



Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan 2024 - 2026

February 2024

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Contents

1: Introduction

2: Actions taken to improve biodiversity

3: Governance

4: Mainstreaming, nature-based solutions, and climate change

5: Public engagement and workforce development

6: Actions, monitoring, and review

Appendix 1: Acronyms

1: Introduction

Biodiversity, short for biological diversity, is the variety of life which inhabits planet Earth. It is every species of plant, animal, fungi and microbe, their genetic variation, and the habitats upon which all living things depend. This includes diversity within species, between species and across ecosystems. It encompasses the whole of the natural world, not just the rare or endangered and includes people.

Biodiversity is a key component of life. It provides us with all the ecosystem services we need to survive, including the clean air that we breathe, water, food, shelter, and medicine. It provides employment, recreational, leisure and learning opportunities and helps us to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. It reinforces a sense of place and our cultural identity.

The distribution and diversity of the ecological resources within South Lanarkshire is influenced by the variation in geography and topography of the area. There are a series of distinct landscape character areas, each with varied and valuable biodiversity assets. Some of these assets are internationally important with others of national or local significance. Although the region is mainly agricultural land, there are pockets of natural and semi-natural habitats, including ancient woodland, peatland and upland moorland.

The natural environment is an asset which can contribute to the economic growth of South Lanarkshire if it is managed and used in a sustainable manner. Many of our growth sectors, such as tourism and food provision rely on ecosystem services from high-quality natural environment. Society and biodiversity are interdependent; sustainable development requires the protection of biodiversity. Taking an ecosystem wide approach to conservation may help to sustainably develop and use resources whilst conserving biodiversity. The environment of South Lanarkshire is an asset, providing the basis for services which are of direct benefit to our economy and communities.

Environmental pressures having an adverse effect on biodiversity within South Lanarkshire include the invasion of non-native species, fragmentation of habitats affecting connectivity of systems and the inappropriate location of urban development or development that is insensitive to the local environment. One of the greatest pressures on ecosystem function is climate change, with habitat fragmentation restricting the ability of species to adapt.

We are at a critical juncture. The global climate emergency and the nature emergency are twin reinforcing crises: our failure to address biodiversity loss and climate change is already impacting on our economy, society, and wider wellbeing. There is now an indisputable body of evidence that biodiversity, both globally and in Scotland, is in real trouble, our natural environment has been heavily degraded, with continued declines across much of our land and seascapes. Our efforts to address the crisis to date have generated some successes, but we urgently need to accelerate and scale up those efforts to drive a landscape scale recovery. No one can tackle these emergencies alone, so we need to have an inclusive nature positive approach that engages with communities, businesses, landowners, managers and decision makers, recognises the fundamental importance of our natural environment and to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

The application of South Lanarkshire's [Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan](#) (BDIP) and the [Biodiversity Strategy](#) (BS) will have a direct impact in stemming the decline of biodiversity assets within the region. Both plans will help ensure the effective management of these assets, which in turn will help to improve the quality and richness of the local environment across all ecosystems.

The Biodiversity Duty

The Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) Act 2004, created a duty on public bodies, to “further the conservation of biodiversity as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.” In so doing, public bodies must take regard of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2045. Our role is to support biodiversity from direct actions, through to educating others and raising awareness.

The Wildlife and Nature Environmental (Scotland) Act (2011) (WANE Act) amends the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) and places an additional obligation on public bodies to report on compliance with the biodiversity duty every three years. The most recent [Biodiversity Duty](#) report 2021-2023 and past reports can be found on the councils webpage.

The biodiversity duty is not only about protecting biodiversity through managing specific habitats and species it also aims to increase the level of understanding and connection between people and the living environment, promote consideration of all our impacts on the natural world through our actions and decisions, including through procurement and use of resources and encourage staff, partners and customers to engage with, consider and understand biodiversity.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 '[Tackling the Nature Emergency](#)' in Scotland sets out clear ambitions for Scotland to be nature positive by 2030 and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045.

The Vision by 2045:

"Scotland will have restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas. Our natural environment, our habitats, ecosystems, and species, will be diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change. Regenerated biodiversity will drive a sustainable economy and support thriving communities and people will play their part in the sustainable economy and the stewardship of nature for future generations".

South Lanarkshire council carries out its biodiversity duty primarily through the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and by helping achieve the national objectives and outcomes of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy through local action.

Local Context

The BDIP will be informed by other council led policies, plans and strategies in the hierarchical of plans.

These include:

- South Lanarkshire [Biodiversity Strategy](#) (2024 to 2030)
- [Community Plan](#) (2022 to 2032)
- [Council Plan](#) (2022 to 2027)
- [Local Development plan 2](#)
- [Sustainability Development and Climate Change Strategy](#) (2022 to 2027)

The Council Plan sets out the services we will provide to local communities and residents. Biodiversity has a part to play within the integrated delivery of our vision, ambitions, values, and objectives. The BDIP reflects the priorities and outcomes set out within the Biodiversity Strategy and articulates how we will achieve our duty to conserve biodiversity. The BDIP takes cognisance of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy which also emphasises the importance of achieving our biodiversity duty.

The BDIP reflects guidance from the Scottish Government and includes sections on:

- **Actions to protect biodiversity:** examples of our key achievements.
- **Governance:** How we manage biodiversity and ensure compliance with the duty.
- **Mainstreaming, nature-based solutions, and climate change measures:** How we incorporate biodiversity, nature-based solutions, and climate change measures across a wide range of services, policies, plans and strategies.
- **Public engagement and workforce development:** How we continue to work with partners, including our communities and staff to promote and raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance.
- **Research and monitoring:** How we record, monitor, and review our work through species, habitats surveying to the development of management plans.

- **Actions:** Sets out our key planned actions for the next three years and how we will monitor our actions and activities to meet our reporting commitments.

2. Actions taken to improve biodiversity

We have made considerable progress in our biodiversity activities since the last BDIP was published in 2018. In that time, we have achieved various actions that have helped to secure real improvements to biodiversity, here are just a few of the projects we have been involved with since the last report:

The designation of new Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

Across Scotland, LNRs are diverse places that provide people access to the outdoors in places that are valued for their wildness in an urban setting. These places are usable for recreation and education, as well as being biodiverse where wildlife can thrive.

In February 2022, we designated a total of 17 LNRs, with 16 new sites adding to the existing one at Langlands Moss. Covering 610 hectares in total, these sites encompass a broad spectrum of habitats including raised bog, ancient broadleaved woodland, riparian woodland, grasslands, wetland, and freshwater. LNR's are locally important areas of natural heritage, located close to our towns and cities.



Photo 1: The front cover of one of our management statements for our newly designated Local Nature Reserves.

Some sites have already had significant investment to improve their access and other infrastructure, some very little. Similarly, some have excellent community groups who do much work on their sites, while others have none. Each site has a designated SLC Countryside Ranger who works with the local community, interest groups and schools. We wish to continue and expand on the work within our LNR's to keep people interested and involved with their local greenspaces. We will continue to collaborate with our communities to ensure local needs are met and that the public is aware of why these sites are important.

Each site has a draft management statement prepared by SLC, which provides information on why it is important in terms of the reserve's natural history, historic environment and to the local community, the statements also provide general management aims to preserve the key features and enhance the site for biodiversity.

Further information on each site can be found on the [Council webpage](#), each draft management statement will be developed into a full site management plan in partnership with the NatureScot (NS) and the local communities.

A series of short films were produced in 2023 highlighting the work and improvements we have achieved for biodiversity in a few of our [Local Nature Reserves](#).

The new local nature reserves are:

- Backmuir wood, Hamilton
- Blantyre, Bothwell and Uddingston
- Cadzow Glen, Hamilton
- Fernbrae Meadows
- Greenhall, Milheugh and Barnhill, Blantyre
- Hamilton Low Parks
- Holm hills Wood, Cambuslang
- James Hamilton Heritage Park, East Kilbride
- Jock's Burn, Carluke
- Langlands Moss, East Kilbride
- Milton, Carluke
- Morgan Glen, Larkhall
- Mossneuk, East Kilbride
- Neilsland and Earnock, Hamilton
- Stonehouse Park, Stonehouse
- Udston and Glenlee Woods, Hamilton
- Westburn Marsh, Cambuslang

Peatland Restoration work at Langlands Moss LNR

In early 2020 Langlands Moss LNR underwent a dramatic transformation as part of a £202,000 peatland restoration project in partnership with Green Action Trust (GAT) and NatureScot (NS). A feasibility survey was commissioned by SLC in 2018 through NatureScot's Peatland Action fund to determine the potential of the site for eco-hydrological restoration. A large conifer plantation stood to the north and west of the raised bog and the survey found sections of deep peat underneath this plantation. The average peat depth was found to be 139cm, with deeper pockets of over 9 metres. The volume of peat equates to 298,199.6m³ with an estimated carbon content of 28,925 tonnes of carbon. With the evidence from the study, we decided to remove the large stand of conifer trees and dam the drains associated with the forestry plantation, with the aim to increase the water level in and around the raised bog.



Photo 2: Contractor installing peat dams at Langlands Moss LNR.

The project involved removing an area of 20.15ha of over mature conifer trees, a protected species survey, removal of brash from the surface of the peat, the installation of 21 peat dams and five bunds, resulting in installing approximately 278 metres length of dams at the reserve. By felling the conifer trees and blocking the associated drainage ditches, we are allowing the water table to rise back to its natural level, preventing the underlying peat from drying out and, in time, restore the growth of sphagnum 'bog' mosses to make the peat an active carbon sink once again.

Restoring the bog will support our commitment to combating climate change, it will also lead to a much more diverse, attractive, and accessible recreational facility for the people of East Kilbride. In 2021, we found that some of the dams had become damaged, failing to retain water. So, in 2022 with GAT and advice from NS we employed a contractor to reprofile the failing dams with peat, they are now retaining water within the reserve.



Photo 3: Photo of some of the unique plants found on the raised bog: heather, cranberry and round-leaved sundew.

Photo 4: Overview of the raised bog at Langlands Moss LNR.

The Nature Restoration Programme

In 2021 SLC were awarded £264,000 via the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF). In 2022 we were allocated a further £188,000, with an additional £146,000 from SLC Climate Emergency Fund. The focus of the work was to deliver positive effects for biodiversity, local ecosystems, mitigate the impact of climate change and promote nature-based solutions. Most of the groundwork has been completed by our seasonal grounds employees. The focus has been to build on previous work on our land over the last few years improving our:

- **Local Nature Reserves, Country Park, and National Nature Reserve:** creating and enhancing wildflower areas for pollinators, planting trees, small access repairs and removal of invasive and non-native species.
- **District Parks:** old and degraded shrub beds were replaced with plants chosen to benefit pollinators throughout the year. Some of these plants are also noted to help improve air quality, which can be incorporated as appropriate.
- **Development of plans and studies:** investing in feasibility studies that will enable future site works that take advantage of various potential funding streams. The objectives for these studies will focus on multiple benefits; nature-based solutions that improve the site for people and wildlife as well as helping to offset the impacts of climate change.



Photo 5: The 'Friends of Calder' sowing wildflower seeds at one of the two meadows created. 900 trees were also planted at the reserve to improve a large expanse of amenity grassland in the LNR for wildlife as part of the NRP.

In July 2023 a further £545,000 was awarded to the council through the NRF. Scottish Government has highlighted that the fund should be used to deliver on:

- Habitat and species restoration: management for enhancement and connectivity.
- Freshwater restoration, including restoration of natural flows in rural catchments.
- Control of invasive non-native species (INNS) impacting on nature.
- Urban: enhancing and connecting nature across, and between, towns and cities.

This approach hopes to deliver multiple benefits, supporting health and well-being, air and water quality improvements in addition to supporting nature recovery. Local authorities are also expected to begin to develop projects which will contribute to establishing [Nature Networks](#) in their area. The fourth [National Planning Framework](#) (NPF4) sets out the Scottish Government's expectation that nature networks will be put in place in every local authority to enhance biodiversity and better connect areas for nature. Ecological connectivity can be provided by wildlife sites, corridors and stepping-stones, landscape features, watercourses, green and blue spaces that together form integrated nature networks.

Pollinator projects

The Countryside and Greenspace Team worked in partnership with Butterfly Conservation for the duration of their Helping Hands for Butterflies Project. The three-year project that ended in October 2022, engaged with over 700 people throughout the central belt of Scotland. The project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and NatureScot to create new habitats for butterflies in urban places.



Photo 6: One of the signs installed as part of the Helping Hands for Butterfly project.

The project introduced the world of butterflies and moths to new volunteers, through training events and workshops to help people identify and monitor species. The project also created flower-rich grasslands in urban parks that were specifically intended to help butterflies and moths. Management plans were created for each site, with four main aims to reduce the cutting, remove the cuttings, plant yellow rattle for the first year, then plant with butterfly friendly species.

Three sites were chosen in South Lanarkshire at Stonefield Park and Hunthill Road Whitegate Community Orchard in Blantyre and Bothwell Park, in Hamilton. Staff and volunteers helped create and improve these sites for invertebrates, reducing the mowing regime to once a year, removing the grass cuttings to reduce the nutrient content returning into the soil and sowing wildflower seed.

We will continue to maintain and expand the three project sites for wildlife. A full report and a film of the project highlights were produced by Butterfly Conservation can be found on their webpage: [Helping Hands for Butterflies Project](#).

In November 2023 South Lanarkshire council Countryside and Greenspace team produced a report summarising the work undertaken over several years to help conserve and enhance sites for pollinators and their habitats. The [Making Space for Pollinators](#) report highlights the partnership work in developing and enhancing over 155 grassland sites for pollinators covering approximately 63 hectares.



Photo 7: A orange-tip butterfly on cuckooflower at The Whitegate Orchard in Blantyre.

Reducing herbicide use and researching alternatives.

There is increased public concern about the use of pesticides, particularly those containing glyphosate in weed control and the potential risks associated with using these products. Grounds Services (GS) have piloted alternative methods of weed control and pesticide free zones in partnership with local groups. A variety of methods were trialled in 2021 to 2022, including hot foam, hot steam, new ways to spray, ultra-low volume lance, hot air / thermal treatments, and different glyphosate products to determine the difference in effectiveness.

Overall, the trials usage of glyphosate has been reduced by 30% (2019 usage of glyphosate was 4462 litres, reduced to 3123 litres in 2022). The trial demonstrated a clear direction for decreasing usage of glyphosate, and GS aim to continue reviewing the use, whilst utilising alternative methods to maximise impact.

The Countryside and Greenspace Service (CAG)

CAG continue to work with volunteers and community groups, supporting various types of work to create, restore and promote biodiversity. The average number of days volunteering each year is 4746 days (2018 to 2023), which equates to £474,600 annually (based on £100 per day). 2022 was a great year for our volunteers a huge 5342 days were accrued equating to £534,200. This is

an under-representation of the work carried out in South Lanarkshire by volunteers, as we do not receive information from all our groups every year. CAG produced a draft report summarising the work of our volunteers (2011 to 2021). The report found that 900 hectares of land have been improved for biodiversity and access over the ten-year period.



Photo 8: The Friends of Langlands Moss community group gathered after a day of conservation work with butterfly Conservation's Bog Squad.

Improvements for nature on former vacant and derelict land.

Four former vacant and derelict land and brownfield sites in South Lanarkshire are now designated as LNRs: Milton near Carluke, Fernbrae Meadows near Cathkin, Redlees near Blantyre and Holmhill, near Cambuslang. SLC have also converted a former tip in East Kilbride to create Glen Esk Urban Greenspace. All are now accessible for people and provide improved biodiversity value.

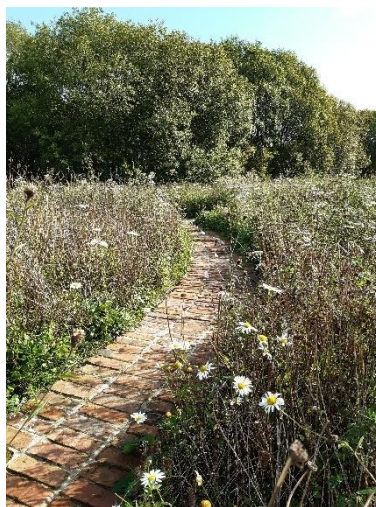


Photo 9: Milton LNR, one of the areas improved for pollinators and wildlife.

In 2020, significant site works were undertaken at Milton LNR a former brick works covering around 14 hectares in Carluke thanks to the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund. Three new access points were created, paths and boardwalks were installed along with benches and a central design incorporating reclaimed bricks from the former brick works in a Celtic knot design. Drainage has been improved throughout the site and a dipping platform was installed at one of the ponds. Wildflower seeds were sown in many areas to improve both grassland diversity and pollinator habitats. The site is now a well-used and much welcome asset to the local community.

Fernbrae Meadows LNR covers an area of 37.8 hectares on the western edge of South Lanarkshire at the boundary with Glasgow. Fernbrae Meadows comprises the former Blairbeth Golf Course and part of Cathkin Braes Country Park. In 2018 SLC with help from NatureScot's Green Infrastructure Fund, established a variety of new habitats at the LNR: ponds and associated marshy grassland, an orchard and native woodland planting to link to existing woodland in the

south of the site. Native wildflowers have been sown in large swathes of grassland, in which can be found plants of interest including common-spotted orchid, northern marsh orchid and greater butterfly orchid.



Photo 10: Local volunteers and the 'Friends of Fernbrae Meadows' harvesting seed from one of the meadows at the LNR.

Glen Esk Urban Greenspace located in East Kilbride, a former landfill site left to regenerate naturally, subsequently dominated by birch and willow scrub. In 2019 SLC collaborated with the local community to explore how to spend the £1 million awarded by the Scottish Government Vacant Derelict Land Fund. The 7.6 hectare site now incorporates native planting and habitat creation, an outdoor classroom, improved access, and car park. Habitats of open water, wildflower meadows, planted trees and marshy grassland were added to increase the biodiversity value. The greenspace links to areas of mature broadleaved woodland in the surrounding landscape connecting to an extensive wildlife corridor following the wooded banks of the Rotten Calder Water within Calderglen Country Park.

The former brownfield sites are now being managed for biodiversity, so becoming assets to the local community as well as attracting visitors from further afield. In addition to recreation, with its attendant health and well-being benefits, the sites are used for outdoor education and several of them have inspired involvement by the local community groups and individuals to maintain them and record wildlife.

Air quality

We have declared three Air Quality Management Areas within South Lanarkshire and an [Action Plan](#) which sets out the local measures to be implemented to improve air quality. These actions aim to reduce particulates and nitrogen oxides, which will improve air quality as well as having a positive impact on biodiversity. Over the next year we plan to revise the current air quality action plan and this time we will look to see how we can strengthen the links to biodiversity. As part of that process, we will look to the [Cleaner Air for 2 Strategy](#) produced by Scottish Government and in particular reference the use of nature based solutions.

Environmental Services produced a [2022 Air Quality Annual Progress report](#) highlighting projects in South Lanarkshire to improve air quality. We are working in partnership with a local community gardening group 'Grow 73' and have installed several large wooden planters with pollution fighting plants, some of which are pollinator friendly adjacent to a busy road junction in Rutherglen. The project has been running for several years and [Grow 73](#) continue to maintain the planters and engaged with the Royal Horticultural Society who have supported the project by providing advice, compost, and additional plants.



Photo 11: Grow 73 maintaining the raised bed in Rutherglen.

3. Governance

In South Lanarkshire, biodiversity is managed by the Countryside and Greenspace Service within Community and Enterprise Resources. We report to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on compliance with the biodiversity duty. The CMT is chaired by our Chief Executive and its members include all Executive Directors within the council.

Biodiversity is governed through our Climate Change and Sustainability Committee (CCS), which has decision making powers to help to accelerate the pace and scale of action needed in response to the climate and nature emergencies and meet challenging national targets.

All our services are expected to demonstrate compliance with the duty in some way; we welcome the opportunity to continually develop work which benefits biodiversity. Biodiversity action will not be confined to those stated in this plan; additional actions will be recorded and reported.

Environmental data is collated and presented in the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report which is updated every two years. The data informs the Strategic Environmental Assessment process, which itself generates biodiversity measures and monitoring data.

Managers and officers from the Countryside and Greenspace Service meet with colleagues to discuss current and potential future biodiversity activities and actions. The outputs from these meetings are reflected within the plan. Out-with these formal arrangements, members of the team regularly meet with colleagues to discuss biodiversity related issues and projects. Reporting will be in line with the Scottish Government's [Guidance for Biodiversity Duty Reporting](#).

4. Mainstreaming / nature-based solutions and climate change

We continue to work closely with all resources to mainstream consideration of biodiversity across our services. Managers and officers from the Countryside and Greenspace Service are members of various corporate groups and forums where they actively promote consideration of biodiversity.

These include:

Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group

The group which is made up of senior managers from all our resources and has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Regular reports on biodiversity within South Lanarkshire are given to the group.

Corporate SEA Working Group

The group brings together representatives from all key services and resources to oversee the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process within the council. Representatives give information, advice, and assistance on biodiversity to members who are responsible for preparing council led policies, plans, programmes, and strategies (PPPS). Many of our plans have been

strengthened by the SEA process and the actions of the group. This has proved to be one of the most effective ways of mainstreaming biodiversity and climate change into the strategic process.

SEA Scoping Workshops

These workshops are held for all our plans which are determined to require SEA. These are attended by staff from the Countryside and Greenspace Service who provide valuable input about likely positive and negative impacts from the proposed plan on the area's biodiversity. This helps to ensure that biodiversity is given early and effective consideration and often leads to further discussion between services, which helps to reinforce the delivery of our biodiversity duty.

5. Public engagement and workforce development

There is a strong track record of partnership working in South Lanarkshire in which biodiversity has a role.

The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership

Established in 1997 to bring together partners with an interest in conserving and promoting biodiversity. The partnership is supported and facilitated by the council and has members from organisations including NatureScot (NS), The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCV). It is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy.

South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum (SLOAF)

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires all access authorities in Scotland to set up at least one Local Access Forum. SLOAF advises the council and any other person or body on issues that arise in relation to outdoor access. Our forum consists of representatives from a wide range of interests including land managers (farm, estate owners, agencies such as the FCS, Historic Scotland and SWT), walkers, cyclists, equestrians, anglers, and local communities.

Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership

LGHP was established in March 2018 and is a cross sectoral collaboration working together to connect people with nature and maximise the use of health inducing green assets. This multi-agency partnership provides a platform to maximise the use of greenspaces for community health and wellbeing. The partnership allows the voluntary, health and social care sectors to work together more closely, to expand the provision of green health volunteering opportunities in the use of nature-based solutions to deliver a range of public health outcomes. LGHP include NatureScot, NHS, Scottish Forestry, Volunteer Action South Lanarkshire, South and North Lanarkshire council's. Projects including Get Outdoors Lanarkshire, Get Walking Lanarkshire, Community Food Growing Initiative Lanarkshire are supported by this partnership.

We continue to work with a variety of external partners to further our biodiversity duty, including:

- [Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network](#)
- [Community Planning Partnership](#)
- [Greenspace Scotland](#)
- [Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire](#)
- [Community Action Lanarkshire](#)
- [Green Action Trust](#)

We also work with a variety of communities and volunteers, including:

- [Friends of the Calder](#)
- [Friends of Cadzow Glen](#)
- [Friends of Fernbrae Meadows](#)
- [New Roots - Neilsland and Earnock Heritage Group](#)
- [Cadzow Community Corps](#)

- [Friends of Holmhills Wood Community Park](#)
- [Friends of Langlands Moss](#)
- [Friends of Morgan Glen](#)
- [Friends of Stonehouse Park](#)

The staff within the Countryside and Greenspace team provide advice regarding biodiversity issues to colleagues. We provide training days to staff and volunteers, and we attend conferences and training events provided by internal and external organisations, such as NatureScot, Plantlife, Butterfly Conservation and Green Action Trust. We have created an online learning course available to all staff; entitled 'Your Biodiversity Duty'.

The biodiversity officer attends the Scottish Local Biodiversity Network meetings twice a year to share and learn from good practices. We produce a newsletter twice a year, which gives our groups and volunteers an opportunity to showcase and promote themselves and the work they achieve for biodiversity, this is shared widely among our networks and partners.

6. Action, monitoring, and review

Following a detailed internal consultation process with all council services a plan has been prepared in which we set out our key actions for the three years of the BDIP.

Table 1: Key to abbreviations used in the plan

Key to abbreviations used in plan			
Council Resources			
ER	Education Resources	FCT	Finance and Corporate Resources
HTR	Housing and Technical Resources	SWR	Social Work Resources
Ser vices within Community and Enterprise Resources			
CAG	Countryside and Greenspace		
ES	Environmental Services		
GS	Grounds Services		
PRS	Planning and Regulatory Services		
RT	Roads and Transportation		
Groups			
CSWG	Corporate SEA Working Group		
LASS	Learning about Sustainability in Schools		
CCS	Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group		

Table 2: Mainstreaming

The council has incorporated biodiversity measures into various policy areas. There are strong links between biodiversity and a range of council activities and services.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
1.	SEAs are carried out for all qualifying policies, plans programmes and strategies (PPPS).	ongoing	CSWG
2.	The biodiversity duty is reflected in resource and service plans.	ongoing	FCT
3.	Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy for South Lanarkshire.	ongoing	PRS
4.	Review and update guidance which supports the Local Development Plan / NPF4.	from 2024	PRS, CAG
5.	Continue to build on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027, ensuring biodiversity and nature-based solutions are key considerations in tackling the climate crisis.	ongoing	CCS
6.	Continue to monitor and improve biodiversity within our LNR's. Identify nature-based solutions that improve the reserves for people and wildlife, working in partnership with the local community and external partners.	ongoing	CAG
7.	Continue to survey and assess Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS), work with planning on the designation process.	in progress	CAG, PRS
8.	Develop a Tree Canopy Cover Strategy to protect, enhance and manage a thriving benefit-generating canopy cover that also broadens community engagement, canopy resilience to climate change, pests and storm events.	in progress	GS
9.	Progress the integration of the Clyde Climate Forest, ensure tree retention and planting is sustainably embedded, as appropriate, into development plans, frameworks, masterplans along with corporate policy and investment documents.	ongoing	GS
10.	Revise current Air Quality Action Plan, with guidance from Scottish Government to identify nature-based solution to improve air quality and enhance links to biodiversity.	ongoing	ES
11.	Continue to attain the scale and impact of ash dieback disease on council landholdings, to create a landscape scale and adaptation Ash Dieback Recovery Plan.	ongoing	GS

Table 3: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

The council takes action to conserve and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
12.	Continue to review the current grass management practices, particularly for sites with actual or potential biodiversity value.	ongoing	GS
13.	Continue to review the application of herbicides on council land with the aim to reduce use as much as possible.	ongoing	GS
14.	Leave road verges to grow outside settlements for wildflowers, except where safety is required otherwise, cut once at the end of the year.	ongoing	GS
15.	Continue to investigate opportunities to maximise the use of native and pollinator friendly plants on council owned land.	ongoing	GS, RT,
16.	Investigate the use of green infrastructure to improve air quality, particularly that which favours native and pollinator friendly species.	ongoing	ES, PRS
17.	Continue to develop assessment of biodiversity assets: location and biodiversity value of SUDs.	ongoing	PRS, CAG
18.	Carry out flood studies which may allow for natural flood management measures.	ongoing	RT
19.	Investigate and control the impacts of increasing deer populations within the urban environment, particularly woodlands.	ongoing	CAG
20.	Request the inclusion of biodiversity value habitats within the restoration of mineral and peat extraction sites.	ongoing	PRS
21.	Remove sites from the Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) register where they have attained a habitat that contributes to biodiversity.	ongoing	ES, PRS, CAG
22.	Ensure the current INNS database is kept up to date.	ongoing	GS, RT
23.	Ensure Habitat Management Plans related to windfarm developments are prepared and implemented where required.	ongoing	PRS CAG
24.	Share records with the Biological Records Centre at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre to digitise and mobilise records.	ongoing	CAG
25.	Conduct a Learning for Sustainability audit in schools which includes information on outdoor learning.	ongoing	ER
26.	Actively participate in and promote the realisation of Clyde Climate Forest (CCF), targets to increase the average tree canopy cover to 20%, increase the average broadleaf network by 20% and increase forest	ongoing	GS, CAG

	and woodland cover in the Glasgow region to 20% by 2032.		
27.	Identify, expand and enhance a spatially defined Nature Network by 2030.	2030	CAG, PRS, GS
28.	The council will continue to use the current replanting scheme where trees have been lost, until the Tree Canopy Cover Strategy is approved. The council will consider i-tree ecosystem services to inform tree loss mitigation standards.	ongoing	GS, CAG
29.	Continue to develop Tree Plotter canopy software to help review, plan and grow canopy cover towards aspirational targets. To build an accurate picture of the nature, condition, resilience and ecosystem services value of our woodland.	ongoing	GS
30.	Continue to identify and progress a variety of projects that benefit species or habitats of importance within South Lanarkshire, linking where possible with external partners.	ongoing	CAG
31.	The Unpaid Work Service, via Community Payback Orders, will continue to work in LNRs' and greenspaces, occasionally working alongside the country rangers and local community groups to improve sites for nature and access.	ongoing	SWR, CAG
32.	The unpaid work service will continue to develop the educational garden project to support the kitchen learning hub and develop a green space area that will help provide therapeutic benefits.	ongoing	SWR

Table 4: Partnership Working

The council works in partnership with external bodies and communities to deliver biodiversity outcomes.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
33.	Co-ordinate and provide officer support for the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership (SLBP).	ongoing	CAG
34.	Facilitate and chair annual meetings of the SLBP and sub-groups.	ongoing	CAG
35.	Implement and report progress on SLC led actions set out in the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy to partners.	ongoing	CAG
36.	The Countryside Ranger Service continues to provide training, events and information to volunteers and communities.	ongoing	CAG
37.	The Countryside Ranger Service provides regular opportunities for volunteers and community groups to be involved with improving greenspaces for people and biodiversity.	ongoing	CAG

38.	The council continues to work with external partners including the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, Butterfly Conservation, Froglife, Buglife, Green Action Trust, SWT to further the conservation of biodiversity.	ongoing	CAG, SLC wide
39.	The council continues to further the conservation of biodiversity through initiatives such as City Deal and Clyde Gateway.	ongoing	SLC wide
40.	Continue with the Learning Outdoors project with NatureScot connecting schools with local greenspaces.	ongoing	ER, CAG
41.	CAG staff meet with resource colleagues to review BDIP actions and progress.	ongoing	CCS
42.	Investigate the development of a Geodiversity Plan and site designations that identify locally important sites.	ongoing	PRS
43.	Continue to monitor, maintain, and expand areas of wildflower meadow in partnership with Butterfly Conservation, Buglife and GCV.	ongoing	CAG, GS
44.	Survey relevant Vacant and Derelict land sites and deliver site projects, in partnership with external organisations.	ongoing	CAG, ES
45.	Work in partnership with GCV on the Clyde Peatlands project, Clyde Climate Forest, Clyde Grasslands and establish Clyde wetlands to help define SL's nature networks.	ongoing	CAG, GS
46.	Fulfil the potential of our NNR for nature recovery, work with SWT and NS to ensure that the NNR is managed as a key building block for our nature network.	ongoing	CAG

Table 5: Communications

The council make use of their daily contact with the public to communicate, educate and promote biodiversity. Within the council, staff are kept aware of and up to date with biodiversity issues, changes, and opportunities.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
47.	The importance of biodiversity and its place in South Lanarkshire is promoted to staff and the public.	ongoing	CCS
48.	Staff and contractors are made aware of protected or important species and habitats.	ongoing	CAG, ES
49.	The importance of biodiversity in mitigating against the effects of climate change is promoted, as well as the need for biodiversity to be capable of adaptation.	ongoing	CCS
50.	Teachers can access GLOW (the educational intranet platform) for regularly updated State of the Environment information and other biodiversity materials.	ongoing	CSWG, LASS
51.	Staff, partners and communities are made aware of INNS and encouraged to report their location.	ongoing	GS, RT, ES

52.	Progress development management processes and cross service training for planning, protection, delivery and monitoring of trees and tree planting in developments.	ongoing	GS
53.	Volunteering opportunities related to biodiversity are promoted to staff and communities.	ongoing	CAG

Table 6: Monitoring and review

Actions within the BDIP will be reviewed to reflect the ongoing work within the council to meet our biodiversity duty. The findings of the review will be reported through our governance structures to the council's executive committee.

Measure	Baseline	Target	Frequency	Source
Number of schools registered as Eco-schools	100%	Maintain	Annually	ER
Number of schools achieving and retaining the Eco-Schools Green Flag award	60 (2021)	Increase	Two years	ER
Number of Local Nature Reserves identified and designated	17	Increase	Three years	CAG, PRS
Number of Local Nature Conservation Sites identified and assessed	110	Increase	Annually	CAG, PRS
Number of parks which have attained Green Flag status	3	Maintain	Annually	GS
Number of sites where INNS are controlled; species cover has reduced in size or been eradicated at 95% of locations	431 (2021)	Continue to treat when reported	Annually	GS
Report on SLC progress on Biodiversity Duty submitted to the Scottish Government	2024	Maintain	Three years	CCS
SLC Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan reviewed every three years	2024	Maintain	Three years	CCS
Produce a State of the Environment Report for South Lanarkshire every two years	2023	Maintain	Two years	PRS
Number of schools and pupils achieving a John Muir Award	6 (20-21)	Maintain	Annually	ER
Number of teachers completing Forest School training	-	Maintain	Annually	CAG, ER
Time spent by volunteers and community groups on activities that benefit biodiversity	Annual average (2018-2023): 4746 days	Maintain	Annually	CAG

Number and area of sites on the Vacant and Derelict Land Register	204 sites 375ha (2020)	Decrease	Annually	PRS
Area of land used for allotments	219 plots	Maintain	Annually	GS
Number of grassland sites improved or managed for biodiversity	105	Increase	Annually	GS
Area of land under habitat management framework	-	Increase to 500ha		GS
Quantity of herbicide purchased	3100litres (2022) 4600litres (2019)	Decrease	Annually	GS
Area of land managed to benefit biodiversity, related to windfarm works	11,157ha	Maintain *	Annually	CAG
Number of school sessions using their local greenspace as part of Taking Learning Outdoors project	-	12 schools	Annually	ER

*This would be expected to increase if new windfarm developments are approved which require habitat management

Appendix 1: Acronyms

BC	Butterfly Conservation
BDIP	Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan
CAG	Countryside and Greenspace
GCV	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network
GAT	Green Action Trust
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
FOLM	Friends of Langlands Moss
Ha	Hectare
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LGHP	Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership
NHS	National Health Service
NS	NatureScot
PPPS	Policies, Plan, Programmes and Strategies
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SLBP	South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership
SLC	South Lanarkshire council
SLOAF	South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
VDL	Vacant and Derelict Land