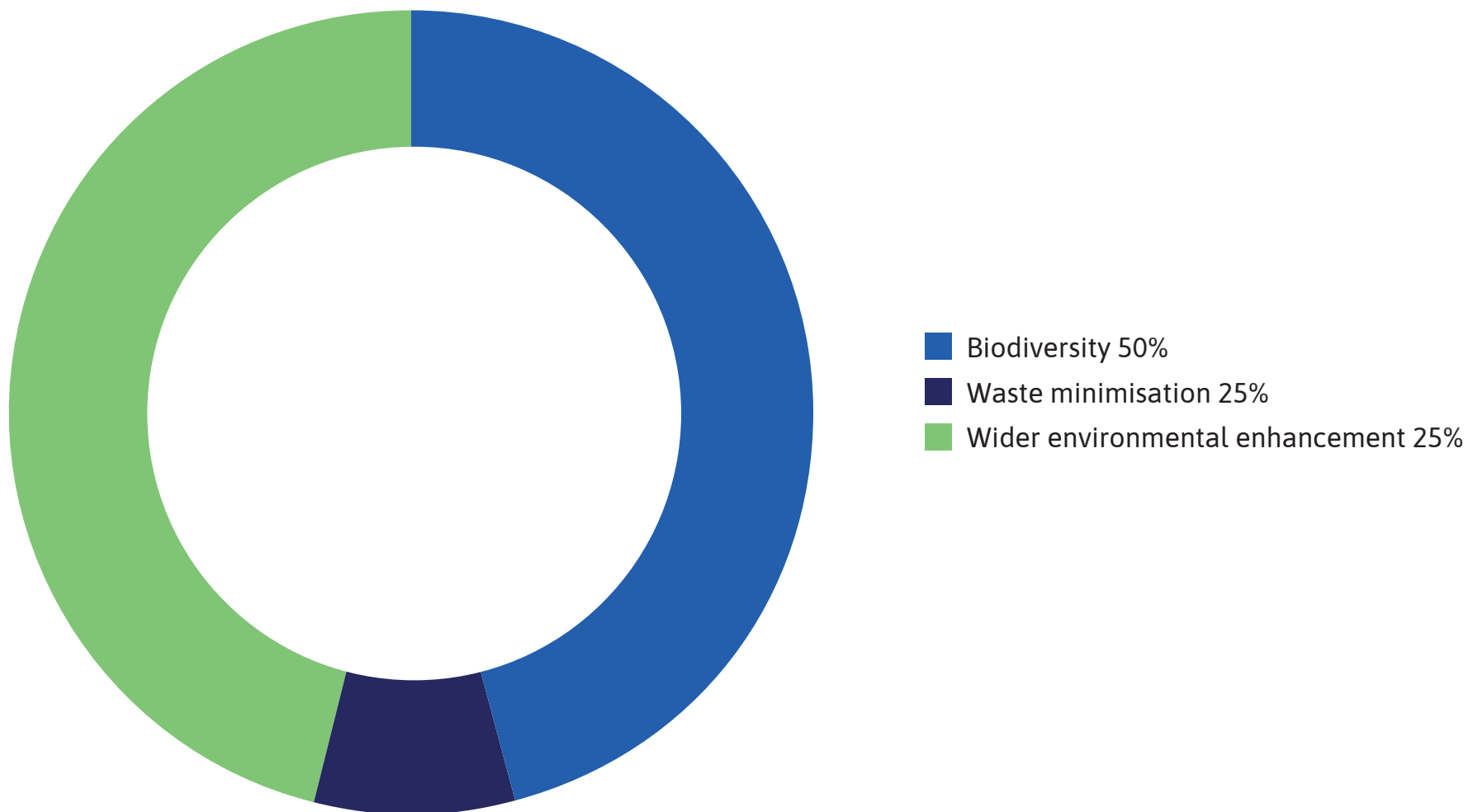
As part of the application process, all applicants are asked to select the one priority theme their project most strongly contributes towards and describe how their project contributes towards the chosen theme. Responses are scored by an assessor and form part of the final recommendation to panel.

Please note, percentages have been rounded

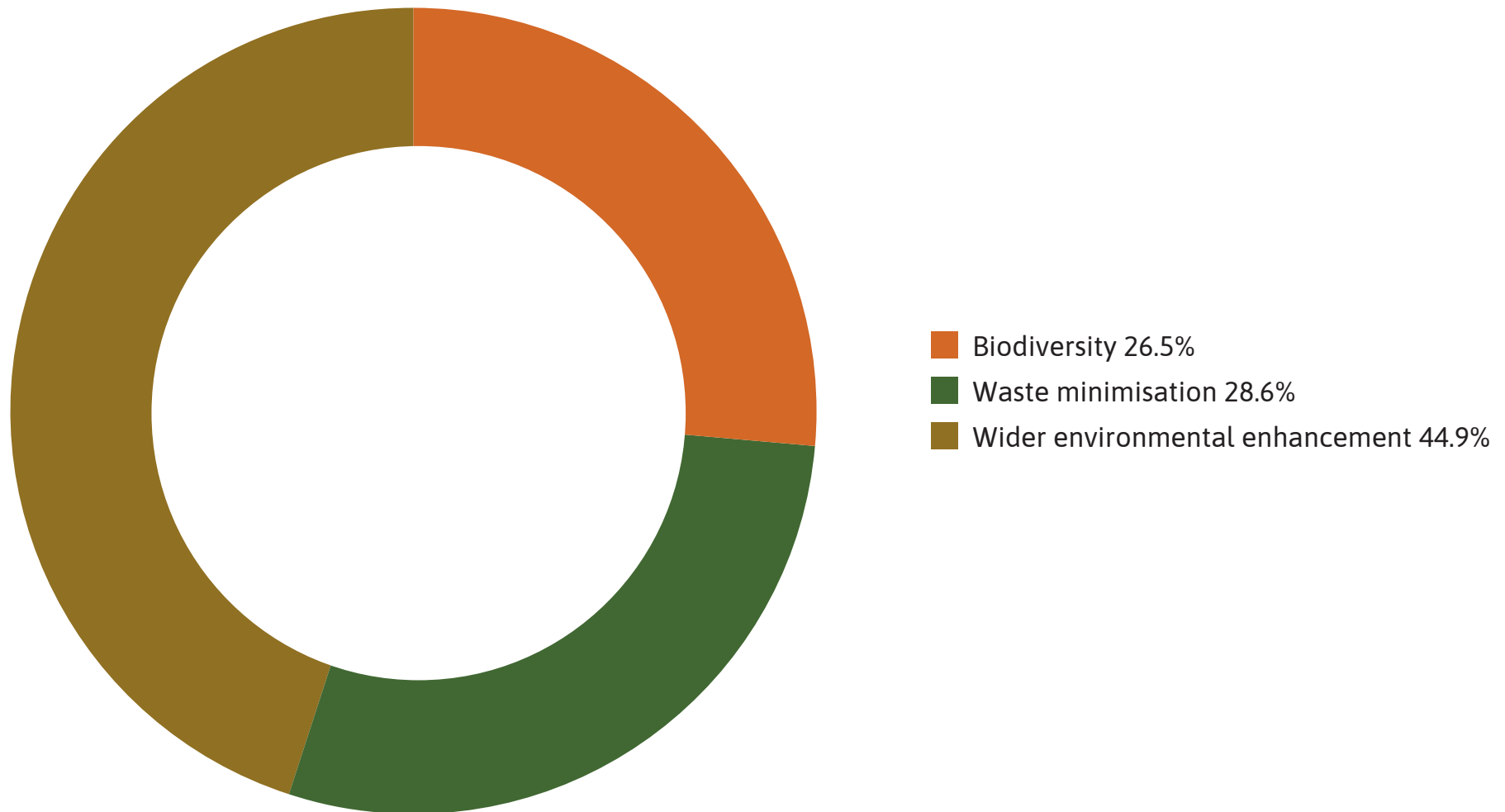
Round 8 main grant priority theme(s) - all applications



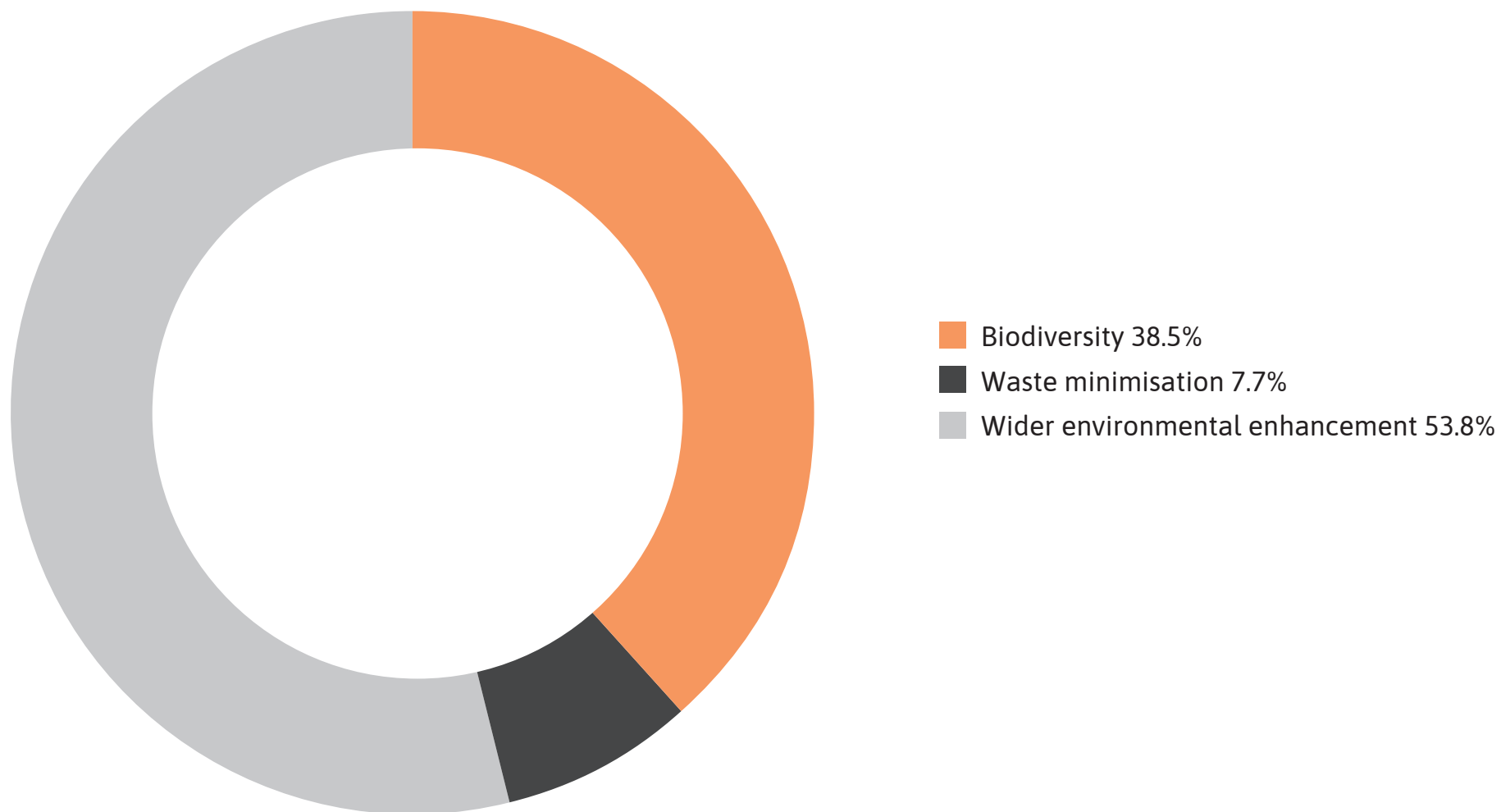
Round 8 main grant priority theme(s) - successful applications



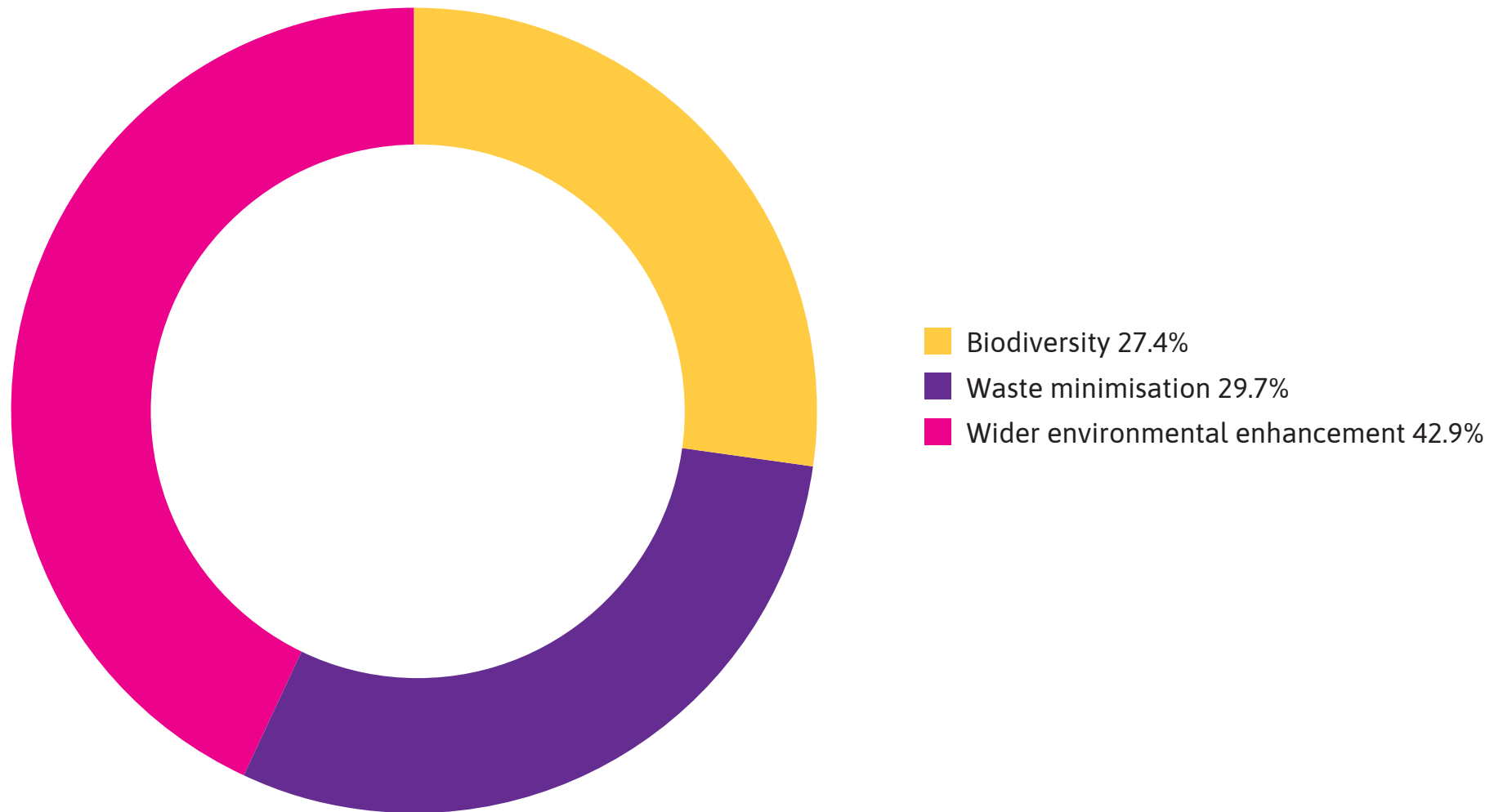
Round 9 main grant priority theme(s) - all applications



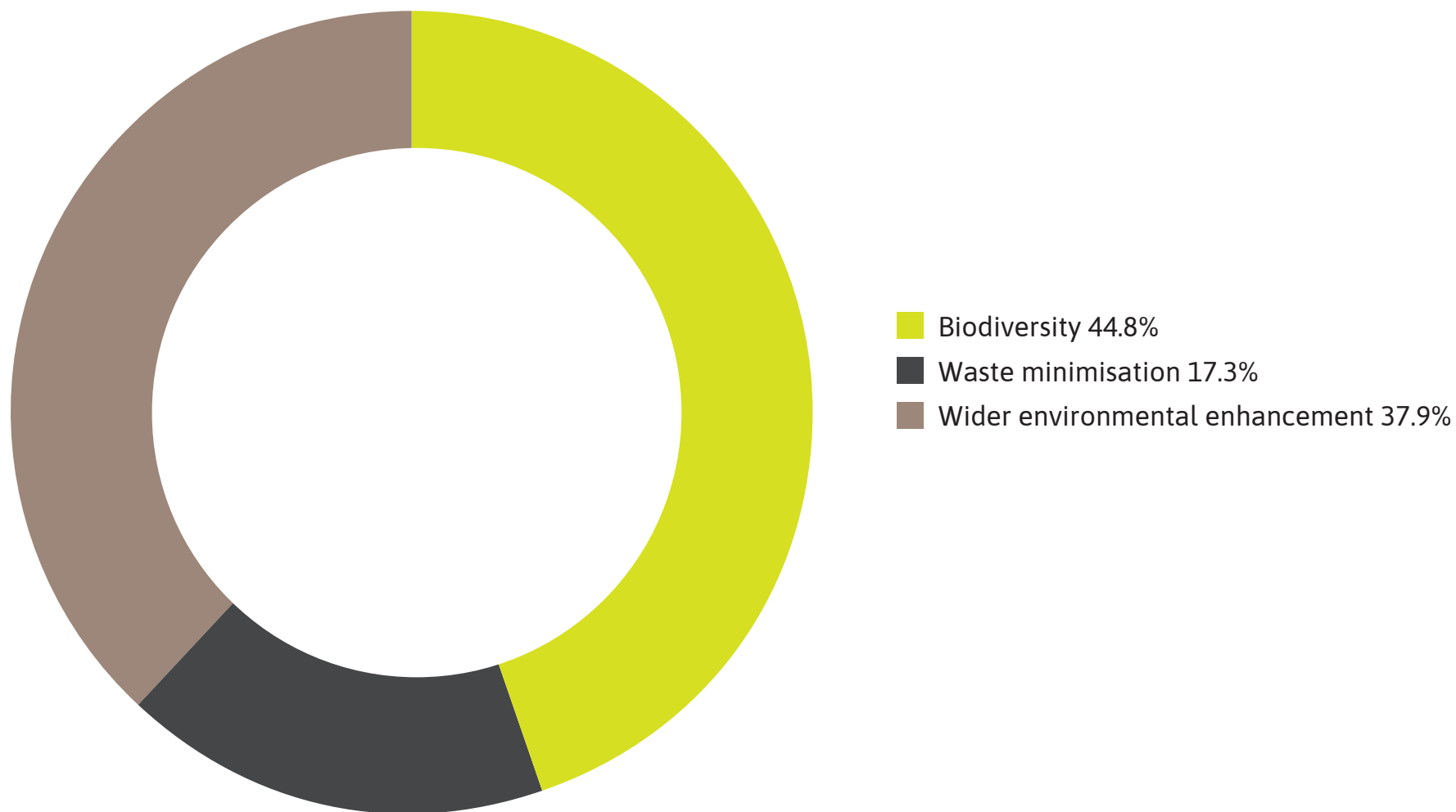
Round 9 main grant priority theme(s) - successful applications



LDTCS 2022/23 total priority theme(s) - all applications



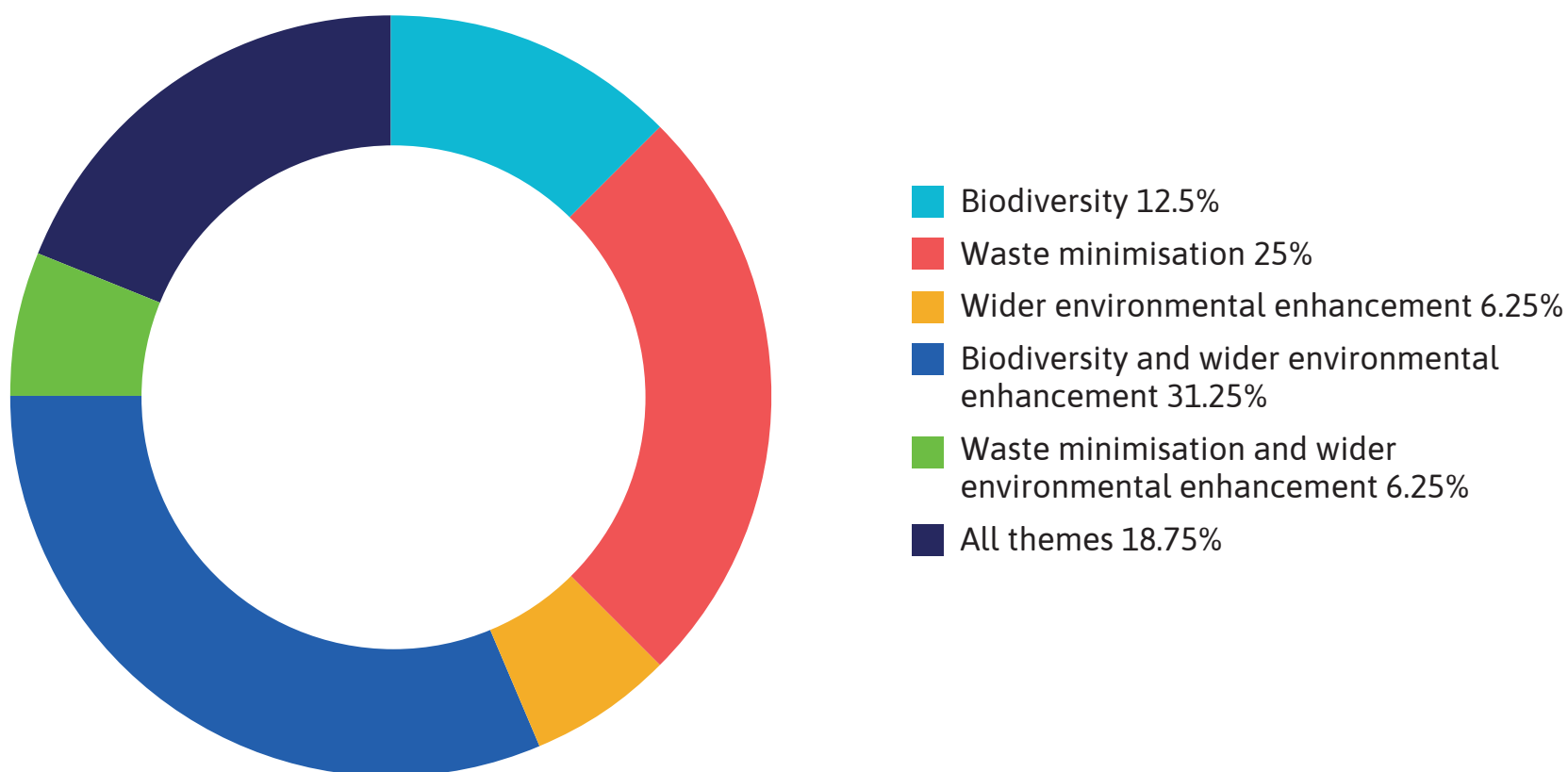
LDTCS 2022/23 total priority theme(s) - successful applications



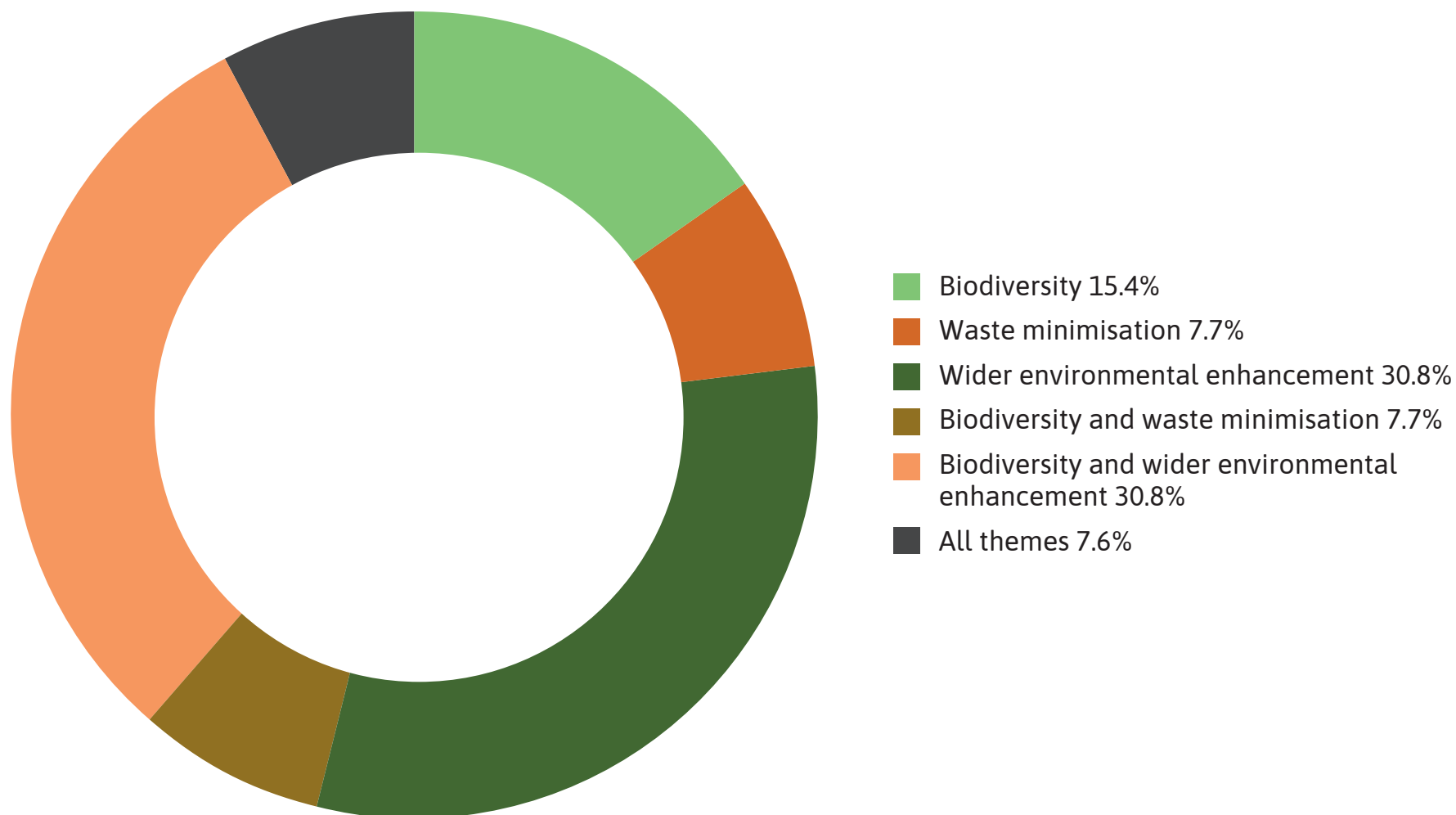
Successful applicants all theme contribution

Applicants to LDTCS must profile targets for their chosen priority theme, but if the project can also demonstrate a reasonable contribution to another theme, applicants may also profile targets against additional themes.

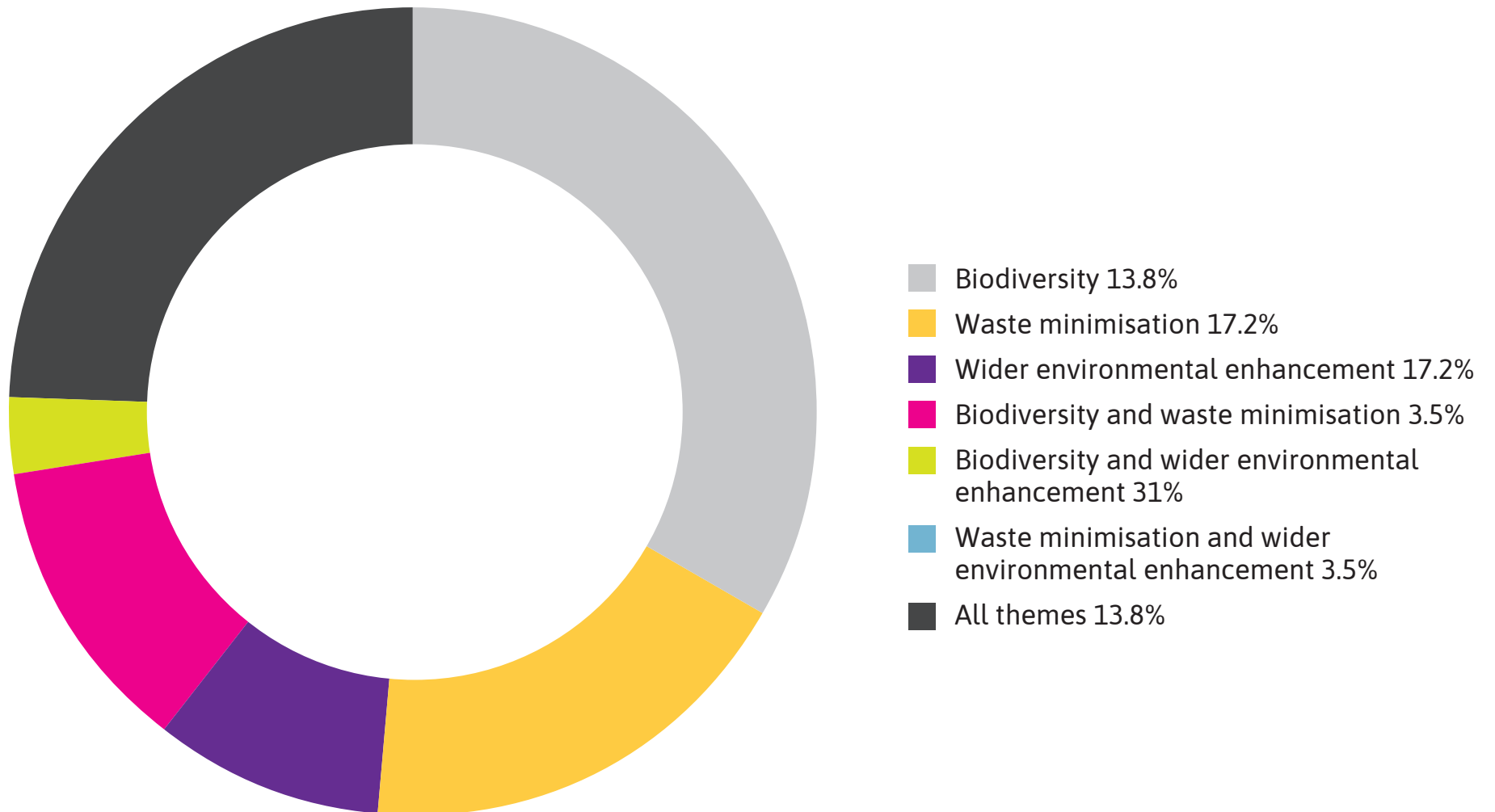
Profiled contribution to all themes from round 8 successful applicants



Profiled contribution to all themes from round 9 successful applicants

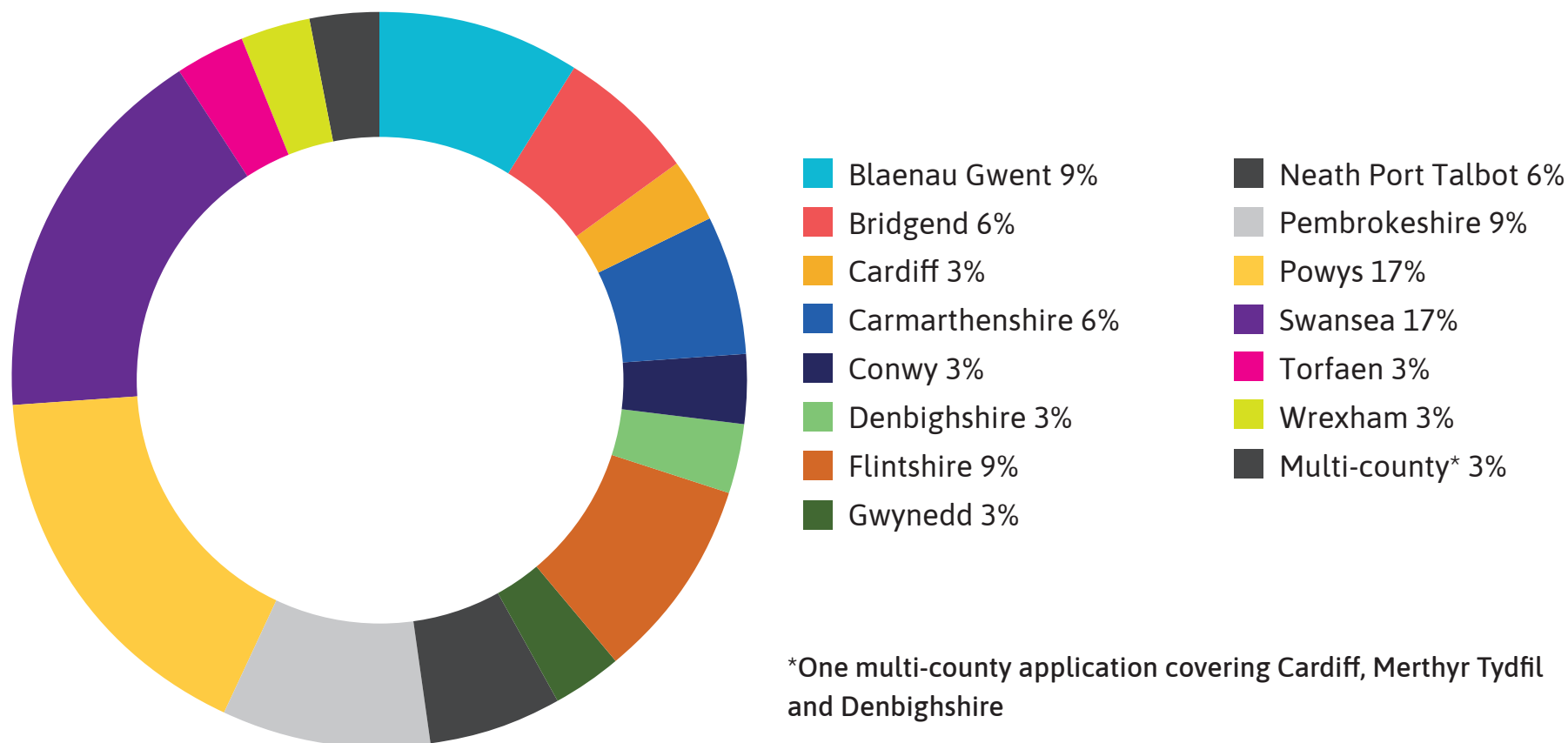


LDTCS 2022/23 theme contributions - Successful applications

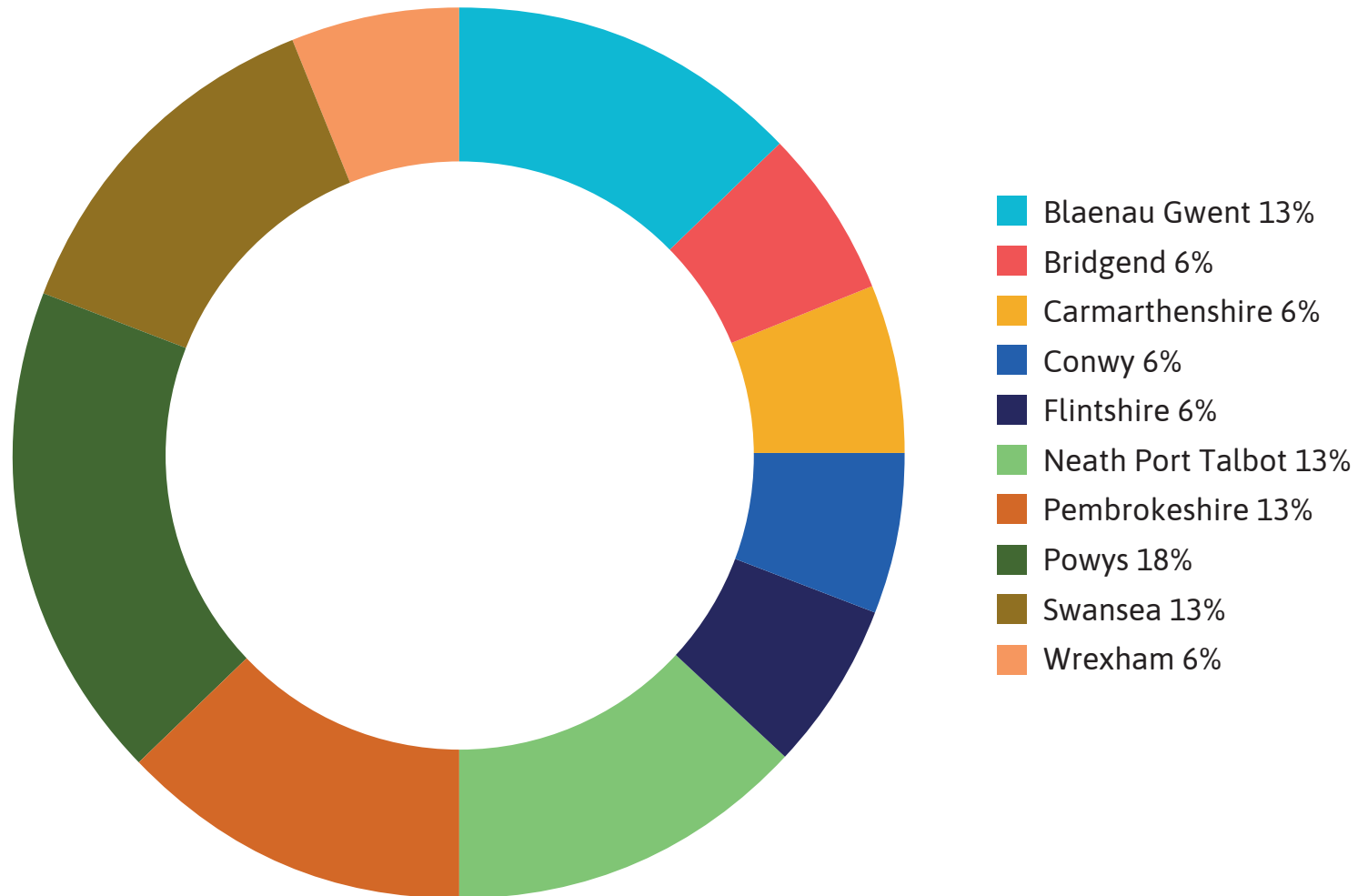


Geographical area for applications made to LDTCS 2022/23

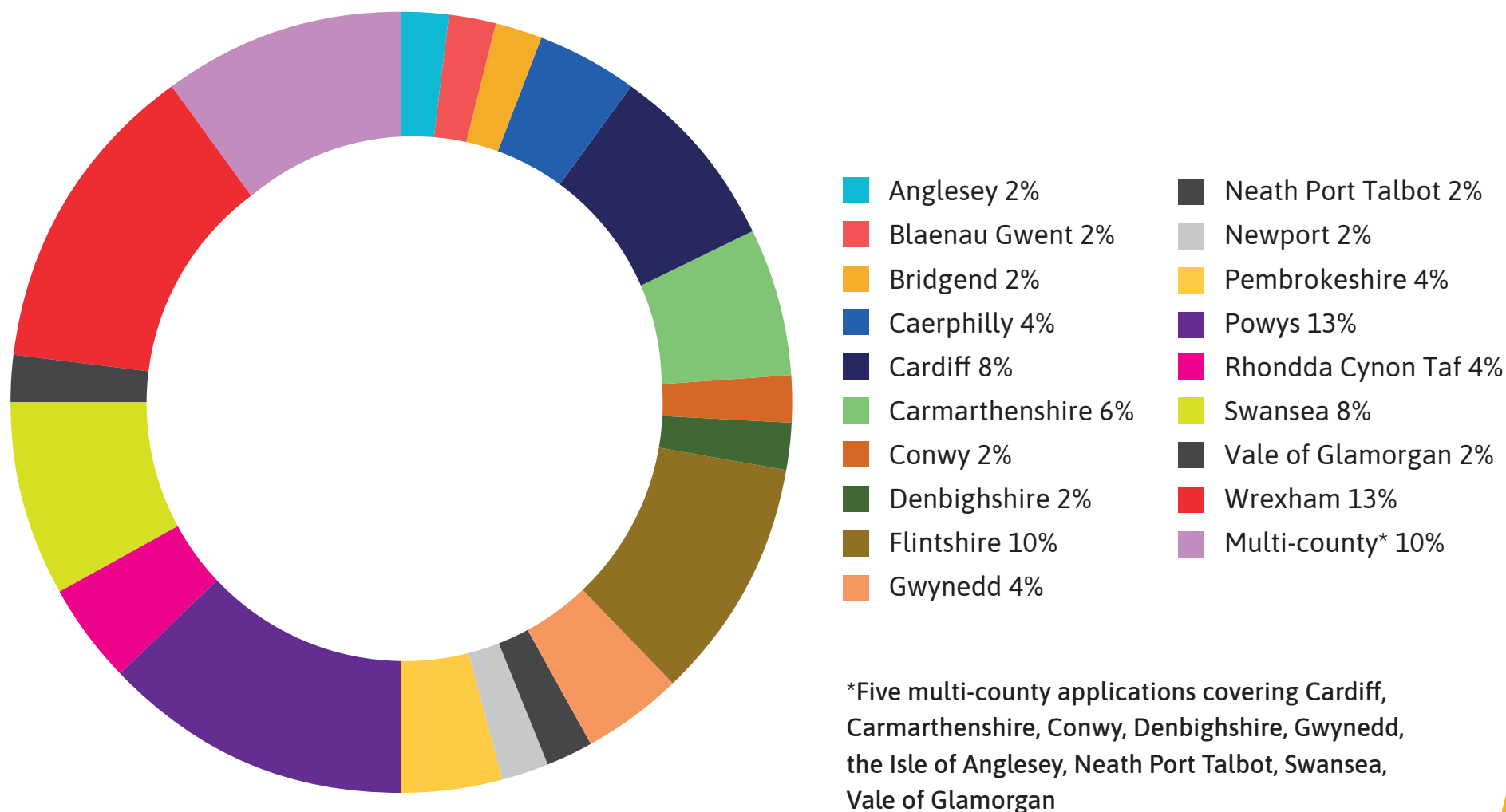
Round 8 main grants geographical areas for all applicants



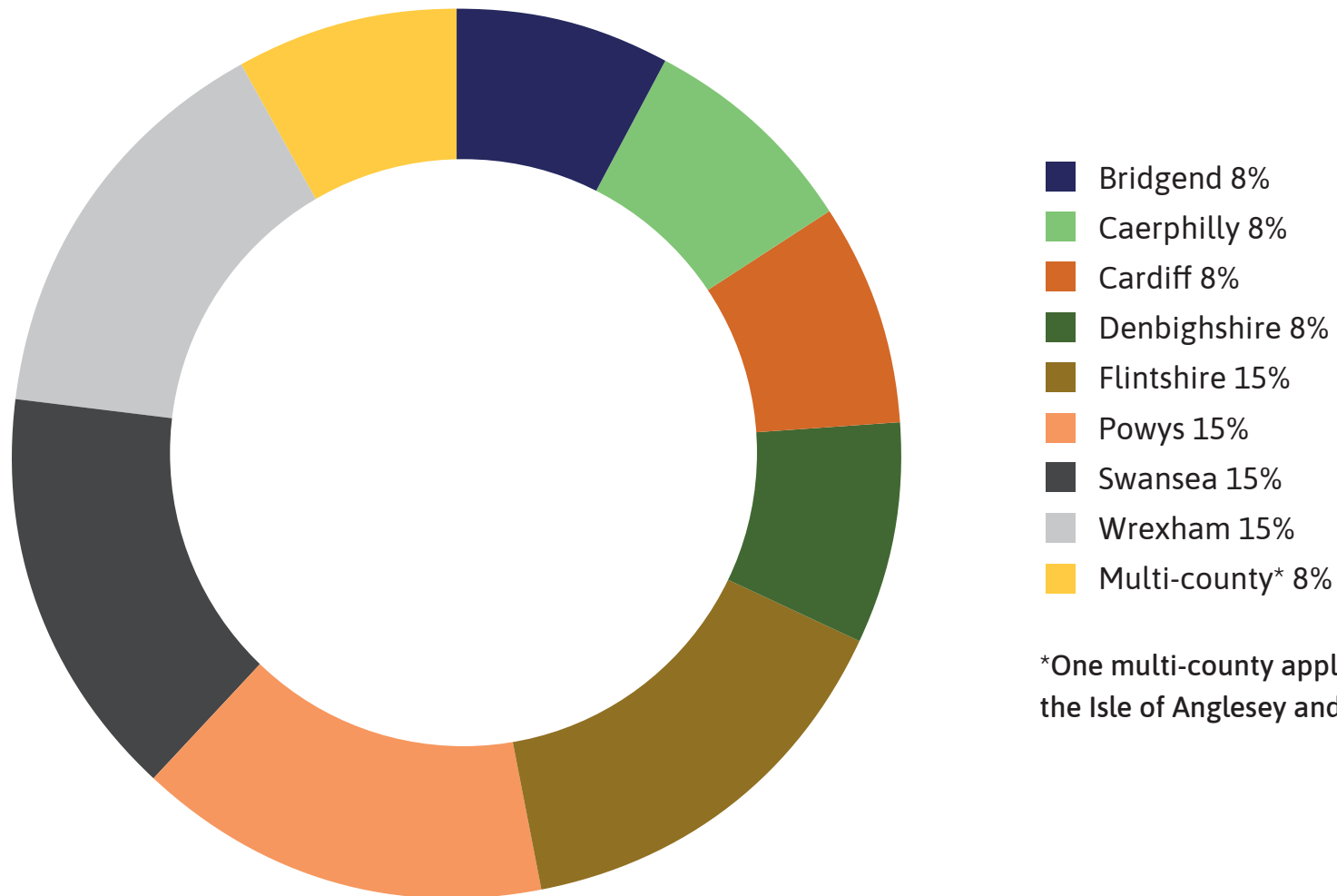
Round 8 main grants geographical areas for successful applicants



Round 9 main grants geographical areas for all applicants

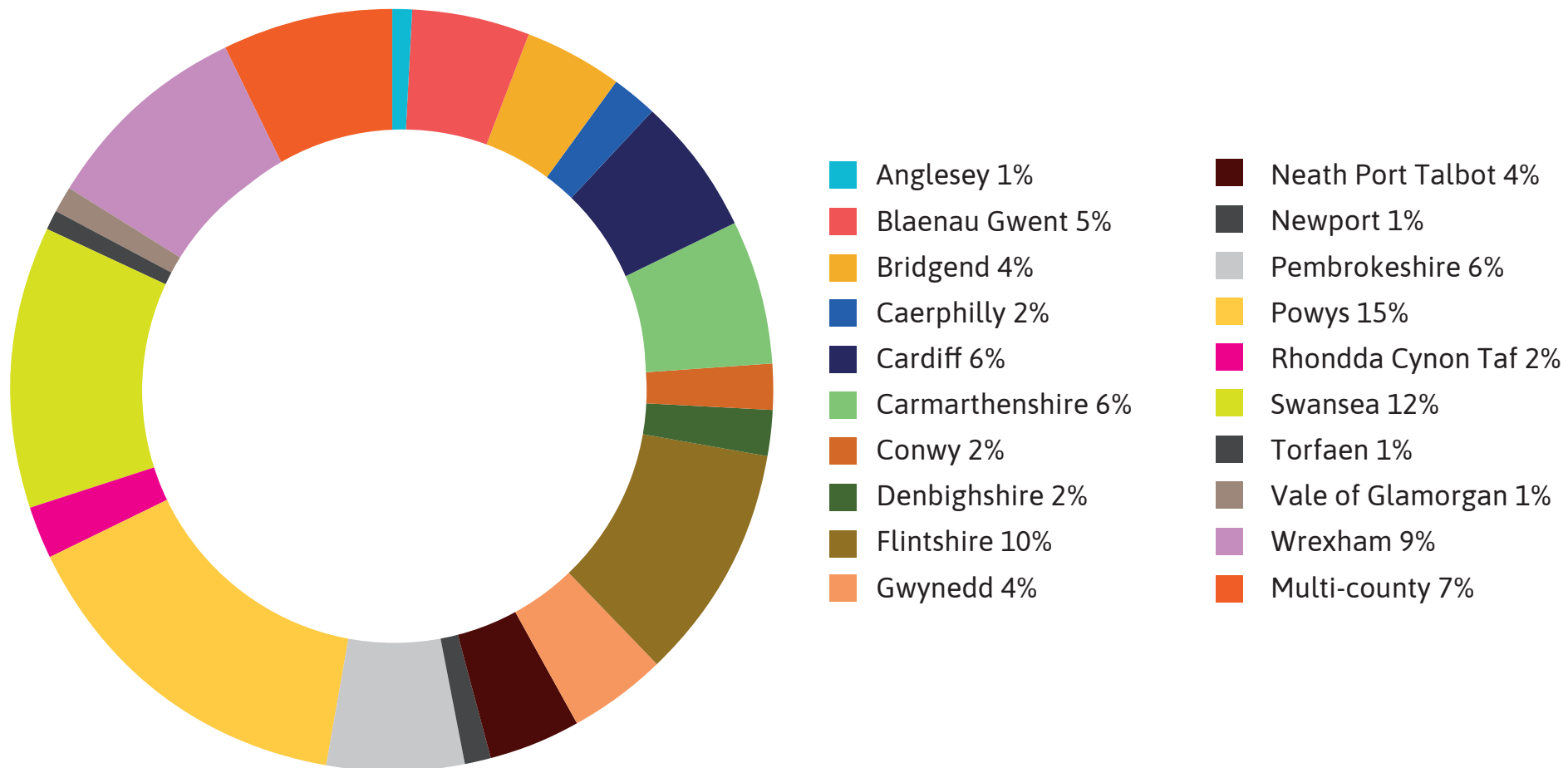


Round 9 main grants geographical areas for successful applicants

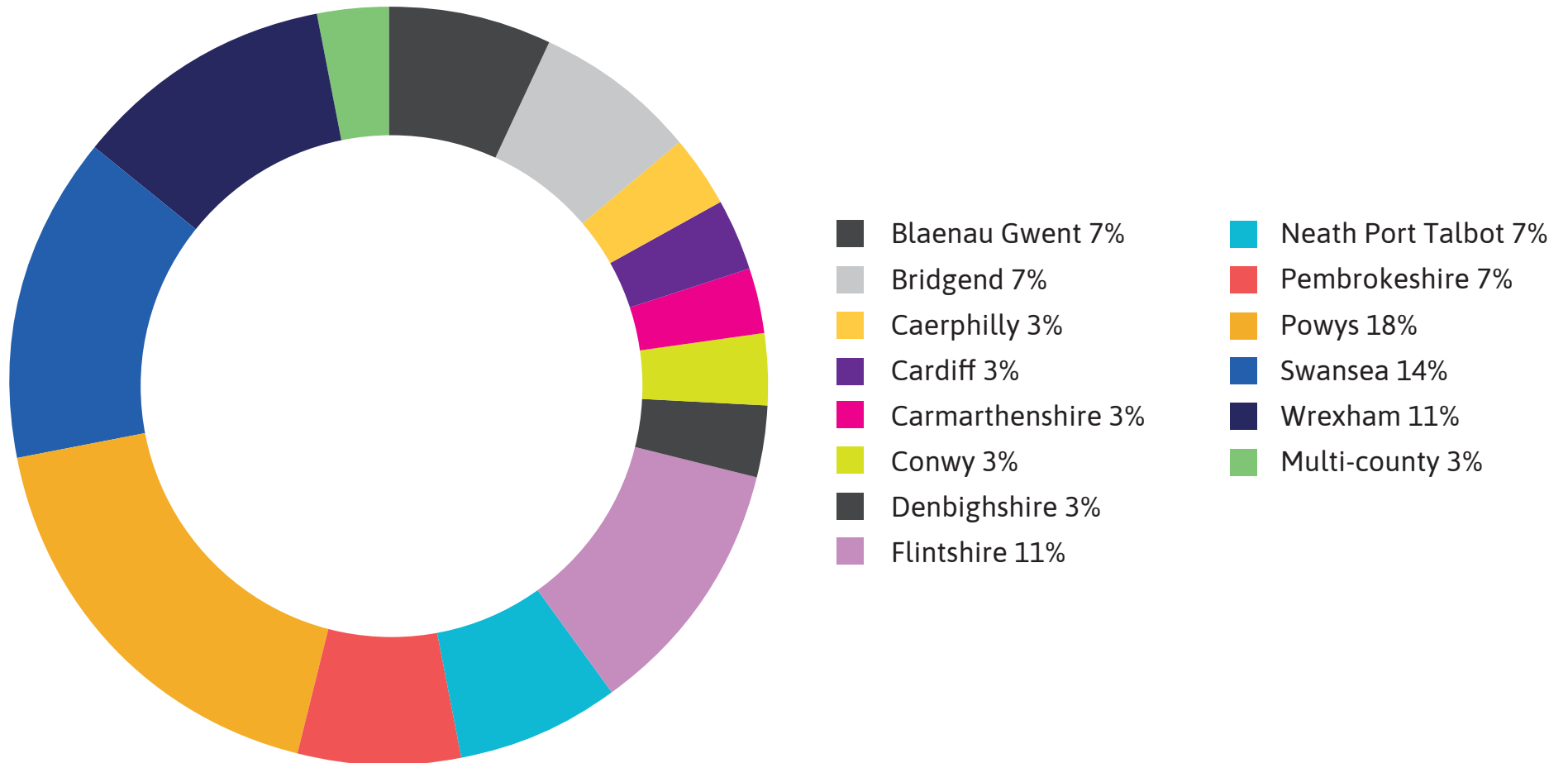


*One multi-county application covering the Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd

Geographical area for all applicants 2022/23



Geographical area for all successful applicants 2022/23



Highlights of the achievements of projects completed in 2022/23

Ace - Action in Caerau & Ely

The ACE Bentyg project runs a community-based loan service for household items in west Cardiff. The project has received donations of 379 items and it has lent 318 items from camping equipment to household tools and cooking appliances during the funding period. More than 1,800 community members engaged with the project over the two years through various community events, consultations and a community café. The project has been delivered by a team of six volunteers and it has been supported by volunteers from other ACE projects.

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust

The project aimed to enable volunteers across Wales to survey and monitor amphibian and reptile species, and their habitats, near landfill sites. The project established the basis for consistent, annual data collection on these species, which will help inform an evidence-based approach to conservation. A total of 28 sites were surveyed, 15 in North Wales and 13 in South Wales. The project engaged and informed over 100 people. Volunteers were upskilled in carrying out surveys, and 11 volunteers gained accreditation on ARC's organisational licence.

Arts Connection - Cyswllt Celf

The Adventures in Nature project supported the conservation of local biodiversity in the Welshpool area. The project delivered over 60 events and training sessions, exhibition sessions and creative outdoor and forest school sessions with two local primary schools and the local community, engaging more than 400 people. The project improved the children's understanding of local biodiversity and it increased their responsibility and respect for nature. 69% of the children said it helped them think about nature differently.

Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community

The project transformed a neglected area into a safe, green space for the community to enjoy. The garden provides shelter to wildlife, insects and birds through nesting boxes, bug hotels and ground cover plants which support biodiversity. The garden was part of Caerphilly's gold winning entry to the Wales in Bloom competition, and it was also presented with a silver birch tree in commemoration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The gardening volunteers' hard work was recognised by GAVO as they received the Environmental Volunteers of 2022 award. The garden attracted over 2,100 visitors during the project.

Cefn Community Council

With the help of the funding the Council repaired the damaged roof of the George Edwards Hall and installed new energy efficient windows and doors, thereby reducing the carbon footprint and energy usage of the hall. Thanks to these improvements, the hall now hosts activities five nights a week, including the youth club, dance club, line dancing and Slimming World. The hall also offers a warm place and refreshments for those in the community who can't afford to heat their homes.

City to Sea

The Refill Cardiff Expansion project successfully promoted refill and re-use as a viable alternative to single-use products, to help reduce plastic waste in Cardiff. The project encouraged local businesses to sign up as refill stations – the number of these stations in Cardiff increased by 78 since the start of the project, reaching a total of 294. The project was also successful in achieving a nearly 50% increase in the number of people using the Refill app, which enables local residents to find and access the places in Cardiff where refill is available. An extensive survey of over 1,000 people highlighted that 86% of the respondents have reduced the amount of plastic they use by using the Refill app.

Drive

The project re-trained staff and made improvements to the Eco Autism Specialist project site, to provide warm, economically efficient spaces and specialist outdoor experiences for people with autism. The building works improved energy efficiency and reduced demand from the electricity grid. The organisation estimates that each year they will be able to reduce their usage from 6,000kw/year to approximately 1,200kw/year, resulting in their energy costs dropping from £2,500 to £750 annually. The project engaged with 29 people.

Enbarr Foundation CIC

Enbarr Foundation CIC delivered a range of activities at their historic Steelworks site and surrounding gardens. The project engaged with over 1,500 volunteers from 12 different communities. The LDTCS funding formed part of a larger package of grant and unrestricted funding and, as such, a wider impact for the project was made possible. Seven separate areas on and around the site were cleared and replanted to manage non-native species. A further four areas were deforested to allow native trees the freedom to flourish again, and a new orchard was planted. The project established a natural sustainable drainage system to promote green spaces and aid with the water mitigation, and utilised both gutter and water storage facilities to be used for the wider plantation and woodland conservation.

Flintshire Refurbs – Do, Mend and Make in Buckley

The project developed and delivered repair café activities at a new facility in Buckley, engaging over 650 people. Various workshops were delivered on a range of subjects including upcycling jewellery and furniture, avoiding food waste, repairing electrical equipment, sewing and gardening. The sessions helped people to save items from landfill, save money, and get creative with household items. Through the nine repair sessions the organisation diverted 54kg of waste from landfill. The project increased community cohesion and awareness of recycling and repairing, and the activities will continue beyond the end of the project.

Flintshire Refurbs – Up-Cycle

The Up-Cycle project helped members of the community access affordable bikes and learn about bike repairs, while rescuing bicycles destined for landfill. The project received 591 donated bikes; 364 of these were recycled for parts or art, and 170 bikes were re-sold through the project. Despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic, the project delivered 22 sessions in the community, including art workshops, bike maintenance workshops and demonstrations. These sessions were supported by 38 regular volunteers, who gained repair skills and five of them received accredited first aid training.

Foothold Cymru

The project created a Zero Waste Community Hub which delivers a range of services including a Scrap Store, a Community Repaint Store, a Repair Café, bicycle workshops, a volunteer programme and further community consultation and awareness raising events. Through these sessions 597 people engaged with the project and it provided volunteer opportunities for 13 people. As a result of the project 7.3 tonnes of waste was diverted from landfill and families were able to save on average £379 on costs per household over the lifetime of the project.

Friends of Coed Gwilym Park

The project was part-funded by the LDTCS grant and it enabled the construction of a new Community Club House in Coed Gwilym Park. The Club House provides a space for members of the community where they can come together, have a chat, and take part in a range of activities, such as the photography club, the book club, the gardening club, or yoga sessions. The building also hosts a volunteer-run café. The facility was used by around 600 people, including volunteers, during the project. To improve conditions for native species, 20m² of wild meadow flowers were planted in the park. Three composting bins were purchased to reduce food waste.

Groundwork Wales – Nant-yr-Aber River Clean Up

The Nant-yr-Aber River Clean Up project aimed to educate and involve volunteers on the impact of rubbish on the health of the river. 69 volunteers took part in the 12 river clean-up sessions, totalling 328 volunteer hours. They removed 455 bags of rubbish and approximately 4.2 tonnes of bulky items from the river and riverbanks. The project also organised ten school sessions that were attended by 409 children.

Groundwork Wales – Aberbeeg Greenspaces

The project cleared the Aberbeeg Community Woodland area of all diseased and over-populated species, making it a welcoming place for the community to use for meetings, outdoor activities, food growing and walks. The woodland has attracted 210 visitors during the project and it hosts the weekly park run group involving over 60 people and 22 volunteers. Thanks to the project 300 hornbeam trees were planted to help attract birds. 22 mature fruit trees and 3,100 herbs were planted for the local community to harvest and enjoy.

Incredible Edible Porthmadog

The Ysgol Eifion Wyn Educational Garden project enabled children from the local school to attend regular gardening sessions where they collaboratively created a community garden and learnt about growing healthy food using sustainable methods. Five raised beds and two large boat planters were installed, giving home to a wide selection of vegetables, herbs and flowers. The school kitchen waste is composted for soil for the garden by teams of children. The group's Hwb project earned a Green Flag Community Award and the 2021 Transformation Prize, and it was shortlisted for the National Environmental Awards.

Lee Gardens Pool Committee

Lee Gardens Pool offers activities and services to the community, such as the children's outdoor swimming pool and drop-in sessions, training sessions and after-school art. The LDTCS grant awarded to the group enabled the completion of a large scale project, by covering some unforeseen costs. As a result, a brand new community building has been established, with a disabled toilet facility and a swimming pool with disabled access. Solar panels were installed on the roof of the building to generate renewable energy. Through the weekly tabletop sales the organisation actively encouraged the re-use and recycle of clothes, toys and household items.

Llangattock Community Council

The funding supported the construction of an accessible pathway around Llangattock Recreation Ground, a much-loved green open space at the heart of the community. Through the collective action of the local volunteers, young and old, the area is now open and accessible for all to enjoy. The park now has two wildflower meadows and a community orchard, and it also hosts the gardening projects of the newly formed Llangattock Gardening Club. The new pathway created an inside area in the park which is mown and rolled for recreation, while the outside area is grown for biodiversity. A composting heap has been created to recycle grass cuttings and leaves.

Menter Môn

The Afonydd Menai project supported the protection of the water vole, a native species on Anglesey, which is the fastest declining mammal in Britain. The project was monitoring 19 river catchments spanning across 21 communities in Anglesey and North Gwynedd. Afonydd Menai encouraged locals to get involved in guided walks and talks, litter picking, river biodiversity survey days, habitat restoration and mink management.

National Botanic Garden of Wales

The project has improved management of 20 hectares of purple moor grass and rush pasture and 16 hectares of lowland meadows. The Garden restored a significant area of its estate, making it more accessible to the public. The funding has also enabled the Garden to interpret and demonstrate its organic farm operation for the benefit and enjoyment of more than 160,000 visitors annually.

North Wales Wildlife Trust

The grant funded a series of management interventions which created greater species diversity and improved structural diversity across a range of habitats at Eithinog Nature Reserve. A team of 62 local volunteers were involved in the habitat management that took place over 10 hectares of grassland, and their contribution remains essential to maintaining this work. The legacy of the project is far reaching and the work at Eithinog continues through funding from Natural Resources Wales.

Oasis Cardiff

Thanks to the funding Oasis was able to improve the heating and water system of their community building, making it more energy efficient, and they installed an accessible wet room facility. The renovation works will help Oasis to provide a more comprehensive level of support with the new washrooms and disabled toilets, ensuring their services are accessible and cater for homeless refugees and asylum seekers by providing a comfortable, welcoming space. Around 8,400 people used the facilities during the project.

Play Radnor

The grant enabled Play Radnor to enlarge and enhance its community building and outdoor space, to better fit the needs of the local community. Thanks to the new facilities, such as the new extension, a kitchen, the outdoor classroom and the community growing areas, the organisation can offer more play, recreation and leisure opportunities for young people and their families. The project increased the sustainability and energy efficiency of the building, and through the creation of the outdoor area it improved conditions for native species and pollinators. The project estimated a £500 cost saving thanks to the use of energy efficient lighting and double glazed windows and doors. The organisation engaged with 450 people during the project and reported an increased number of people using the outdoor space as a result of the improvements made.

Radiate Arts CIC

The Pedal Pals project created a new Re-Cycle Hub where push-bikes will be upcycled into e-bikes. The project also facilitated participant-led and community-based bike maintenance and enhancement workshops, and organised wellbeing group ride-outs and further group activities on re-cycling, food waste reduction, composting and healthy cooking. The project worked in collaboration with a number of organisations to provide various physical and well-being activities to the local community.

Zero Carbon Llanidloes

The Making Welsh Hay project engaged 24 meadow sites, creating an invaluable matrix of habitat for birds, insects, mammals and plants. The project has focused on bringing some of the more isolated local communities together in planning the Meadows of the Past events, which provided an opportunity for over 2,000 people to connect, share knowledge and experience, and to build more resilient wildlife networks. The project also engaged 60 pupils from the local junior school, who learnt about the benefits of meadows and the greater biodiversity they bring.



Case study

Buglife Wales

THE NEWPORT POLLINATOR PROJECT USED LDTCS FUNDING TO GET THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANTING POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PLANTS AND FLOWERS, INCREASING THE VALUE OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES FOR NATURE AND IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF LOCAL PEOPLE.

In 2020 Buglife, an organisation devoted to the conservation of invertebrate species, launched B-Lines, a network of 'insect pathways', to help enhance pollinator conservation throughout Wales and the UK.

As part of this network Buglife worked with Newport City Council to identify four sites in the area suffering from fly tipping or undermanaged grasslands and low recreational use. A community consultation held on Facebook highlighted the negative local perception of these places, and a desire from the community to change

things for the better. 'We need to develop this area into something we can all be proud of and enjoy' one of the respondents said in a call to action.

The Newport Pollinator project received £19,452.25 through round six of the LDTCS to deliver a programme of activities and workshops across the four sites, including art workshops, wellbeing walks, pollinator walks, photography workshops, field identification days and gardening sessions. They have engaged nearly 800 people from a diverse range of local groups, some of them living in deprivation and

◀ **Left:** Entrance to the Road to Nature, painted by Growing Space volunteers

struggling with physical or mental health problems, which limit their access to green spaces.

One of the sites the project was focusing on was the recently reclaimed 'Road to Nature'. Buglife worked with the Friends of the Road to Nature group to organise 19 community based biodiversity and wellbeing events, involving over 200 people.

These activities have transformed the area, restoring 1.2 hectares of pollinator habitat, resulting in better access to the site's walking trails. Over 300 species have also been recorded on site as part of the biodiversity events. The project has ensured the legacy of the site by providing the Friends of the Road to Nature group with tools, training, and habitat management advice to manage the grassland and monitor changes in biodiversity into the future.

The project culminated in an art exhibition at the Riverfront Art Gallery, featuring photography, poetry, art and musical performances from volunteers, local community members and organisations involved in the project.

Some of the artwork even incorporated pieces of fly-tipped rubbish which, as well as raising the profile of the project, also provided an opportunity for those involved to reflect on the positive changes achieved and to find pride in their work.



Fly-tipped waste found at the Road to Nature, repurposed to form a centre display piece at an art exhibition. Photo by © Tom Maloney

Right: The 'Road to Nature' fly-tipping ground before the project ►





Incredible Edible Porthmadog

THE YSGOL EIFION WYN EDUCATIONAL GARDEN PROJECT TEACHES GOOD PRACTICE IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOOD GARDENING AND PROVIDES AN INSPIRING MODEL FOR OTHER COMMUNITIES IN WALES.

Incredible Edible Porthmadog has been working in the local community since 2016 to grow local and healthy food in open spaces, involving the local residents in planting, growing, and maintaining the gardens. The organisation is not new to the LDTCS, they received funding from a previous round of the scheme to transform an underused space near the local leisure centre into a haven for biodiversity. The planting sessions became very popular amongst the children of the local primary school, which sparked the idea for the Ysgol Eifion Wyn Educational Garden project.

The teaching staff had been planning to revitalise the garden near the school playground in recent years, but due to lack of time and resources this wasn't possible. With the help of the LDTCS

grant, Incredible Edible Porthmadog worked with the school to transform this green space into an educational garden where the children can learn in a playful way about sustainable food growing, biodiversity and waste reuse.

The project was run by a group of dedicated volunteers, with the help of a part-time project manager. The volunteers were running weekly afternoon sessions for the children in the school garden, teaching them about planting fruits, vegetables and bulbs, landscaping, composting and harvesting. The school kitchen waste is composted for soil for the garden by teams of children in years 4-6. At the end of the term year 6 students celebrate their progress with an afternoon of fun, harvesting and cooking.

◀ **Left:** Sunflowers planted by reception class students

Thanks to the work of everyone involved in the project, the garden is truly transformed: five raised beds and two large boat planters were installed, giving home to a wide selection of vegetables, herbs and flowers. The garden also has a 'Rubber Mountain', which is a mound for planting and climbing, made with old car tyres and waste materials. The six new benches around the site provide a space to sit and enjoy the new garden, that is always open to the community. The locals are welcome to take the food produced in the garden and are encouraged to take part in the planting activities.

The project was well-received by the children and the parents, but the wider community of Porthmadog was also very supportive. As one of the locals said, 'I think these changes have been extremely positive, not just for wildlife and soil regeneration but also for the skills and knowledge that is being learned by the children, teachers and parents in creating such a space.'

In addition to the positive feedback from the locals, the success of the Ysgol Eifion Wyn Educational Garden had wider recognition as well: the group's Hwb project won the 2021 Transformation Prize, an innovation award for projects that encourage social cohesion and care for the environment. It was also shortlisted for the 'Carbon Zero Efficient Building' category of the National Environmental Awards.

Right: The food produced in the garden is available to the community for free ►





Play Radnor

THANKS TO LDTCS FUNDING, YOUNG PEOPLE IN RADNORSHIRE HAVE ACCESS TO NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND A WIDER RANGE OF RECREATION AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES.

Play Radnor is a charity based in Powys, that provides quality play and recreational opportunities for children and young people in the area. Their outreach projects engage some of the most isolated families in the county.

The organisation received £49,999 from the third round of the LDTCS to extend its community space, the Play Hub, making it more sustainable and accessible for everyone. Before the project, the outside space of the hub had not been used for many years, it was largely overgrown and unsafe for children. The building itself used to be a church, and whilst the main hall was great for larger groups, the other spaces were too small and unsuitable for hosting group activities.

Taking on board the feedback from users of the hub, Play Radnor set out their plans to build the new extension. Unfortunately, not long after the project started, COVID-19 struck, which caused significant disruptions for the organisation. Lockdown forced the hub to close and the building work was put on hold. Even when restrictions were lifted, it was vital that the organisation have a usable outdoor space and more flexible indoor facilities which allowed for social distancing.

Despite the various challenges and delays, the new extension and the outside space were launched in July 2022. Thanks to the funding, Play Radnor now has a new office space, additional storage spaces, a changing

◀ **Left:** Various community groups use the new community kitchen for their projects

room and a new community kitchen – the only one in the local area. The extension was built with the environment in mind, using energy-saving products such as motion sensor lighting.

The outdoor area of the hub was transformed into a welcoming green space where people can play, come together and relax. Children and adults of all ages are welcome to take part in planting sessions and grow fruits, vegetables and flowers in the new multi-level raised beds. To help attract wildlife, pollinator friendly plants were chosen and bird boxes and feeders were installed.

The local community watched the project develop with excitement. Following the lockdown restrictions, people were eager to do things in person again, and the new facilities offer a wider range of activities that promote physical and mental well-being. One of the volunteers on the project, whose children also attend numerous activities in the hub, said 'it's been a long time coming! But Play Radnor's new space looks amazing. It is vital to have this open, and a kitchen for families to share cooking skills and good food habits - what with the living crisis and fuel costs, this could be a building block for community cooking, as well as offering a space to be social and stay warm. Well done to the whole team on helping to bring our young families together.'

Right: Multi-level raised beds were installed which the locals are encouraged to use for planting ►



Round 8 grant awards 2022/23

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Black Mountains College	Biodiversity	Powys	With the engagement of the local community, Black Mountains College will improve the biodiversity of a significant area of upland farm and in the process bring wider community benefit through improving quality of place.	£30,893.00
Canolfan Maerdy	Wider environmental enhancement	Neath Port Talbot	A Community Garden Development Worker will support volunteers of all ages to develop three neglected areas of land for community benefit; growing vegetables and fruit, landscaping with bee-friendly flowers, providing seating, training, enhancing play areas and developing community composting. Produce will support our Food Co-operative and encourage affordable healthy eating.	£49,977.96
Carmarthen Youth Project	Wider environmental enhancement	Carmarthenshire	The Green Experience at Dr Mz will provide a garden space to offer both voluntary/paid work experience in food growing and youth work skills for young people aged 16-25 as well as opportunities for those aged 7-16 to learn about food growing, biodiversity and improving their mental health and well-being.	£45,851.93
Coeden Fach Community Tree Nursery	Biodiversity	Swansea	We will collect seeds locally from native species of trees and grow into saplings to be planted in/around Swansea. Working with volunteers and in partnership with other community organisations, we will plant trees in community areas to enhance green spaces, add to biodiversity and support wildlife corridors across Swansea.	£31,403.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Cornelly Development Trust	Waste minimisation	Bridgend	Refurbishing and Repurposing items in order to reduce the amount sent to landfill, coupled with a series of awareness campaigns that encourage and enable the wider community to make do and mend rather than dispose. Helping to protect the environment and the money in your pocket.	£20,898.00
FareShare Cymru	Waste minimisation	Pembrokeshire	FareShare Cymru fights hunger by tackling food waste. We take surplus food from the food industry and redistribute this to organisations that use it to help feed vulnerable people in their communities. This project expands our service into Pembrokeshire, setting up a collection point and supporting five local organisations.	£15,839.85
Glangrwyney Village Hall	Wider environmental enhancement	Powys	We will collect seeds locally from native species of trees and grow into saplings to be planted in/around Swansea. Working with volunteers and in partnership with other community organisations, we will plant trees in community areas to enhance green spaces, add to biodiversity and support wildlife corridors across Swansea.	£39,446.86
Groundwork North Wales	Biodiversity	Wrexham	We'll work with community volunteers to bring about environmental improvements to the site, also carry out some desirable infrastructure works (including designing a bog garden). We'll showcase this work with a programme of environmental-themed visits for schoolchildren during term-time, and for families at weekends and holidays.	£42,525.72

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Gwent Wildlife Trust Limited	Biodiversity	Blaenau Gwent	This biodiversity-themed project seeks to enhance an existing community green space, a former waste site, at Gwent Wildlife Trust's Silent Valley nature reserve. We will create new pollinator habitats in and around this area and re-engage local communities by improving accessibility, facilities and the interpretative experience for visitors.	£49,842.00
Mount Elim Evangelical Church	Wider environmental enhancement	Neath Port Talbot	Build a new community church facility meeting all requirements for health, safety, hygiene and access, to enable the expansion of activities offering debt support, food bank, toddlers, children's clubs, support for vulnerable women and men, lunches for elderly/lonely, primary school events, talks, concerts, exhibitions, health and training opportunities.	£30,000.00
Pembrokeshire FRAME	Waste minimisation	Pembrokeshire	A journey of textile exploration, discovery and transformation, raising awareness about sustainability and issues caused by fast fashion. A pilot project sharing ethical behaviours, tips for environmental protection and making clothes longer, launch of a fashion label, repair/reuse workshops, collaboration, community support and steps towards a circular economy.	£43,232.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
St Giles Trust	Waste minimisation	Conwy	Pantri CYMRU – Colwyn Bay Social Supermarket: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Ending food dependency in lower income families – Providing a sustainable root out of food poverty & reducing food waste in Wales.	£48,880.00
Tillery Action For You Ltd	Biodiversity	Blaenau Gwent	Our project is all about increasing biodiversity within Blaenau Gwent through enhancements and management of nature reserves, community green spaces and wildflower meadows whilst delivering training, skills and qualifications with volunteers. Our project will also expand access to these spaces and provide for community engagement through Biodiversity activities including wildflower seeding.	£47,500.00
Welshpool Town Council	Biodiversity	Powys	We will replace the existing 150mx4m and 100mx3.5m 50+ year old Leylandii hedge with 2.4m fencing where needed, native fruit trees - apple, pear, plum and climbers eg honeysuckle, clematis. Planting by volunteers, all produce available for the whole community. The area is open to all.	£49,999.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Wild Ground	Biodiversity	Flintshire	The project will focus on the wellbeing of both woodlands and of their local communities. It will connect communities with woodlands in Buckley, Alltami and Broughton (Flintshire) through volunteering opportunities for all sectors of the community focusing on woodland management and creation, as well as education and wellbeing events.	£40,901.59
Ymddiriedolaeth Penllergare	Biodiversity	Swansea	Water Vole populations have been in dramatic decline across the UK. With Penllergare having evidence of a recent population, the Trust plans to make habitat improvements to encourage a revival in population numbers and to be a potential site for reintroduction in the future.	£36,075.24

Round 9 grant awards 2022/23

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Clubhouse	Wider environmental enhancement	Flintshire	Our aim is to create an inclusive garden oasis of wildlife in the middle of an area of social and economic deprivation. Making our community garden inviting, attractive with education opportunities, learning and living better lives, improving social cohesion and most importantly through these project changes accessible to all.	£43,539.50
Cwmtwrch RFC	Biodiversity	Powys	Following engagement with our local community, Cwmtwrch RFC have identified the need to improve the sustainability, usability and diversity of our Community Hub. Our Community Warm Space Project will address these issues by installing solar PV panels, a Tesla Powerwall and planting a hawthorn hedgerow.	£29,069.20
Gresford Community Council	Biodiversity	Wrexham	This is a volunteer-led scheme to restore biodiversity to Gresford Lake, raising awareness of environmental concerns by encouraging residents and community groups to work together to remove invasive species by introducing native flora and fauna to establish resilient habitats that will strengthen the existing nature recovery corridor.	£48,145.30

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Llais y Goedwig	Wider environmental enhancement	Bridgend	We're developing a Community Tree Nursery on a disused area of Bedford Park Local Nature Reserve, Cefn Cribwr Bridgend – producing local provenance trees to supply the woodlands of our future whilst providing training, enhanced life skills and health & wellbeing benefits for local volunteers, community and special interest groups.	£46,930.00
Llay Community Church of the Nazarene	Wider environmental enhancement	Wrexham	The organisation has 60 years of experience working within the community supporting regular groups such as Flying Start and Coleg Cambria and the organisation facilitates many free of charge sessions, such as a youth club, parents and tots group, after school club, lunch clubs, movie nights, toy and clothes swaps to name a few. The grant is requested to carry out urgent maintenance to ensure they can continue supporting the community.	£8,700.00
North Wales Women's Centre Ltd	Wider environmental enhancement	Denbighshire	North Wales Women's Centre provides a safe space for women to access information, one to one support, advocacy and training on issues relating to health, wellbeing and work. This project will ensure we can provide a comfortable environment whilst reducing energy costs and our impact on the environment.	£46,907.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Platform For Change	Biodiversity	Cardiff	We will develop an allotment space in Cardiff for people with dementia and the local community. Volunteers will create bee-friendly habitats, growing native plants and vegetables. We will deliver horticultural therapy sessions/activities for people living with dementia/carers, as well as training volunteers and promoting the benefits of nature for wellbeing.	£49,996.00
Refurbs Flintshire	Waste minimisation	Flintshire	Our project will reduce food waste through running: educational community sessions on how to make use of surplus food and the differences between best-before/use-by, awareness-raising campaigns, and community food drives to collect unwanted store cupboard essentials for our community fridge which would otherwise go to waste.	£49,884.26
RSPCA Llys Nini	Wider environmental enhancement	Swansea	To install a solar energy supply to make our building financially and environmentally sustainable and useable throughout the year. The building is central to our community well-being activities, reducing loneliness and low self-esteem, (particularly in people with hidden disabilities), improving local biodiversity, environmental awareness and reducing waste.	£45,000.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Ruperra Conservation Trust	Biodiversity	Caerphilly	With 175 acres of recovering native woodland to manage, Ruperra Conservation Trust needs to fund work on Coed y Goitre including eradicating invasive rhododendron, creating a new pond for our great crested newts and replanting the cleared areas with native hedges and trees to benefit pollinators and dormice.	£23,200.00
Sea Watch Foundation	Biodiversity	Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd	‘Er Llesiant ein Môr’ aims to re-establish biodiverse and thriving marine habitats in SW Anglesey and Caernarfon Bay by engaging local communities, developing the evidence base through participatory research, enabling the capacity building of groups and individuals to lead to the establishment of a model community based marine management approach.	£49,615.00
Swansea Canal	Biodiversity	Swansea	An infilled canal through a derelict brownfield site is being regenerated as a community base for watersports. Volunteers will plant native trees and pollinators on excavated material reused on site. This ‘Green Way’ will provide a wildlife corridor between two stretches of Swansea Canal with a recognised value for biodiversity.	£49,999.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Wilderness Trust	Biodiversity	Powys	The rehabilitation of a range of old workshops and storage spaces for conversion to community workshops in metal and woodworking, growing and food processing.	£49,999.00
Cyfoeth Natriol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales	Biodiversity, wider environmental enhancement	Wrexham, Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Newport, Anglesey, Bridgend	Comprising seven distinct conservation and community engagement activities, and a national digital communications campaign, Nature Together will tackle some of the most urgent conservation crises in Wales and reconnect people to nature, recognising Wales' position as guardian of habitats and species at serious risk of extinction.	£250,000.00

Achievements of LDTCS projects finalised in 2022/23

General KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of followers gained on social media	37,280
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions saved (tonnes)	37
Income generated (£)	8,850.03
Number of jobs created	18
Number of jobs safeguarded	7
Number of communities benefiting from LDTCS funding	149
Number of people engaged and informed (including volunteers and community members)	95,510
Project cost savings (£)	0
Number of talks/presentations/engagement events held	1,286
Number of training or work experience opportunities offered	23
Number of visitors attracted	2,210

Biodiversity KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity	243
Number of engagement events	18
Number of hedgerows planted or managed	3
Number of initiatives to improve conditions to help native species, pollinators and provide opportunities for new planting	170
Number of invasive non-native species managed	27
Number of landscape or catchment managed	1
Number of native trees planted	106
Number of pollinator-friendly planting created as part of a broader habitat management programme	42
Number of records/monitoring data shared	1
Number of initiatives to restore, maintain and enhance natural habitats	28
Number of initiatives to target S7 species	1
Number of initiatives to create, manage or enhance S7 specialist habitat	4
Number of woodland managed	14

Waste minimisation KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to encourage prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	163
Number of initiatives to engage and support understanding to enable waste to be seen as a resource	136
Income generated (£)	24,657.68
Number of people helped (including contribution to alleviation of food or material poverty if appropriate to measure)	2,074
Number of initiatives to reduce food waste and support initiatives such as composting	53
Tonnage diverted from landfill (tonnes)	310.054
Tonnage recycled (tonnes)	5
Tonnage reduced (tonnes)	4
Tonnage re-used (tonnes)	2

Wider environmental KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Area or km of path/verges/ coastline cleaned	10
Number of bags of waste collected	161
Number of initiatives to bring neglected and run-down areas back into community use	22
Number of community growing areas created	2
Number of initiatives to create and enhance community water and green spaces and supporting green infrastructure	54
Number of cycle or walk ways created	0
Number of facilities updated with nature-friendly alternatives	20
Number of Green Flag Award received	2
Number of green roof or green walls created	2
Number of green spaces created or enhanced	6
Number of groups or people using new facilities	2,004
Number of heritage features conserved or enhanced	2,500
Number of invasive non-native species managed	3

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to maintain or improve community facilities, for example community halls	269
Number of native trees planted	7
Number of play / meeting/ outdoor classroom /created	460
Number of pollinator friendly areas created	6
Number of ponds and water courses managed and enhanced	450
Number of renewable energy measures installed	511
Number of efficiency measures installed	11
Number of projects supporting social prescribing to tackle isolation and wider issues	9

Achievements of projects operational in 2022/23, but not yet completed¹

¹ In the beginning of 2023 WCVA transitioned to a new project management and monitoring system, and the KPIs were reduced from 53 to 18. Out of the 53 projects that were operational in 2022/23, 18 were reporting against the old set of targets, while the remaining 35 projects were reporting against the reduced set of KPIs.

General KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of followers on gained on social media	7,799
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions saved (tones)	11.83
Income generated (£)	21,673.62
Number of jobs created	16
Number of jobs safeguarded	13
Number of communities benefiting from LDTCS funding	223
Number of people engaged and informed (including volunteers and community members)	934,973
Projected cost savings (£)	0
Number of talks/presentations/engagement events held	4,201
Number of training or work experience opportunities offered	86
Number of visitors attracted	3,402

Biodiversity KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity	1,229
Number of engagement events	65
Number of hedgerows planted or managed	1
Number of initiatives to improve conditions to help native species, pollinators and provide opportunities for new planting	101
Number of invasive non-native species managed	25
Number of landscape or catchment managed	0
Number of native trees planted	105
Number of pollinator-friendly planting created as part of a broader habitat management programme	29
Number of records/monitoring data shared	4
Number of initiatives to restore, maintain and enhance natural habitats	147
Number of initiatives to target S7 species	10
Number of initiatives to create, manage or enhance S7 specialist habitat	2
Number of woodland managed	23.5

Waste minimisation KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to encourage prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	3,300
Number of initiatives to engage and support understanding to enable waste to be seen as a resource	2,736
Income generated (£)	5,910
Number of people helped (including contribution to alleviation of food or material poverty if appropriate to measure)	1,665
Number of initiatives to reduce food waste and support initiatives such as composting	20
Tonnage diverted from landfill (tonnes)	17.25
Tonnage recycled (tonnes)	3
Tonnage reduced (tonnes)	0
Tonnage re-used (tonnes)	1.5

Wider environmental KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Area or Km of path/verges/ coastline cleaned	0
Number of bags of waste collected	89
Number of initiatives to bring neglected and run-down areas back into community use	40
Number of community growing areas created	0
Number of initiatives to create and enhance community water and green spaces and supporting green infrastructure	29
Number of cycle or walk ways created	0
Number of facilities updated with nature-friendly alternatives	6
Number of Green Flag Award received	1
Number of green roof or green walls created	0
Number of green spaces created or enhanced	3
Number of groups or people using new facilities	0
Number of heritage features conserved or enhanced	0
Number of invasive non-native species managed	0

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to maintain or improve community facilities, for example community halls	14
Number of native trees planted	105
Number of play / meeting/ outdoor classroom /created	3
Number of pollinator friendly areas created	1
Number of ponds and water courses managed and enhanced	2
Number of renewable energy measures installed	4
Number of efficiency measures installed	4
Number of projects supporting social prescribing to tackle isolation and wider issues	25



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