

Save the Gwent Levels

Created by the SJHS Community
Ministry as Action 1 of their 3rd Priority:
Environmental action



Article No. 25
Health, Water, Food,
Environment



PRAYER

*Creator of the universe, we pray in gratitude and praise. You were there at the beginning of all things, shaping our world and preparing it for us. You have provided the mountains and the trees, the waters and the earth. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts, protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need. Show us how to use our science and technology in creative, not destructive ways. Deepen our awareness of our connectedness with all your creation, So that future generations will also enjoy every blessing.
Amen. St Joseph... Pray for us.*

In September 2023,
YOU SAID...

25% of you asked that we retain our
Eco School status with active
environmental work ...
So we have responded...

Save the Gwent Levels
AGAIN!
Achub Y Lefelau Gwent
ETO!

Created by the SJHS Community Ministry as
Action 1 of their 3rd Priority: Environmental
action

Pictures of the Gwent Levels



What are the Gwent Levels?

Source: Gwent Wildlife Trust

- ★ “The Gwent Levels are an iconic, wetland landscape of International significance.
 - Reclaimed from the sea in Roman times, the Gwent Levels are a criss-crossed network of fertile fields and historic watercourses, known locally as ‘reens’.
 - ★ The Gwent Levels is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife.
 - Gradual changes to the landscape followed by centuries of human's maintenance of the watercourses means that the Gwent Levels is now home to a rich abundance of fascinating and rare aquatic invertebrates (watery bugs) in the country.
- ★ The levels also support a wide variety of birds, particularly waders and waterfowl.
 - A number of European protected species and UK protected species have been confirmed to be present,
 - (including dormice, grass snake, some bat species, otter, great crested newt and water vole)

Were you listening attentively?

- 1- How far do the Gwent levels stretch? From C to C...
- 2- Who started to reclaim the Gwent levels from the sea?
- 3- What is the name give to the waterways and fertile fields?
- 4- What is the more technical name for the important and rare watery bugs?
- 5- What is confirmed to be present on the Gwent levels?

Aren't solar developments what we need to combat climate change?

- They definitely are part of the solution to climate change. But these solar developments should not be done on the Gwent Levels and instead should be delivered elsewhere on non-SSSI protected land.
- The Gwent Levels have achieved this status due to the rare species of animals and plants it contains:
 - ◆ For example, by 2030, GWT aim to help protect ten vital 'umbrella species' through proper maintenance and preservation of their habitats. These are:
 - 1. Grayling Butterfly 2. Barn Owl 3. Dipper 4. Pine Marten 5. Pink Waxcap
 - 6. Nightjar 7. Hedgehog 8. Adder 9. Shril Carder Bee 10. Water Vole
 - ◆ Clearly solar developments will only seek to harm biodiversity through the destruction of habitats.
- It's important to remember that the Welsh Government joint-declared both a Climate and Nature emergency. Benefitting the climate at the destruction of natural habitats will not help Wales in the long run in solving these.

Were you listening attentively?

- 1- Does everyone think that solar panels be positioned on the Gwent levels?
- 2-What is meant by triple S, I?
- 3-What would solar panel developments destroy?
- 4-What has the Welsh government declared?

Pictures of the 10 Key GWT Species

Grayling Butterfly



Barn Owl



Dipper



Pine
Marten



Pink 'Ballerina
Waxcap



Pictures of the 10 Key GWT Species

Nightjar



Hedgehog



Water Vole



Adder



Shrill Carder Bee



Were you listening and looking attentively?

How many of the 10 umbrella species can you remember?

How are the Gwent Levels important for the climate?

Source: Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

- ★ Wetlands, like seen on the Gwent Levels, are a natural buffer to extreme weather events e.g for soaking up heavy rainfall to protect against extreme floods. They also release water slowly in drier conditions to protect against the severe impacts of droughts.
- ★ They also heavily help reduce atmospheric carbon emissions. Despite peatlands only covering 3% of the all the surface land on Earth, they contain 550 gigatonnes of carbon which is twice as much as all of the world's forest biomass, including the Amazon rainforest.
- ★ Hence, we should help in protecting our wetlands to ensure that the carbon stored by the Gwent Levels is not released into the atmosphere which would accelerate climate change.

Were you listening and looking attentively?

- 1- What do the Gwent levels help to protect us against?
- 2- How are the levels useful in drier conditions?
- 3- What do the levels reduce?
- 4- How do you know peatlands are so valuable to our future?
- 5- How do the levels help slow down climate change?

How are we involved in this as a school community?

- Parts of Newport are situated on the Gwent Levels so this is an issue that affects us as well.
- As we are the next generation, we could have a powerful influence on the Senedd if we make our voices clear and heard on this issue.
- Ultimately, the more support this petition gets, the higher the chance of the Senedd speaking out on this issue and this may lead to special planning protection on the Gwent Levels SSSI sites as it deserves.
- For decades, Gwent Wildlife Trust has been working to restore, enhance and protect this important landscape for wildlife and people. The Gwent Levels need us all now.

How can YOU help?

GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST PETITION: 3,181 TARGET → 10,000 signatures

SENEDD PETITION: 2,308 TARGET → 10,000 signatures [Requires confirmation email address, provide personal one? or school one?]

Please can members of staff give children permission to use their mobile phones to either scan the qr code or follow the links to the website with both petitions linked. Please use whichever email address is easiest when signing them.

Thank you for playing your part to protect the Gwent Levels for future generations.

<https://www.gwentwildlife.org/savethegwentlevels>



SENEDD

