Dundee City Council
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CHANGING FOR THE FUTURE

Biodiversity Action Plan

Dundee 2026-2030

2nd Edition







Contents

Introduction 3
Benefits of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan 6
Vision for 2030 7
Biodiversity in Dundee 8
Individual Ecosystem Statements 17
Woodlands 18
Water and Wetlands 22
Marine and Coastal 25
Grasslands 28
Urban 32
Key Topics Which Affect all Ecosystems 35
Planning and Policy 35
Invasive Non-Native Species 37
Communication and Awareness Raising 41
Biological Records and Data 44
Geodiversity 46
Action Plan 48
Woodlands 49
Water and Wetlands 55
Marine and Coastal 59
Grasslands 63
Urban 65
Planning and Policy 74
Invasive Non-Native Species 78
Communication and Awareness Raising 80
Biological Records and Data 84
Geodiversity 87
Appendix 1: List of Acronyms 88
Appendix 2: List of Relevant Documents 89
Appendix 3: Nature Netwoek Consultation 90
Appendix 4: Priority Species and Habitats 94

Introduction

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things and includes diversity within a species, between different species, between habitats and the ecosystems of which they are a part. Greater levels of biodiversity help to ensure the natural sustainability of all life, which is especially important in a time of global climate change.
In this plan we refer to the conservation of biodiversity as the care and protection of all habitats and species, i.e. wildlife, in the city. This includes both common and rare plants, invertebrates, mammals and birds.

Context

Background

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 the UK signed up to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This led to the first UK biodiversity Action Plan being published with the goal –

> ***"to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms".***

At a Conference of Parties (COP15) for the CBD in Kunming and Montreal in 2022, it was acknowledged that nearly all previous biodiversity targets had been missed and new global biodiversity targets for 2030 were agreed. The Scottish Government published a new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and a 5-year Delivery Plan in 2024 with these new targets in mind.

The UK and Scottish biodiversity plans are implemented through Local Biodiversity Actions Plans (LBAPs), which seek to ensure that internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats are conserved through local action.

The Dundee Biodiversity Action Plan was first published in 2020, and this edition is the first review.

Current State

The State of Nature Report 2023 found that, in Scotland, there has been an average decline of 15% in the abundance of land and freshwater species studied since 1994. In addition, the average abundance of Scottish seabirds has decreased by 49% since 1986 (latest figures proceed Avian Flu). The report also highlights that 11% of species found in Scotland have been classified by the IUCN as being at risk of extinction within the UK.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) published the first inter-governmental global assessment of biodiversity, ecosystems and their contributions to people in 2019. This assessment of nature, nature's contribution to people and drivers of their changes has informed decision makers and end users at all scales and sectors. Subsequent reports by IPBES have added to this data:

- Nexus Assessment (2024)
- Transformative Change Assessment (2024)
- Business and Biodiversity Assessment (2026)

These reports above all highlight a consistent message that reversing biodiversity loss requires fundamental, system-wide change and coordinated action across sectors. They emphasise the need to address underlying financial and decision-making factors and recognise the connections between biodiversity, climate, food, water and health. Together, they stress that governments, businesses and society must adopt collaborative, nature-positive approaches to achieve long-term, landscape-scale change.

The effects of contact with nature on our physical and mental wellbeing have been widely studied. NatureScot SPANS 2023/24 Health & Wellbeing Report found that 84% of outdoor visits are motivated by health and wellbeing. Scotland's Green Health Framework was published in 2026 by Public Health Scotland and recognised nature as a core health infrastructure. Increasing weekly outdoor visits is now a Scottish Government national indicator, used to track progress in encouraging more people to use Scotland's outdoor spaces, which benefits their mental and physical health.

Current Legislation

Dundee City Council (DCC) is bound by the following legislation:-

- **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** Section 1 (1) states:-

  "It is the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions."

- **Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (WANE) 2011**, Part 5 Section 36 states:-

  (1) "A public body must prepare and publish a biodiversity report within 3 years of...the base date;

  (2) A biodiversity report is a report on the actions taken by the body in pursuance of its duty under section 1 during the period to which the report relates.

  (3) The base date is – (a) the date on which section 36 of the WANE (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 6) comes into force, or (b) where the body is established after that date, the date on which the body is established. "

Under the legislation above, DCC is required to report on their actions to conserve biodiversity every three years. Previous reports can be found on the council website with the next report due at the end of 2026. This plan enables us to measure and report our progress in a uniform manner.

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), adopted in 2023, significantly strengthens the statutory weight of biodiversity within Scotland's planning system by making it part of the local development plans, which gives its policies direct legal effect in planning decisions. It places a clear duty on local authorities to secure "positive effects for biodiversity" in new developments, including through nature recovery, enhancement and the strengthening of Nature Networks. As a result, local authorities must go

beyond mitigation, ensuring that development contributes to measurable biodiversity gains.

Local authorities in Scotland are required, through NPF4 and related policy, to identify, map and safeguard Nature Networks as a core component of spatial planning. This involves using ecological evidence to map existing habitats and opportunities for enhancement, ensuring connectivity across administrative boundaries and integrating these networks into Local Development Plans. This aligns with wider policy and legislative commitments, including the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

In July 2019, the Scottish Government and Dundee City Council declared a 'Climate Emergency'. Climate change and biodiversity are interconnected. Biodiversity is negatively affected by climate change, but the ecosystem services it supports make an important contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. As such, this plan is a key document in the delivery of the city-wide 'Climate Action Plan'.

Future

The Natural Environment (Scotland) Act was enacted in March 2026 introducing statutory, legally binding biodiversity targets via amendments to the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, thus shifting the focus from general duties towards measurable national outcomes for nature recovery. These targets are yet to be developed but are expected to drive stronger expectations on public bodies in delivering their biodiversity duty by having regard to these biodiversity targets.

The next Conference of Parties (COP 17) to the UN convention on Biological Diversity is to be held in Yerevan, Armenia in October 2026. This COP is expected to be significant in that it will include the first global review of progress on achieving the Kunming- Montreal targets set in 2022. This COP is expected to focus on demonstrating delivery and accelerating action on reversing the decline of biodiversity globally.



Benefits of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Benefits of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Dundee's LBAP continues to raise awareness of the wildlife (flora and fauna) of Dundee in an international, national and local context. This plan highlights the contribution and influence of our local biodiversity on the quality of life and economic opportunities of everyone who lives in the city.

Since the plan was first published in January 2020, there have been several significant changes in legislation and policies relating to biodiversity. It was agreed that the plan should be updated in 2026 to reflect these changes and ensure that it continues to focus on relevant actions to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity across the city.

This plan will continue to focus action on the ecosystems, habitats and species most in need and ensure prioritisation of resources at a local level. It will integrate the newly mapped Nature Network and include actions to strengthen the level of ecological connectivity throughout the city. It sets out clear objectives and targets to enable us to measure any achievements and report on these as required. The plan will build on current Dundee City Council plans and strategies and aims to inform decision making and future planning.



Vision for 2030

Working together to protect, enhance and raise awareness of biodiversity in Dundee for the benefit of all.

How this will be achieved:

- Dundee City Council, in partnership with other organisations, continues to maintain and enhance a biodiverse, healthy and sustainable environment.
- By protecting, enhancing and incorporating quality green infrastructure into our urban setting we will improve the connectivity of the city's Nature Network and help create an environment that is resilient to climate change.
- Greenspaces are managed to preserve their wildlife value, as well as to enhance their contribution to the community and its inhabitants.
- The wider community understands what biodiversity is, what it means to them and how they can contribute.



Dundee as Part of the Wider Landscape

Although Dundee is a small, urban local authority it is still an important part of the wider landscape in Tayside. The ecosystems within the city provide connectivity to the surrounding areas through the Nature Network. The city sits on the Inner Tay Estuary and links the Angus coast to Perthshire. This coastline and estuary are internationally important for many coastal and marine species such as geese and seals. To the west is the Carse of Gowrie with its low-lying arable land and good conditions for fruit growing. To the north in Angus there is more arable land leading into the Sidlaw hills. The Local Authorities in the area all work together as part of the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan which sets out the overall planning vision for the area for the next 20 years. This plan helps to deliver better quality development and places which respond to climate change, Local Development Plans, design frameworks and development proposals, all of which influence our biodiversity.

Designated Areas

International Designations
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary Ramsar Site
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary - Special Protection Area (SPA)
River Tay Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

National Designations
Inner Tay Estuary - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Broughty Ferry Beach - Part of Monifieth Bay SSSI

Local Designations
Trottick Ponds Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Riverside Nature Park (LNR)
Camperdown Country Park

Non-statutory Designations
32 Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS)
2 Geodiversity Sites

Dundee's Biodiversity Resource

Dundee City covers 6300 hectares. 41% of this is greenspace, which is the highest percentage of publicly accessible greenspace of any city in Scotland. Adding private gardens increases this figure to 62% (State of Scotland's Greenspace report 2018). Many of these green areas have considerable biodiversity value and contribute greatly to the character of the city. The contribution and multiple benefits provided by these areas, including mental and physical health benefits, ecosystem services, education and community enhancement is widely recognised. DCC is committed to maintaining these valuable areas both to contribute to biodiversity value and to benefit the residents of and visitors to Dundee.

Dundee's Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) contain a variety of habitats and species, many of which are important nationally and within the local urban context.

There are 10 proposed candidate LINCS identified which were included in the 2019 habitat survey. These will be considered, alongside all LINCS, prior to the next review of the Local Development Plan to ensure they all meet the national guidelines and criteria.

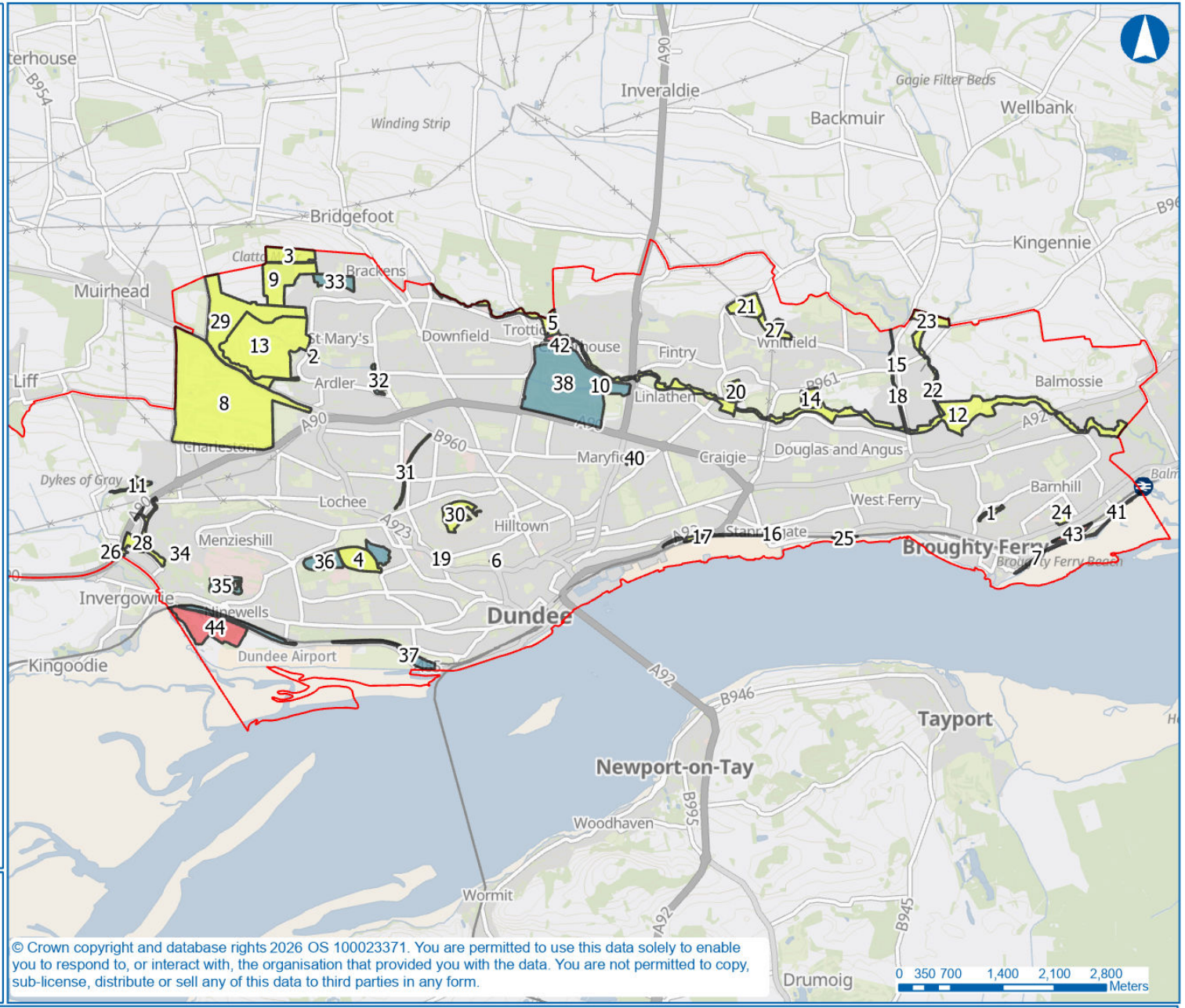
Dundee also has 2 geodiversity sites, one of which is also a geological Site Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These sites are identified by The Tayside Geodiversity Group as the most important places for geology and geomorphology. They are an important educational, historical and recreational resource.



Local Conservation Sites in Dundee

Legend

- DCC boundary
- Candidate LINC
- LINC
- LNR



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List of Dundee's LINCS, LNRs and Geodiversity Sites

LINCS

1. Anton Drive
2. Ardler Ponds
3. Baldragon Woods
4. Balgay Hill
5. Balmuir Woods
6. Barrack Road
7. Broughty Ferry Sand Dunes
8. Camperdown Country Park
9. Clatto Park
10. Den O Mains
11. Denhead of Gray
12. Dighty Burn
13. Downfield Golf Course
14. Drumgeith Meadow Wetland
15. Drumstrudy Wetland
16. Dundee Road West
17. East Dock Street/ Broughty Ferry Road
18. Fithie Burn
19. Lochee Road
20. Longhaugh Quarry
21. Middleton Woods
22. Murroes Burn
23. Pitkerro House Woods
24. Reres Hill
25. The Stannergate
26. The Swallow Roundabout Wetland
27. Tarzan's Island
28. Technology Park
29. Templeton Woods
30. The Law
31. The Miley

Candidate LINCS

32. Dundee Crematorium
33. Clatto Extension
34. Medipark Field
35. Ninewells Arboretum and Invergowrie House
36. Balgay Hill Extension
37. Riverside Wildlife Corridor
38. Caird Park
39. Scottish Water Field
40. Stobsmuir Ponds
41. Broughty Ferry Sand Dune Extension

LNR's

42. Trottick Ponds
43. Broughty Ferry
44. Riverside Nature Park

Geodiversity Sites

45. Dundee Law
46. Stannergate

Nature Network

All Local Authorities in Scotland have been asked by Scottish Government to map Nature Networks to identify, protect and strengthen ecological connectivity across their areas. This mapping helps to pinpoint key habitats and opportunities for restoring links between green and blue spaces. This will support biodiversity recovery, climate resilience and sustainable development by guiding planning decisions and focusing conservation efforts in areas that will have a large impact. This ensures nature is integrated with urban growth and helps to meet national targets for nature's recovery. It will also provide benefits for people and communities such as improved health, access to green space and climate adaptation.

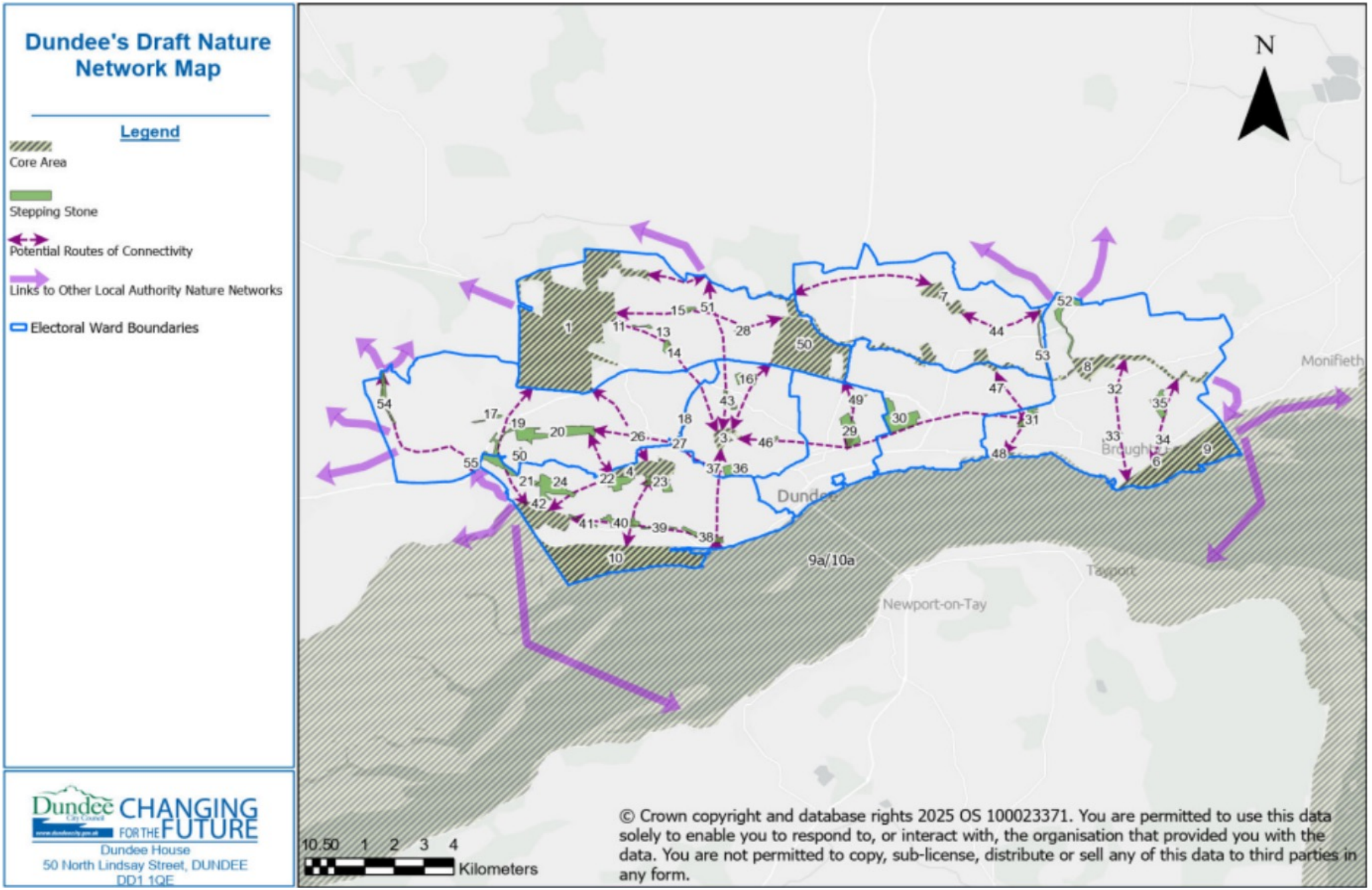
Dundee's Nature Network Map is composed of Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) combined with nationally designated areas on the Tay and smaller, but important, local green spaces. The potential routes of connectivity between the core sites are made up of natural corridors such as the Dighty and the Miley and stepping stone sites such as Ardler Ponds and Ninewells Arboretum.

There are a number of smaller but locally significant sites such as community growing spaces and, 'Wee Forests' which are not shown on the printed map. However, these sites will be shown as additional information which will be available online. Private gardens are also not specifically highlighted on the map but will play a significant role in helping nature to move around the city.

Public consultation on a draft map was held from 15th March to 30 June 2026. All comments received from this have been considered and incorporated into the actions in this plan.

There are no changes to the proposed draft map as a result of the consultation. However, this map is not intended to be static, but rather serves as an initial framework that will develop over time. It will be updated in accordance with future Biodiversity Action Plans and associated reviews, as well as revisions to the Local Development Plan. It will also be supported by an Opportunity Map, which will highlight existing and proposed biodiversity projects at a range of scales across the city which will enhance the Network and improve ecological connectivity.

Dundee's Draft Nature Network Map



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Nature Network Sites

Core Sites

1. Greater Camperdown
2. Caird Park
3. The Law
4. Greater Balgay
5. Riverside Nature Park
6. Broughty Ferry Esplanade
7. Middleton Woods and adjacent greenspace
8. The Dighty Corridor
9. Monifieth Bay SSSI (part of internationally important wider Tay site- 9a/10a)
10. Inner Tay Estuary SSSI (part of internationally important wider Tay site-9a/10a)

9a/10a. River Tay (national and international conservation designations) *

* *partly within city boundary*

Stepping Stone Sites

11. Ardler Pond West
12. Ardler Gleneagles
13. Ardler Pond East
14. Crematorium
15. St Leonards Park
16. Fairmuir Park
17. Denhead of Gray
18. The Miley
19. Myrekirk Park
20. South Road Park
21. Technology Park
22. Balgay Cemetery Elliot Park and Royal Victoria
23. Victoria Park
24. Ninewells Arboretum
25. Spey Drive Biodiversity Grassland
26. Helenbank Park
27. Lochee Road Biodiversity Grassland
28. Keswick Park
29. Baxter Park
30. Eastern Cemetery
31. Dawson Park
32. Balgillo Road Park
33. Anton Drive Woodland
34. Reres Park
35. Gillies Park and Eastern Cemetery
36. Dudhope Park
37. Lochee Road
38. Magdalen Green
39. Riverside Biodiversity Grassland
40. Dundee Botanic Gardens
41. Riverside Drive
42. Riverside Drive (North Side)
43. Kings Cross Hospital Woodland
44. Kellyfield Park
45. Hilltown Park
46. Rosebank Park
47. Douglas Park
48. Stannergate
49. Stobsmuir Ponds
50. Thurso Crescent
51. Balgowan Avenue
52. Fithie Burn
53. Murroes Burn
54. Airlie Den
55. Swallow Roundabout Wetland

The Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach, established by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), provides a framework for balancing 3 key objectives: conservation of biodiversity; its sustainable use; and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of natural resources. It seeks to protect individual species and habitats by conserving the wider environment in which they are found. By managing habitats at a broader scale, the species they support can also be protected. This approach promotes conservation at a landscape scale with Nature Networks acting as a practical delivery system. Therefore, the Dundee City LBAP will focus on ecosystems rather than single species or habitat plans.

Ecosystem Services

Biodiverse ecosystems are healthy ecosystems. The natural resources that healthy ecosystems provide people, both directly and indirectly, can be expressed in terms of goods and services.

These services can be classified as four functional groups:

- **Provisioning Services** – these are physical products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fuel, timber and pharmaceuticals.
- **Regulating Services** – these are the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystems processes such as air quality maintenance, temperature regulation, water purification, erosion control and pollination.
- **Cultural Services** – these are non-physical benefits to humans such as recreation, tourism, aesthetic experiences, spiritual enrichment and inspiration.
- **Supporting Services** – these are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. Their impacts are indirect such as soil formation, photosynthesis and water recycling.

An ecosystem statement has been produced for each of the following:

- **Woodlands**
- **Water and Wetlands**
- **Marine and Coastal**
- **Grasslands**
- **Urban**

There are three main objectives for each:

- To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity
- To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the extent and connectivity of the Nature Network
- To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city

Actions to enable these objectives to be achieved and how the outcomes from these will be measured can be seen in the Action Plan.

Key Topics which affect all Ecosystems

Several key topics relating to all ecosystems became apparent on the production of this plan. An outline statement for each is provided.

The objectives for each of these topics will be the same as those for the Ecosystem Statements, although some will have additional specific objectives.

Actions to enable these objectives to be achieved and how the outcomes from these will be measured can be seen in the Action Plan.

- Planning and Policy
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- Communication and Awareness Raising
- Biological Recording and Data
- Geodiversity



Individual Ecosystem Statements

"An ecosystem is all the plants and animals that live in a particular area together with the complex relationship that exists between them and their environment"

-Collins Dictionary

Woodlands



Water and Wetlands



Marine and Coastal



Grasslands



Urban



Woodlands

Current Status and Extent

Currently there are 3.29 million hectares of woodland in the UK with over 15 thousand hectares of new woodland planted in 2024-2025. In Scotland 19% of the land area is woodland, this has increased from 5.6% in the last hundred years or so. (Forestry Statistics 2025, Forestry Commission). These figures show that woodland habitat is increasing and whilst this may seem positive, woodland cover in the UK is still low compared with the European Average.



Dundee has many areas of urban woodland. The Strategic Forest Plan covers over 380 hectares of woodland across the city and the 2019 Biodiversity Survey identified around 318 hectares of woodland in LINCS and LNRs (whilst there is some overlap between these datasets some notable differences remain). The woodland surveyed in the Biodiversity Survey comprises a mix of semi-natural and plantation woodlands as well as a mix of broadleaved and coniferous trees. They vary in terms of species composition and age but many of the areas of established woodland provide excellent provision against climate change. They also provide good quality habitat for many woodland species particularly red squirrels, birds, invertebrates and bats. There are other smaller areas of woodland which, along with street trees and private gardens, hedgerows and shrub beds help with connectivity between habitats in the city. These should all be managed sensitively and at appropriate times of the year, but the ones included in the survey are felt to have the highest biodiversity value. The biodiversity value of dead wood is also recognised and both standing and cut deadwood is left in situ when it is deemed safe to do so. This is determined on a site-by-site basis.

Dundee has 238 hectares of ancient woodland. Ancient woodland sites are irreplaceable. The interactions between plants, animals, soils, climate and people are unique and have developed over hundreds of years. These ecosystems cannot be recreated and, as Scotland only has 2% of land area covered by ancient woodland, we cannot afford to lose any more of it.

Woodland within LNR's, LINCS and Wildlife corridors are afforded the same level of protection as other habitats in these areas. In addition to this, trees which are deemed by the council to make a special contribution to the landscape or are threatened with removal or damage may be issued with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Trees under these orders require special permission from the council for any pruning, lopping or felling. Dundee also has 17 Conservation Areas to ensure that any new development or alterations will not negatively impact on the existing character of these areas. Work to trees in Conservation Areas require similar permission from the council as those with a TPO.

The recently produced Tree Equity Map for Scotland combines tree canopy data and socio-economic need to produce a single score between 0-100, where a lower score shows a greater need for trees. This map shows that Dundee has an overall Tree Equity Score of 70, however when looking at individual areas this varies significantly across the city with some areas as high as 100 and some areas as low as 52. This information along with the Nature Network can be used to highlight areas where tree planting is most likely to have the greatest benefit.

Priority Habitat: Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, Semi-natural mixed woodland

Key Sites: Balgay Hill, Greater Camperdown, Reres Park,

Associated Species: red squirrel, pinemartin, badger, various fungi, brown long-eared bats, pipistrelle bats, numerous bird species.

Benefits Provided Through Ecosystem Services:

- **Provisioning Services-**
  - Timber for construction and fuel.
  - Wild food in the form of leaves, fruits, nuts and fungi.
- **Regulating Services-**
  - Regulation of water quality through filtration.
  - Flood management and control.
  - Carbon sequestration in soils and biomass.
  - Reduction in soil erosion.
  - Climate and air quality regulation.
  - Cultural Services
  - Recreation and leisure
  - Health benefits to users
  - Tourism

- **Supporting services -**
  - Photosynthesis – using sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to produce nutrients and oxygen
  - Habitats for other wildlife.

Historic and Known Threats

There are many challenges faced by urban woodland today, the main issues are listed below. To address these challenges and increase biodiversity and sustainability, management needs to be proactive, collaborative, long term and strategic.

- **Unsympathetic/lack of management** - lack of management can lead to loss of biodiversity through loss of open habitat and a mixture of canopy layers. Unsympathetic management can lead to monoculture, removal of all deadwood, damage caused by management activities at the wrong time of year and the planting of undesirable species.
- **Development and fragmentation** - development can reduce the amount of woodland cover but can also cause it to become fragmented. Inappropriate or insufficient mitigation during development can lead to damage of healthy mature trees or see mature trees replaced with new, much smaller specimens.
- **Climate change** - leads to an increase in periods of drought, extreme winds, high temperatures and shifting species distribution.
- **Invasive Non-native Species (INNS), pests and disease** - INNS includes Rhododendron ponticum and Japanese knotweed. Dutch elm disease has presented historical changes across the city and now many ash trees are threatened by Ash Dieback. Dundee City Council has an Ash Dieback plan in place to monitor the situation and remove dangerous trees where required.
- **Deer Management** - overgrazing can prevent the natural regeneration of woodland as well as reducing its diversity.
- **Poorly managed recreation** - can lead to erosion of sensitive areas, fragmentation by path networks and damage caused by irresponsible access (fires, litter)

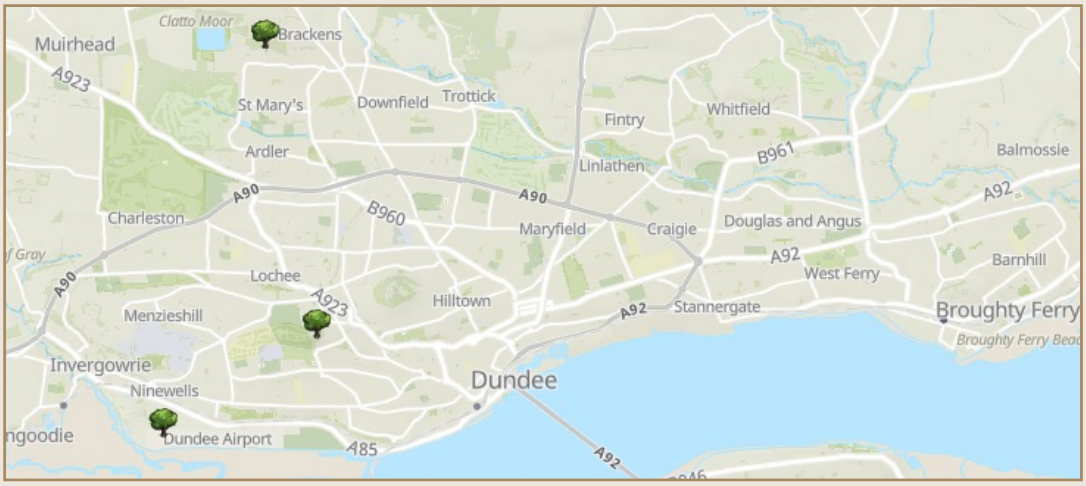
Case Study

Tr-Action. Dundee's Climate Ready Woodlands



In 2022 Dundee City Council successfully applied for Nature Restoration Funding from Nature Scot to plant around 12 hectares of new, native woodland across 3 sites in the city. These sites, planted in early 2023 are located east of Clatto Country Park, the eastern side of Balgay Hill and Riverside Nature Park, shown in the map below. The aim of this project was to extend and connect existing woodland areas at all three sites, increase the species and age diversity of these woodlands, improve ecological connectivity across the city as well as increase carbon storage and sequestration and other climate benefits.

Over the next 20 years and beyond, biodiversity in these areas will be increased and our urban woodland will be more sustainable in the face of climate change. As the woodlands establish, their proximity to residential areas and established green spaces will ensure that they provide an improved, natural resource for local people. It is anticipated that additional paths, signage and seating added to these areas in the future will further enhance access and the enjoyment of the areas for years to come.



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Water and Wetlands

Current Status and Extent

Scotland's ponds, rivers and wetlands support many important habitats and species. The different habitats create a variety of water depths and nutrient levels which mean that this is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems with numerous species depending on it for food and reproduction. All life requires water and this ecosystem is connected with all others, providing essential support to biodiversity. Water and wetlands are often areas of intense human activity leading to issues with pollution.

For Scotland, around 67% of water bodies meet the EU water quality standard of being at either good or high status (SEPA). Around 48% of water bodies in the sub basin district for the Tay meet these criteria.

After the River Tay, the Dighty Burn is the most important water course in the city. It runs almost the full length of the city, creating a riparian wildlife corridor that connects many LINCS and green spaces and is a significant component of the Nature Network. The river originates in the Sidlaw Hills and is approximately 12.5 miles long. The Fithie and Gelly Burns are tributaries to the Dighty and extend this connectivity even further. There are also many ponds throughout Dundee. These ponds vary in size from the large mill ponds at Trottick Ponds LNR to small Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) ponds created as part of new developments across the city. The 2018 biodiversity survey identified around 25 hectares of water, swamp and marginal vegetation. This figure only includes LINCS, LNR's and other significant sites in the city and the actual figure is likely to be much higher.

Priority Habitat: Ponds and pools, Rivers, Marsh/damp grassland

Key Sites: Dighty Wildlife Corridor (incl Trottick LNR), Ardler Ponds, Riverside Nature Park LNR, Den O Mains

Associated Species: otter, beaver, lampreys, dippers, kingfishers, salmon, brown trout, Daubenton's bat, common frog and toad

Benefits Provided Through Ecosystem Services:

- **Provisioning Services-**
  - Clean water -wetlands store water and replenish ground water levels.
  - Food- fish
- **Regulating Services-**
  - Wetlands are often a barrier between land and open water and can act as a sink for suspended solids, nitrogen and potassium preventing large quantities getting into rivers and lochs. This has been harnessed in the creation of SUDS and reed bed filtration.
  - Flood management control- attenuation of water, wetlands can store floodwater reducing the peak levels and releasing water gradually rather than as quick run off.

- **Cultural Services**

  - Water based recreation such as water sports, fishing and wild swimming.
  - Water edge recreation such as bird watching, fishing.

Historic and Known Threats

- **Climate change** - leads to an increase in periods of drought, increased number of flooding events and shifting species distribution.
- **Pollution** – has significantly reduced from the time when Dundee's water courses were heavily industrialised by mills. However, there is still a potential threat from other industries along the burn. There is also an issue of litter and fly tipping.
- **Nutrient enrichment** - Increased levels of nitrogen and potassium from groundwater run-off in our freshwater systems can lead to algal blooms which deprive plants of light and in some cases can be toxic. This has become an issue particularly at Clatto Reservoir and Stobsmuir Ponds.
- **Development** - Draining of wetlands to provide land for development. An area adjacent to Trottick Ponds LNR was drained for development to the east of the site in 1996.
- **Invasive non-native species (INNS)** - pose a significant problem in aquatic environments, partly as rivers allow for their rapid spread. INNS outcompete native species and can lead to bank erosion in the winter months.
- **Recreation pressure** – this can be from both managed recreation such as water sports to unmanaged recreation such as fishing and feeding wildfowl.
- This needs to be carefully managed and some ponds or rivers may require occasional, sympathetic dredging.
- **Unsympathetic/lack of management** - lack of management can lead to loss of biodiversity through natural silting and succession. Rivers and ponds naturally accumulate silt and organic matter over time leading to a reduction in water levels, changes to water courses and potentially the loss of a water body. This requires careful management and permissions to maintain a balance as over management in the form of too much dredging can also lead to a loss of biodiversity. Damage can also be caused by management activities at the wrong time of year and the planting of undesirable species.

Case Study

New Pond at Campy Growers



The creation of a large wildlife pond at Campy Growers in Camperdown Park has shown the impact that committed volunteers can have in delivering meaningful biodiversity enhancements. Campy Growers had long aspired to establish a substantial pond on site. When an opportunity arose to partner with RSPB to secure materials, volunteers quickly mobilised to design and deliver an ambitious project within the tree nursery and orchard area of the site.

The group planned a 10 m diameter pond with different habitat features, including an island for planting and a bog garden to capture natural run-off. Importantly, the project was undertaken entirely by hand. This decision was down to a desire to involve volunteers directly in all stages of construction, while also demonstrating that significant habitat creation can be done without reliance on heavy machinery.

Progress initially proved challenging due to the scale of excavation required. Volunteer work days made a start, but it became clear that the task would take time and persistence. A turning point came with the arrival of a highly dedicated volunteer whose enthusiasm and skill accelerated the digging process considerably. Supported by other volunteers, the excavation was completed in just a few weeks.

Further collaborative effort was required to install the liner, construct planting features and fill the pond using water from an on-site borehole. The results were immediate and within days, aquatic insects had colonised the water and birds began to take notice. This project highlights how volunteer-led action, supported by shared knowledge and practical cooperation, can deliver significant, lasting benefits for biodiversity.

Marine and Coastal

Current Status and Extent

Most of Dundee's coastal and marine habits can be found within the Tay Estuary. The Firth of Tay Estuary has been described as the least modified of the large east coast estuaries in Scotland. Combined with the Eden Estuary, it forms a mosaic of estuarine and coastal habitats of local, national and international significance. This had led to numerous scientific designations for the habitats here and the flora and fauna that live in them.

The Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary is a designated Ramsar site. This means it is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the UNESCO Convention signed in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran. It was designated due to internationally important populations of wading birds such as common redshank, pink-footed goose, greylag goose and bar-tailed godwits. Other bird populations noted to be of national importance include ringed plovers, greenshank, eider and grey plover. It also contains nationally important populations of common and grey seals. The estuary is one of only 3 Scottish rivers that are home to smelt or sparling and in the summer is home to members of the extended Moray Firth bottlenose dolphin family.

The estuary is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is protected under the EC Habitats Directive. This directive requires that there be an established network of high quality conservation sites across Europe. The quality of the estuarine habitat is the main reason for this designation along with different types of sandbanks.

It is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) in accordance with the EC Birds Directive. This is due to the bird species mentioned above but also for populations of Marsh Harriers and Little Terns amongst others.

The final designations are the Monifieth Bay and Inner Tay Estuary Sites of Special Scientific Interest. This is a national designation and covers areas of land or water that is felt to best represent the UK's natural heritage. Monifieth Bay was designated due to the importance of the extensive mud flats with its rich invertebrate population. These provide a feeding ground for wintering waders, specifically important numbers of sanderling. The Inner Tay Estuary was designated due to its importance for certain bird species such as the bearded tit and areas of reed bed.

The estuary forms an important part of a network of habitats and provides connectivity between habitats for organisms which move between them such as salmon and lamprey which travel from the sea to breeding grounds further upstream in the River Tay, another designated SAC.

Scotland has a large amount of coastline and Scotland has the majority of the UK's sand dunes. The 2019 biodiversity survey identified around 59 hectares of coastal habitat, including intertidal habitats and coastal grassland habitat. In the urban context of Dundee, this is a valuable component of green infrastructure, as well as habitat.

Over the last 10 years substantial investment has been made in Dundee's coastal defences, protecting the city from the potential impact of climate change. This has affected a proportion of the dune habitat at Broughty Ferry Esplanade with areas of rock armour / rip rap being installed along the seaward edge of the dune habitat. However, recent engineering works have sought to use the sand dunes as a natural barrier to coastal erosion and flooding and has protected and enhanced the remaining natural dunes through fencing, additional planting and restricting pedestrian access.

Priority Habitat: Intertidal mudflats, Estuarine beds and sand dunes, Remnant coastal marsh

Key Sites: Inner Tay Estuary, Broughty Ferry LNR,

Associated Species: Migratory and wintering waders and wildfowl, pink footed goose, eider, bar-tailed godwit, greylag goose, common and grey seals, coastal invertebrates, kidney vetch

Benefits Provided Through Ecosystem Services:

- **Provisioning Services**
  - Food- Fish, including shellfish and other wild food.
- **Regulating Services**
  - Coastal flood protection – by absorbing the impact of high energy storms they protect inland areas by acting as a resilient barrier to the destructive forces of wind and waves.
  - Regulation of water quality – Many coastal habitats act as a sink for nitrogen and potassium before it reaches the sea.
- **Cultural Services**
  - Recreation and tourism – Such as wildlife watching, sailing, walking, swimming and play.
  - Cultural heritage and diversity- providing links to our fishing and whaling past.
  - Landscape aesthetic - The visual quality which influences human well-being, the sense of beauty and inspiration.

Historic and Known Threats

- **Pollution** – Much of the coastal pollution comes from the land as a result of run off. This can be from roads or agricultural area of from industrial pollution in our rivers. Plastic is a major source of pollution in our oceans and on our beaches, causing damage to wildlife.
- **Development** – Coastal development can lead to increased recreation usage, decrease and fragmentation of habitat as well as pollution. Reclamation of land for development also leads to a loss in estuarine habitats.
- **Invasive Species** – Both native and non-native invasive species can colonise coastal areas with a detrimental effect. This includes giant hogweed, shrubs and trees.
- **Climate change** - Rising sea levels, increasing number and intensity of storms and

an increase in rainfall all contribute to the erosion of our coasts and particularly sand dunes.

- **Poorly managed recreation** – Coastal areas are a huge draw for both onshore and offshore recreation. If not appropriately managed, engines from boats and jet-ski's may have a detrimental impact on fish and sea mammal populations. Access by large numbers of people can lead to erosion and an increase in antisocial behaviour such as litter and inappropriate fires. Disturbance of feeding/roosting birds by walkers and dogs.
- **Over exploitation of resources** - Species such as ragworm and lugworm are in danger of overcollection by anglers for bait. In recent years the popularity of razor clams for food has led to unrestricted collection on some Scottish beaches. Poor fisheries management can have a negative impact on seals.
- **Unsympathetic management** - Cleaning of beaches can lead to a loss of vegetation and habitat and make beaches more prone to erosion. In the past large areas of Broughty Ferry beach were swept clean to provide suitable areas for recreation. This swept area has been significantly reduced and is now carefully monitored.

Case Study

Broughty Ferry and Monifieth Active Travel Project



In 2023 as part of the £18 million Broughty Ferry and Monifieth Active travel project a substantial area of amenity grassland along Broughty Ferry Esplanade and Balmossie Park was converted into coastal wildflower meadows. The area was carefully prepared around newly installed pathways and other infrastructure and was designed to be undulating to mimic natural established sand dunes as much as possible. Grass pathways were sown though out to allow informal access through the meadows as well. Council staff worked closely with local seed supplier Scotia seeds to design a bespoke seed mix of coastal wildflowers suitable for the existing soil conditions. As this meadow was intended to be perennial and would take time to establish, annual poppies were added to the mix to provide a source of nectar and a splash of colour in the first year. The meadow continues to provide colour, habitat and a food source for pollinators and is being carefully monitored through annual rapid assessment surveys.

Grasslands

Current Status and Extent

Grasslands cover 2.38 million hectares or 29.8% of Scotland's land area. Most of this is intensively managed or improved to enhance productivity and therefore, tends to be low in biodiversity. Improvement for productivity can involve draining, ploughing or the application of fertilisers or slurry to an area. Most of the remaining grassland is semi-improved, having been worked in the past, and true unimproved grasslands are now rare. Management of grassland is crucial to enhancing biodiversity, particularly pollinating insects, this can involve grazing of livestock or maintaining appropriate cutting regimes.

Many different types of grassland are found in Dundee from short amenity grassland in parks and sports pitches to wildflower meadows such as those at Riverside Nature Park (coastal grassland is covered in the Marine and Coast Ecosystem Statement). The 2019 biodiversity survey identified 287 hectares of different types of grassland in Dundee's LINCS, LNR's and other significant sites. Most of the grassland (63% of the areas surveyed in 2019) in Dundee is amenity grassland. This reflects the urban nature of our local authority which provides amenity spaces such as sports pitches, parks and urban greenspace. It also shows a legacy of historic greenspace management where neat and tidy grass was highly desirable.

Around 16% of the areas surveyed in 2019 are semi-improved neutral grassland. This is due to Dundee's past expansion into agricultural land. There are also other areas of more neutral grassland not surveyed, including road verges, which can be of high quality and support important plant species such as orchids and other wildflowers

Priority Habitat: Semi-improved acidic grassland, Semi-improved calcareous grassland, Semi-improved neutral grassland and Unimproved neutral grassland.

Key Sites: The Law, Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve, Riverside Nature Park.

Associated Species: various invertebrates (including pollinators), hedgehogs, skylark, greater yellow rattle, orchids.

Table 1. Different Types of Grassland found in Dundee

Name	Grassland Type	Description	Example	Potential Biodiversity value
Amenity grassland	Improved	Sports pitches, recreational areas that are regularly cut	Camperdown Park, Baxter Park	Low
Low maintenance grassland	Improved	Areas that are cut on a low frequency, but arisings are not removed- **naturalised grassland**	Various areas, mostly in tree beds in many parks	Low-medium
Unmown grassland	Semi-natural	Grassland that has not been mown or grazed in recent years	Middleton Community Woodlands	Low -medium
Exotic Meadow	Flower meadow	An annual or perennial mix of redominantly non-native species designed for colour, impact and nectar provision predominantly non-native species designed for colour, impact and nectar provision	Road verges at Riverside Drive and Claypotts	Variable
Acid Grassland	Semi-natural	Nutrient poor soil with a pH lower than 5.5. Grassy-mossy vegetation with fewer flowers than neutral and calcareous grassland.	Areas within Downfield Golf Course, Medi park field at Ninewells	High (UK biodiversity priority habitat)
Neutral Grassland	Unimproved	Grassland that has not been subject to agricultural improvement. Supports a wide range of grasses and can support several scarcer plant species.	Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve	High (UK biodiversity priority habitat)
Neutral Grassland	Semi -natural Wildflower meadow	A diverse mix of grasses and wildflowers such as meadow buttercup, ox eye daisy and knapweed- **biodiversity grassland**	Trottick Ponds LNR, Riverside Nature Park,	Improved High (UK biodiversity priority habitat)
Calcareous grassland	Semi-natural	Grassland on thin basic soil. Plants are typically short and hardy.	On the rocky, southern slopes of The Law	High (UK biodiversity priority habitat)

Benefits Provided Through Ecosystem Services:

- **Provisioning Services**
  - Opportunity for foraging
- **Regulating Services**
  - Carbon sequestration and storage in soils
  - Pollination
  - Flood management control through attenuation of water and gradual release
- **Cultural Services**
  - Recreation/ tourism
  - Spiritual /religious
  - Aesthetic/ inspiration
- **Supporting Services**
  - Soil formation.
  - Photosynthesis - using sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to produce nutrients and oxygen.
  - Primary production- providing food for herbivores and the basis for many food chains.

Historic and Known Threats

- **Pollution** – Fly tipping, nutrification
- **Development** - Many areas of grassland next to urban areas are not the most suitable for agriculture so they become targets for development.
- **Excessive and unmanaged recreational use** - off road motorbikes and quadbikes, camping and fires, BBQs,
- **Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)** – lack of control can lead to monocultures and loss of diversity.
- **Poor management/Lack of management** - amenity grassland management in species rich grassland areas can lead to lack of diversity however a lack of mowing can lead to an increase in coarse grasses, ruderal (weedy) vegetation and scrub.

Case Study

Biodiversity and Naturalised Grasslands



During lockdown due to Covid in 2020, many grass areas in parks across the city were unable to be cut and for the first time people were able to witness firsthand what a wild grassland landscape might look like. Once grass cutting resumed the council received many requests from members of the public asking them to leave some areas uncut. In response to this, areas across 24 parks were identified to trial a change to grass maintenance. Areas were identified to have 2 different types of maintenance. Naturalised grassland areas in parts of parks that were least accessed were only cut once a year at the end of the summer and the arisings were left in situ. Biodiversity grassland areas were patches of grassland that already had a small mix of wildflowers present, again these were cut once a year at the end of summer, but the arisings were removed, mimicking hay meadow maintenance. A public consultation was carried out during the initial phase of the trial and more than 70% of respondents were in favour of keeping this change, although some areas were modified slightly. This new regime has now been in place for several years benefiting biodiversity across numerous parks in the city.



Urban

Definition

Dundee is one of the smallest Local Authorities in Scotland. Its boundary follows the urban edge closely; however, the urban environment is not devoid of biodiversity. It contains a variety of ecosystems, some of which have their own Ecosystem Statement in this plan, but it also includes private gardens, allotments, community gardens, cemeteries, parks, roadside verges, urban orchards and street trees. All these small areas and corridors are interwoven and are an integral part of the Nature Network for the city. In Dundee almost 150 thousand people need to co-exist with nature in a relatively small area, which can bring many challenges.

Current Status and Extent

In many ways increasing urbanisation is a threat to biodiversity, but it also provides new opportunities for many species. Urban areas are not a designated priority habitat in either the UKBAP or the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, however in a local context it is vital we manage these areas with biodiversity in mind. Urban habitats may be left over fragments of historical landscapes, providing insight into the biological heritage of an area. They may also contain the seeds of biodiversity for new areas. Some habitats may be entirely man-made and provide new niches for a species to exploit. Many smaller areas of green infrastructure such as gardens, allotments and street trees provide ecological connectivity between core sites in the Nature Network. These urban areas are often great places to inspire people about biodiversity and where visible impacts can be demonstrated.

Priority Habitat: Community gardens and allotments, flower panels, shrub beds, cemeteries, buildings

Key Sites: Riverside Drive and Lochee Road Verges, Dawson Park and Spey Drive Biodiversity grassland.

Benefits Provided Through Ecosystem Services:

- **Provisioning Services**
  - Food production- both privately in gardens and allotments but also in community gardens and urban orchards
- **Regulating Services**
  - Clean air- street trees.
  - Carbon storage and sequestration- in vegetation and soil.
  - Water filtration and flood management.
  - Pollination- a range of nectar rich planting found around the city and in gardens.

- **Cultural Services**
  - Aesthetic- provides a feeling of wellbeing and living in a looked after place.
  - Health and wellbeing.
  - Recreation- sport.
  - Tourism- visits to see rare species such as red squirrels and green infrastructure contributing to an inviting city environment.

Historic and Known Threats

- **Climate Change**- leads to an increase in periods of drought, increased number of flooding events and shifting species distribution.
- **Pollution** - run off water, litter, soil contamination, also light and noise pollution.
- **Development** - garden sizes are shrinking and increasingly paved over for driveways and ease of maintenance. Brown sites are targeted for development. New building methods have reduced the opportunities for bat and swifts roosts within built structures. Also, renovation or demolition of old buildings often exclude urban species such as swifts and bats.
- **Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)** – often most abundant in urban areas as many are garden escapes.
- **Habitat fragmentation** - green areas are often separated by road or rail networks making it difficult for species to move around between sites freely.
- **Unsympathetic/lack of management** - To make our urban areas look well cared for they can often be over managed with a prevalence of herbicide use and grass mowing. Areas such as shrubs and hedges can also be lost to improve sight lines and make people feel safer. It is also important to ensure species selection is suitable and that management is carried out at appropriate times of the year. Lack of management can also lead to an increase in coarse grass and the spread of invasive species.

Case Study

Stobswell Biodiversity Initiative

In 2025 Dundee City Council allocated some of its Nature Restoration Funds to RSPB Scotland to carry out some small local biodiversity projects in Stobswell. This was intended to help green the grey in this area and encourage residents to do more for nature. The project was also intended to showcase how small urban nature projects can make a big impact.

Three sites in Stobswell were identified:

The Boomerang Community Centre

RSPB staff worked with users of the centre to design and develop a new, native wildlife garden. They planted bulbs, shrubs, wildflowers and a tree as well as installing habitats for small invertebrates. Whilst doing this they delivered education sessions on nature rich gardening to support the community to continue to look after the garden and to adopt some ideas for their own gardens in the area.

Foxglove Community Garden

RSPB staff and the local community growing group worked together to convert an area of fly tipping into a rain garden with native plants and a beetle bank. They also provided support to adopt nature positive practices throughout the garden.

Wolsely Sheltered housing

RSPB staff worked with residents and staff to transform a fully paved front garden with raised beds and planters to grow native plants and enable residents with low mobility to participate in gardening. They also encouraged residents to record the wildlife visiting their garden.



Wolsely Housing: before



Wolsely Housing: after



Foxglove Garden just after planting



Foxglove Garden now

Key Topics which Affect all Ecosystems

The following topics are all important in relation to biodiversity and how we manage it. These cannot be looked at in isolation for each ecosystem but require a city-wide approach.

- **Planning and Policy**
- **Invasive non-native species**
- **Communication and Awareness raising**
- **Biological Recording and Data**
- **Geodiversity**

Planning and Policy

Definition

Dundee City Council is responsible for many aspects of planning and development across the city. This includes new projects delivered by the council as well as those led by private individuals and businesses. This includes managing changes to land use, development proposals and the use of buildings, alongside the delivery of key services such as housing and greenspace.

Planning decisions are guided by the local development plan (LDP) and national policy and legislation, the most notable of which is Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Adopted in 2023, NPF4 places sustainable development, climate action and nature recovery at the heart of the planning system. It introduces a strengthened requirement for all development to contribute to biodiversity enhancement, going beyond simply protecting existing species and habitats.

Housing associations, private developers and landowners all have a role to play in delivering these ambitions and should be aware of their responsibilities under both local and national planning policy.

In what way does planning and development affect biodiversity?

Poorly planned development can easily result in habitat loss and fragmentation on both a local and a landscape scale. Protected species may be adversely affected when legal requirements and best practice guidance are not followed. However, it is important to recognise that biodiversity extends beyond legally protected species and that even locally abundant species should be considered as important and protected accordingly.

Conversely, good planning and development can protect and enhance our biodiversity resources. Embedding biodiversity considerations at the earliest stages of project design enables informed decision making, timely ecological surveys and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures to be incorporated, reducing delays and

improving outcomes.

Under NPF4 Policy 3 (biodiversity), all developments are expected to:

- Contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including through habitat creation and restoration
- Protect and strengthen Nature Networks
- Avoid significant negative impacts on biodiversity

Local Development Plan and Green Infrastructure

The Dundee Local Development Plan includes policies relating to the Sustainable Natural and Built Environment, covering green infrastructure, outdoor access, open space, protected species, trees and woodland, and development in the countryside. All planning applications must demonstrate compliance with these policies and align with national guidance set out in NPF4.

Planning for biodiversity presents opportunities to create and enhance Nature Networks. Integrating green and grey infrastructure can improve habitat connectivity, increase structural diversity and deliver multiple benefits for people and nature at building, neighbourhood and city scales. Green infrastructure which is beneficial to Nature Networks includes:

- Unpaved private gardens and high-quality communal greenspace
- Vegetated road verges and well-maintained street trees
- Green roofs and walls
- Parks, cemeteries and allotments
- Rivers, burns and wetlands
- Urban woodland and naturalised areas

Strategic Planning and Policy Integration

Incorporating biodiversity at a strategic level ensures that benefits are cumulative and operate at ecosystem and landscape scales. Embedding biodiversity into action plans and strategies helps establish consistent expectations, promotes best practice and supports delivery of national and international biodiversity targets, including Scotland's commitment to halt biodiversity loss.

NPF4 reinforces this by aligning planning policy with Scotland's wider environmental commitments, including climate adaptation and nature restoration, ensuring biodiversity is central to decision making across sectors.

Implementation and Enforcement

Effective implementation requires clear guidance and proportionate enforcement mechanisms. The level of enforcement will depend on whether policies are statutory or advisory.

A transparent and robust system will:

- Enable developers to understand and meet requirements

- Support officers in decision-making and enforcement
- Encourage public confidence in reporting breaches of policy or legislation

Ensuring that biodiversity considerations are embedded, monitored and enforced across the planning process is essential to achieving meaningful and lasting outcomes for Dundee's natural environment.

Additional Objectives

- To balance biodiversity issues with sustainable development within the city.
- To ensure that any plans and strategies produced by Dundee City Council protect and enhance biodiversity.

See appendix 2 for full list of relevant plans and strategies for Dundee and Tayside



Invasive Non-Native Species

Definition

Any plant or animal that has been introduced (either deliberately or by accident) by human activity to an area in which they do not naturally occur.

An **invasive non-native species** is any **non-native** animal or plant that could spread, causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health and the way we live. (GB non-native species secretariat)

Legislation:

Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to:

- Release or allow to escape from captivity any animal to a place out with its native range;
- Cause any animal out with the control of any person to be at place out with its native range;
- Plant or otherwise cause to grow any plant in the wild out with its native range.

In what ways do INNS affect biodiversity?

Invasive non-native plants can spread very quickly, particularly through habitats associated with waterways. They compete with our native species and can create areas with monocultures reducing the overall biodiversity. Often these plants die back completely in the winter and can leave large patches of bare earth which can increase flooding and are open to increased pressures from erosion. This also leaves little of the cover or habitat that many of our native and over wintering species rely on.

Non-native animals can create havoc in our delicate native ecosystems and food chains. Predators can devastate native populations that are unused to such pressure, some carry diseases which are deadly for native species and others simply outcompete our native animals for the food sources they rely on.

Current Status and Extent

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report in 2019 identified invasive non-native species as one of the top 5 global issues driving biodiversity loss around the world.

Nature Scot published the first Scottish Action Plan for Invasive Non-Native Species in 2026 which is intended to prevent new INNS becoming established through early detection and rapid response and the long-term management of established INNS through a whole society approach. This action plan contributes to meeting the new Kunming-Montreal targets as well as outcomes in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The plan also looks to address the urgent change required in the level of funding and action for INNS.

Name	Distribution	Threat Level
Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*	Mainly along the Dighty and its tributaries but also spreading along the Dundee to Aberdeen railway line and the A92. Occasional plants found in pockets across the city	High
Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*	Pockets found along the Dighty and along the Fithie and Murroes Burns. Clumps have been identified in the The Miley SWT reserve and Templeton Woods	High
Himalayan Balsalm *Impatiens glandulifera*	Along the Dighty Wildlife Corridor, Trottick LNR, Balgay Hill, Camperdown Park and Templeton Woods. Other smaller patches occur throughout the city but have never been formally mapped.	High
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*	Camperdown Park	Low
American Mink *Mustela vison*	Trottick LNR, Dighty Burn	Intermediate
New Zealand Flatworm *Arthurdendyus traingulates*	Unknown, widespread in Scotland	Intermediate
Red eared terrapin *Trachemys scripta elegans*	Clatto Reservoir, Ardler SUDS	Low
Signal Crayfish *Paciastacus leniusculus*	Dighty Burn	Low
Himalayan Knotweed *Persicaria wallichii*	Several clumps found on the Law and at Trottick, along the Dighty Burn	Low
American Skunk Cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*	Small number of plants found next to the Dighty Burn.	Very Low

Case Study

Dundee Conservation Volunteers
(part of the local Scottish Wildlife Trust)

Dundee Conservation Volunteers (part of the Scottish Wildlife Trust) have carried out an annual Giant Hogweed control day on the Dighty since 2010. The control uses a manual root cutting technique. Starting on a pilot site in 2010, which had not previously received spray control, giant hogweed has reduced and now the volunteers cover a wider area in one day. This wider area includes Trottick Ponds Local Nature Reserve, helping to reduce the use of herbicide there, in line with the Green Flag Management Plan. On the banks of the Dighty between the pilot site and the Nature Reserve. This is in addition to spraying carried by council operatives and work carried out by the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative throughout the catchment.

A risk assessment and carefully controlled safe working practices protect volunteers from the possibility of sap burns, with training, protective clothing and clean water for washing on site. The task is open to members of the public who wish to join in and people have been given the training and confidence to safely remove giant hogweed in their own gardens.





Communication and Awareness Raising

Why is it important for people to know about and value biodiversity?

The ecosystem services that biodiversity provides are wide ranging and for everyone. From the air we breathe and the water we drink to the places we go for recreation and our mental wellbeing; biodiversity affects us all.

> ***"Cherish the natural world because you're part of it and you depend on it"***
> *- Sir David Attenborough*

People need to have access to information about biodiversity to make informed decisions about how they interact with it. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the scale of this topic and the current news stories surrounding it. Whilst international and national legislation play a part in conserving our biodiversity, local and individual action also has benefits. We all need to play our part.

It is important to recognise that people who live, work and visit Dundee will come from a diverse range of backgrounds and have differing priorities and perspectives. This needs to be considered when raising awareness of the benefits of biodiversity as a range of methods may be needed to reach the same goals. The State of Nature Report 2023 highlights strong public engagement with nature, demonstrated through widespread participation in citizen science and monitoring and identifies a growing public desire for nature recovery.

Additional Communication Objectives

- Communicate and engage with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations regarding biodiversity, supporting and educating them where necessary and encouraging them to consider the impacts of their actions.
- Celebrate Dundee's biodiversity through community engagement and publications.

What do people in Scotland think/know about biodiversity?

Recent Scottish surveys such as the Scottish Climate Survey and the Scottish Environment LINK public attitudes research indicate that while people strongly value nature and recognise its benefits for health and wellbeing, awareness of the biodiversity crisis remains low. This data suggests that most people have regular contact with nature and that greater engagement is associated with stronger concern for biodiversity loss. However, significant inequalities still exist in access to high-quality greenspace and participation in environmental decision making remains limited. These findings highlight the importance of education, inclusive engagement and improving access to nature as key components of biodiversity recovery.

What do people in Dundee think/know about biodiversity?

Recent Dundee-based engagement and research highlights that although biodiversity is not always specifically mentioned, residents strongly value greenspaces for their contribution to health, wellbeing and community cohesion. Dundee benefits from a relatively high provision of greenspace but local evidence from the Place Standard

Survey (2024) and the Urban ReLeaf initiative (2024–2025) indicates that access to high-quality greenspace is not experienced equally across the city. Urban ReLeaf engagement collected perception data across 43 greenspaces in all eight wards, including targeted participation from marginalised communities. This highlighted variations in perceived accessibility, safety, biodiversity value and overall quality. There is clear evidence of strong community interest in green spaces, with residents valuing them for recreation, relaxation and opportunities to experience nature, and expressing a desire for improved quality and greater involvement in their management.

The Countryside Ranger Service runs volunteer sessions for interested members of the community. These sessions focus on practical conservation tasks such as tree planting, wildflower seed sowing, removal of invasive non-native species and site clean ups. In 24/25 this amounted to around 1358 hours of volunteer work, highlighting people's desire to get involved for biodiversity in their local community.

Current methods of communication

- Events run by Dundee City Council and local community groups
- Conservation Volunteering afternoons run by the Countryside Ranger Service, local groups and national organisations
- Printed leaflets provided by Dundee City Council, local groups and national organisations
- Information on websites and through social media provided by Dundee City Council, local groups and national organisations
- Education Ecoschools, training events, Countryside Ranger visits

Examples of Current Partnerships with Dundee City Council:

- 'Friends of' groups for parks in the city
- Scottish Wildlife Trust at the Miley and with the Conservation Volunteers at various sites
- Community Gardens across the city
- Eden Project collaboration on wildflower meadow creation and management
- Dundee Naturalists support for Bioblitz events
- Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and various groups which also cover Dundee
- Tay Estuary Forum
- Woodland Trust provide free tree packs and working with the Tree Equity Officer
- Scottish Water through the Water Resilient Dundee partnership
- SEPA on the Dighty Restoration Project and associated INNS matters
- RSPB Scotland work on Wild Dundee Project in the city
- Scottish Forestry have provided funding and advice on forestry matters
- British Dragonfly Society promoting Trottick Ponds as a Dragon Hotspot
- Bonnie Dundee Group working in the city centre
- Bumblebee conservation Society urban transects surveys
- Various Citizen Science Projects such as the City Nature Challenge

Case Study

Urban Re-Leaf

Urban ReLeaf Dundee is a citizen science project that helps residents share their experiences of local green spaces, providing valuable insights into how nature supports people and biodiversity across the city. Led by the University of Dundee in partnership with Dundee City Council, Sustainable Dundee, and European partners, the project aims to create greener, healthier, and more climate-resilient neighbourhoods.



A key focus of Urban ReLeaf is understanding the relationship between people and biodiversity. Through a mobile app, surveys were carried out in parks, play areas, and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). Residents record what they see, hear, and experience in these spaces. This includes observations of wildlife such as birds, insects, plants, and other animals, as well as how connected people feel to nature.

The project recognises that biodiversity is not only about habitats and species but also about how people interact with and value natural environments. Participants provide information on the cleanliness, safety, accessibility, and overall quality of green spaces, helping to build a richer understanding of how these areas function for both wildlife and communities.

Urban ReLeaf's findings complement traditional biodiversity monitoring methods, including habitat surveys, species records, and environmental mapping. Together, these sources of information provide a more complete picture of Dundee's natural environment and help inform the review of the city's Biodiversity Action Plan.



By engaging a wide range of residents, particularly those from underserved communities, Urban ReLeaf supports evidence-based decision making that can enhance biodiversity, improve access to nature, and ensure that Dundee's green spaces continue to benefit both wildlife and people for generations to come.

Biological Records and Data

Definition:

A biological record is a set of information that tells us where, when and what types of species were found and by whom. This information is held by a variety of organisations across Scotland and the UK. A record can be submitted in several ways. Expert naturalists might be regularly recording and sending that information directly to the relevant organisations such as Butterfly Conservation or the British Trust of Ornithology. Experts and members of the public might contribute records to national monitoring schemes such as the RSPB's Garden Bird Watch. Some individuals might submit the occasional record to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) database through a digital recording app like i-Record or iNaturalist.

How does biological recording affect biodiversity?

To ensure that effects on biodiversity are considered in all decision making and management, as required by legislation, easily accessible and reliable data is required. It is also impossible to monitor the outcome of such decisions and management without looking at any changes over time.

With good biological records we can give meaningful and powerful consideration to biodiversity. Good records can lead to targeted action and further inspire existing, and new, volunteers, by showcasing how their biological records contribute to the conservation of their local area. When the information is robust it enables informed and defensible decisions to be made in light of competing pressures.

Current Status of Biological Records

Record centres support biological recording for all plant and animal groups. They can help the recording community publish atlases, datasets and online resources as well as providing the data required for informed research, policy and the conservation of biodiversity. Some also organise training events which help to raise awareness of biological recording to the public.

One of the key issues that has been highlighted in the preparation of this plan is the lack of biological records and a recording centre for Dundee.

Historically all local species records were held by the McManus Museum in a system called Nature Base. However, this became too resource intensive to maintain and verify.

Since then, there has not been a local records centre in the area. Some records are sent to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), and others are held by individual species interest groups. This makes it difficult to promote wildlife recording for local benefits and can mean that developers struggle to find the environmental information they require for planning. This may lead to important information being missed and the unintended loss of biodiversity.

Case Study

City Nature Challenge Dundee

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is a global, annual citizen Science event where cities from around the world ask residents to record as many wildlife observations as possible over a short period of 4 days. It encourages the public to use the free iNaturalist Application to document species in their local area, helping to raise awareness of biodiversity while generating valuable data for research and conservation.

Dundee has taken part in this global challenge for the past four years, with participation increasing each year. The event is held in early spring, which is not ideal for one of the most northerly cities involved, as relatively little wildlife is readily observable at that time. Despite this, participants continue to record a wide range of species. In 2026, there were 415 observations covering 213 species across the city. These included species such as speckled wood and holly blue butterflies, along with a variety of interesting pond invertebrates and marine life.



Geodiversity

Definition

Geodiversity is defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as "*the variety of the geological and physical elements of nature, such as minerals, rocks, soils, fossils and landforms and geological and geomorphological processes. Together with Biodiversity, geodiversity constitutes the natural diversity of planet earth.*"

An area of geodiversity has examples of geological deposits and features that can be seen and show the interactive relationships between geology and other interests. They may show the location and nature of past mineral workings or the influence of geology in shaping the built and man-made environment or the historical legacy of geological research within the area.

How does geodiversity affect biodiversity?

The earth's geology helps us to understand the evolution of life and the present biodiversity.

Soil is a key part of geodiversity. Whilst soil biodiversity refers to the vast complex of organisms which live underground, this biodiversity is reliant on the interactions between the physical and chemical properties of the soil based on the underlying geology.

Current Status and Extent

Dundee currently has 2 geodiversity sites, however it has been noted that there are other sites which may have the potential to become geodiversity sites which should be investigated.

Key sites - The Law, Stannergate

Benefits Provided Through Ecosystem Services:

- **Provisioning Services**
  - Donation of a growth medium suitable for all food production
  - Building Material- quarries etc
- **Regulating Services**
  - Structuring soil and contributing to climate regulation- soil can store or release carbon, helping to regulate the flux of greenhouse gases. The second largest pool of carbon on earth, after the oceans. Scottish soils alone contain more than 3,000 mega tonnes of stored carbon (Nature Scot)
  - Storing and Purifying water- soils without earthworms can be 90% less effective at soaking up water.
  - Cleaning contaminated land – Bioremediation can convert pollutants in the soil into non-toxic molecules

    Controlling pests- a soil rich in biodiversity contains a range of predator species and a varied supply of nutrients.

- **Cultural Services**
  - Aesthetic value, The Law is not only a Geodiversity site but is an iconic local landmark.
- **Supporting Services**
  - Soil formation
- **Cultural Services**
  - Geodiversity sites should be publicly accessible to enable the site to be used for education
  - Geodiversity sites are often areas of historical industries such as quarries

Historic and Known Threats

Unlike biological species, geological objects are not-living and cannot reproduce themselves. This means that once an object has deteriorated or is lost it has gone forever. Preservation of important sites must be complimented with promotion of, or education on, its significance to ensure that future generations also place value on it.

- **Loss of geological exposures** – due to human action, such as inappropriate development or infilling of quarries, as well as natural action such as encroachment of vegetation or natural weathering
- **Loss of information/lack of public understanding** - When the reason for a site's importance and conservation is lost or misunderstood it becomes more vulnerable.
- **Damage to the physical landscape** - through development such as housing, industry and transport links.
- **Damage to soil features and processes** - through pollution or poor farming practices

Action Plan

The format of the tables below has been updated from the previous version of the plan to ensure that all actions are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound). This ensures that commitments support effective monitoring, accountability and alignment with wider strategic objectives. Some ongoing actions from the previous plan have been updated and included but new actions have also been added. Some of the new actions have been based on those identified in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, where Local authorities were identified as a lead, and all the actions will support the protection and enhancement of the Nature Network. The timescales for the actions only go to 2030, this is in keeping with the original timeframe of the plan (2020-2030). A new plan will be published after this date aligning with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan and Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Targets.

The actions are intended to provide a strategic framework which will be delivered through council policies and maintenance plans or through externally funded projects. Details of individual projects delivering these actions will be mapped on a publicly accessible Opportunity Map with input from a range of stakeholders. Funding is not mentioned in the tables below. Funding for Biodiversity projects can be obtained from a variety of sources. Each funding stream usually has set criteria to qualify and each project or action in the plan will seek the most appropriate source. Some projects may be able to apply to multiple sources and partnership working is a great way to ensure that applications achieve the most benefits for biodiversity. The Opportunity Map will assist with future investment for biodiversity projects in the city.

Progress on actions will be reported annually to council committee and will be incorporated into the reporting cycle for the Biodiversity Duty Report to Scottish Government and the forthcoming reporting guidelines for Nature Networks.



Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	WD1	To merge the Strategic Forest Plan and Tree and Urban Forestry Policy into one robust Urban Forest Masterplan.	• Draft the Masterplan • Include a defined action plan • Undertake stakeholder consultation and incorporate feedback • Publish and implement plan	• Build on existing plans, policies and available data • Use internal expertise • Work with external stakeholders and consult relevant guidance	• Unsympathetic/ lack of Management • Climate Change • Fragmentation • Poorly managed recreation	Provides a unified strategic approach to tree and woodland management, supporting the Nature Network, climate resilience and tree equity within the city. Compliance for strategic planning within LDP is achieved.	New Urban Forest Masterplan to be completed by April 2027. Progress on actions within the plan to be reviewed and reported on annually	DCC
	WD2	Continue to implement a co-ordinated programme to manage Ash Dieback on DCC owned property across the city, including inspection, risk assessment and appropriate intervention.	• Ash trees to be re- surveyed annually • High risk trees are prioritised and removed annually • Actions are recorded within the relevant tree management system • A re-planting programme is implemented	• Dedicated budget to be identified and used when possible • Utilising existing arboricultural resources when additional budget cannot be identified • Phased work programmes to deliver management actions	• Disease	Ensures public safety, protects infrastructure and supports long term resilience of the urban forest and Nature Network	Ongoing work annually	DCC

Action Plan: Woodlands

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	WD3	Update Deer Management Plan or create new management statement	• A new plan/ statement to be drafted • Appropriate stakeholders are consulted • A final plan/ statement with relevant actions is approved and implemented	• Build on existing plans and data • Utilise internal expertise and external guidance and examples of good practice	• Deer Management	Deer are being managed responsibly and to within sustainable levels within the city.	Updated plan/ statement to be completed by December 2027	DCC, supported by Nature Scot
	WD4	Carry out woodland condition assessments across all woodland areas within the Nature Network	• Complete 100% of assessments for agreed sites • Produce a report for each site including condition scores and recommended actions	• External funding to be sourced • A specialist contractor to be procured to carry out assessments and produce reports	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Baseline data gathered on woodland conditions within the Nature Network. Data to be used to inform effective woodland management and enhancement.	Initial surveys should be completed by April 2027. Should be repeated every 5 years if funding allows	DCC and contractor
	WD5	Retain standing dead wood within managed sites where it is safe to do so, to support provision and biodiversity	• All sites to be assessed during inspections and maintenance • Retain standing dead wood where possible, removing or modifying only where a safety risk is identified	• Utilise existing guidance and arboricultural expertise to determine safety and suitability	• Unsympathetic management	Enhances habitat availability for wildlife, supporting ecosystem health and Nature Networks	Ongoing, approach to be applied consistently	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	WD6	Manage storm damaged areas of woodland by clearing debris, restoring site conditions and replanting with a diverse range of suitable species	• 100% of identified storm damaged areas are cleared and made safe • Cleared areas are replanted or allowed to naturally regenerate • New areas are monitored to ensure regeneration and survival of new trees	• Initial clearing funded through emergency tree works budget • All works managed and monitored by Forestry Team as part of the new woodland strategy.	• Unsympathetic/ lack of Management • Climate Change	No net loss of woodland through damage and opportunities taken to diversity the species and structure of our woodland enhancing climate resilience, long term sustainability and Nature Networks.	Storm damaged areas cleared within 1 year of damage. Replanting or regeneration to be initiated within 3 years of clearing. Monitoring will be ongoing.	DCC
	WD7	Identify and apply for appropriate funding to support the creation of new woodlands in priority areas which enhance Dundee's Nature Network	• Funding is sourced and applied for • Funding is successfully obtained • Projects are fully completed	• Regular monitoring of funding streams • Collaboration with partners and stakeholders to develop strong applications • Good project management to enable projects to be completed successfully	• Fragmentation	Dundee's woodlands and wider Nature Networks are well connected, resilient and in good condition.	Funding submissions to be completed as opportunities arise	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	WD8	Identify and secure the necessary financial, staffing and technical resources to undertake a comprehensive review of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) across the city	• Obtain sufficient resources to enable a full review of all existing TPOs • Complete full review and develop an updated register and mapping facility • Confirm all updated and new TPO applications	• Engage with all internal departments, external partners for initial feasibility study • Secure funding source • Procure contractor to carry out work if necessary	• Development and Fragmentation	Ensures TPOs are up to date, accurate and fit for purpose. Trees with high levels of natural, amenity or cultural benefits are legally protected and preserved.	April 2028 for completion of feasibility study 2030 to secure funding and procure contractor	DCC
	WD9	Support the development of community orchards by providing guidance, resources and partnership opportunities to local groups and stakeholders	• Measurement of number of groups supported • Measurement of number of new orchard areas planted	• Working collaboratively with community groups, internal teams and external partners to deliver technical advice and help identify suitable sites and resources	• Fragmentation	Enhances Nature Networks, local food production and community engagement	Deliver support and facilitate the development of 2 orchard projects by 2030	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	WD10	Identify suitable locations and support the development of new 'Wee Forests' across the city, including site assessment, stakeholder engagement, planting and initial establishment	• The number of new opportunities explored • The number of Wee Forests established • Continued support of current Wee Forests at Keswick Park, Robertson Street, Helenbank Park and Balmerino Road	• Working in partnership with internal DCC teams, community groups and environmental organisations to deliver planting projects and ensure resources, funding and expertise are in place	• Fragmentation	Increase canopy cover, enhance climate resilience and increase connectivity of the Nature Network	Identify 3 new sites and complete one project by 2030	Local Community Groups to identify suitable locations with support from DCC
	WD11	Work with Tayside Climate and adaptation group to investigate the feasibility and potential delivery of a Tayside Climate Forest project, including scoping, stakeholder engagement and initial concept development	• Convene a stakeholder group and identify resources and funding for a feasibility study • Complete a feasibility assessment and produce a report outlining options	• Utilising existing partnerships within the Climate Resilient Tayside Group, drawing on shared expertise, data and regional collaboration opportunities to support the process	• Fragmentation	Support regional climate mitigation and adaptation efforts by exploring large-scale tree planting and habitat creation, contributing to carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and landscape resilience across Tayside.	Complete feasibility study and report by March 2030	Climate Resilient Tayside

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	WD12	Provide and maintain appropriate paths within woodlands to ensure they are safe, accessible, and fit for purpose, while minimising environmental impact and supporting sustainable use.	• Inspect core paths within woodlands on a regular schedule • Identify and address high priority maintenance issues • Complete planned maintenance works maintain a record of inspections and repairs • Respond to user feedback and reported issues	• Deliver through co-ordinated maintenance programmes, available staffing and budgets • Working with relevant partners, volunteers or contractors where necessary to address repairs and improvements	• Poorly managed recreation • Unsympathetic management	Enable safe and inclusive public access to woodland areas, promoting health and wellbeing, encouraging outdoor recreation, and supporting sustainable use of natural green spaces.	Maintain standards across all core paths through to 2030	DCC

Action Plan: Water and Wetlands

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	WT1	Develop and implement a sustainable management regime for DCC maintained SuDS and rain gardens that supports Nature Networks and system functionality	• Research and trial new management techniques • Produce and adopt a management regime and apply it to all DCC maintained SuDS and rain gardens • Put appropriate monitoring in place to assess ecological value and operational performance	• Utilising existing ecological and SuDS maintenance guidance as well as internal expertise • Collaboration across DCC departments and with partners to trial, design and implement the new regime	• Climate Change • Pollution • Nutrient enrichment • Development • Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Enhances the Nature Network whilst ensuring SuDS and rain gardens continue to function effectively for water management and climate resilience	Maintenance trials and new regime agreed by April 2029. New regime fully rolled out across all SuDs and rain gardens by 2030	DCC supported by WRD
	WT2	Carry out targeted wetland management at key sites, including assessments of pond/wetland health and undertaking restoration works where required	• Key areas within the Nature Network identified • condition assessments completed • Sites requiring restoration work are identified • Required resources are identified and obtained • Restoration work is completed	• Utilising existing internal and external sources of ecological expertise and survey methods • Collaborating with partners and stakeholders to source appropriate funding and resources to carry out restoration works	• Pollution • Nutrient enrichment • INNS • Recreation Pressure • Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Condition of ponds and wetlands in key areas are monitored and managed to protect and enhance the Nature Network	Complete all condition assessments by April 2029 Sourced resources to enable restoration of at least 1 area by 2030	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	WT3	Investigate and identify effective, environmentally sustainable methods for managing urban waterways impacted by increasing beaver activity within the city, including flood mitigation, habitat protection and infrastructure safeguarding	• Review similar case studies of urban beaver management approaches • Assess management techniques such as protective fencing, flow devices and habitat modification • Receive input from stakeholder groups	• Use existing ecological data, internal council resources and consultations with relevant experts	• Unsympathetic management	Supports biodiversity and Nature Network protection by ensuring beavers are managed in a way that balances ecological benefits with infrastructure protection	Management policy in place by 2030	DCC
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	WT4	Identify and apply for suitable funding opportunities to support the creation of new wetland habitats in areas that would improve the ecological connectivity of the Nature Network	• Identify suitable sites with opportunities for wetland creation • Apply for and secure funding to deliver identified opportunities • Complete new wetland projects	• Work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to identify potential wetland creation opportunities • Monitor relevant funding streams and work collaboratively to develop strong proposals • Good project management to ensure delivery of projects	• Development	Supports the expansion of the Nature Network, improves biodiversity, strengthens climate resilience and flood management	3 sites identified with wetland creation opportunities by April 2027	DCC supported by WRD

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	WT5	Actively promote and support river restoration and projects to remove culverted sections across waterways in the city, as appropriate.	• Identify appropriate opportunities for restoration/ removal of culverted sections of waterways • Contribute to the development and delivery of identified projects	• The Water Resilient Dundee Partnership will collaborate and explore opportunities and work with internal and external stakeholders to advocate for and progress of these opportunities	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management • Development • Climate Change	Rivers and burns in the city are in good condition and de-culverted where possible, maximising the amount of high-quality wetland habitat across Dundee's Nature Network.	Continue to work on current opportunities at St Mary's and the Dighty up to 2030	DCC and WRD supported by SEPA
	WT6	Identify and address physical and environmental barriers to fish passage in burns and rivers within the city, focusing on improving connectivity for migratory and resident fish species	• Conduct a survey of priority watercourses in the city • Identify and map any barriers • Develop any remedial actions required • Resource and implement any remedial actions • Track improvements where feasible	• Work collaboratively with internal teams, SEPA and fisheries experts • Use existing mapping tools and site inspection regimes • Source suitable funding	• Unsympathetic management	Supports Nature Network enhancement, ecological connectivity, and compliance with environmental regulations, while contributing to healthier river ecosystems and wider climate adaptation objectives	Identify at least 2 further opportunities by 2030	DCC supported by SEPA

Action Plan: Water and Wetlands

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	WT7	Ensure all new SuDS and wetland projects are designed and delivered to provide multiple benefits, including enhanced ecosystem services and improved access and value for local communities for example new paths and additional biodiverse planting.	• Apply a multi-benefit design approach to 100% of new SuDs and wetland projects • Demonstrate the delivery of at least 2 ecosystem services and at least 2 community benefits in each project plan	• Use established best practice guidance and work collaboratively with relevant teams and stakeholders during project planning and delivery.	• Development Unsympathetic/ lack of management • Recreation • Pressure • Nutrient enrichment • Pollution	Supports climate resilience, biodiversity enhancement, and community wellbeing in line with Dundee's Nature Network.	Ongoing as projects arise.	DCC, WRD

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	MC1	Implement an ongoing management programme for the sand dunes at Broughty Ferry to maintain habitat quality, stability and biodiversity	• Continue to monitor and maintain the marram grass and other vegetation on the dunes • Continue to control access across the dunes using chestpale fencing • Assess and repair any damage after significant high tides and storm events	• Utilising existing management plans, staff knowledge and expertise • Resourced through general maintenance budget	• Climate Change • Poorly managed recreation • Unsympathetic management	Protects and enhances a key coastal habitat, supporting biodiversity, erosion control, and public amenity.	Annual Maintenance	DCC
	MC2	Implement ongoing management programme for the coastal grassland at Broughty Ferry to maintain and enhance habitat quality and biodiversity whilst ensuring access through the new active travel remains unimpeded	• Continue with annual cut and lift mowing regime • Complete annual rapid assessment surveys to assess the condition of the grassland and identify any remedial action required • Control any encroachment of scrub or invasive species on site	• Utilising existing management plans, staff knowledge and expertise • Resourced through general maintenance budget	• Climate Change • Poorly managed recreation • Unsympathetic management	Protects and enhances a key coastal habitat, maintaining it ecological and amenity value.	Annual Maintenance	DCC

Action Plan: Marine and Coastal

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	MC3	Work collaboratively with neighbouring Local Authorities, Nature Scot and the Tay Estuary Forum to manage and protect the designated protected areas in the Tay, ensuring consistent practices and co-ordinated conservation efforts	• Establish formal engagement with PKC, Fife and Angus • Set up regular events to share best practice and challenges	• Utilise existing regional partnerships, data-sharing agreements, and ecological expertise across Local Authorities • Supported by available resources and collaborative working structures.	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management • Climate Change	Supports statutory obligations for protected area management, enhances biodiversity conservation, and ensures a coordinated, catchment-scale approach to environmental protection within the Tay	Formal engagement and events agreed by April 2028	DCC, Angus Council, PKC, Fife Council
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	MC4	Ensure that beach cleaning methods at Broughty Ferry Beach are environmentally sensitive and do not negatively impact local biodiversity, including coastal habitats and species	• Review and assess current beach cleaning methods against best practice guidance • Implement any required amendments to the current methods	• Work with internal teams and ecological specialists • Use existing operational processes and available guidance to adjust practices, if required, without additional maintenance burden	• Unsympathetic management	Supports biodiversity conservation, coastal habitat protection, and sustainable land management, while maintaining public amenity and cleanliness standards at a key city beach	Undertake review of current practices by April 2028 and implement any improvements by 2029	DCC

Action Plan: Marine and Coastal

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	MC5	Publish bathing water quality at Broughty Ferry Beach and promote good environmental practices to protect water quality and public health	• SEPA to analyse routine water quality data during the bathing season • Liaise with relevant agencies to track compliance with bathing water standards • Deliver or support public awareness initiatives such as signage and campaigns • Record and respond to any identified pollution incidents or risks	• Use existing monitoring data and systems • Build on current communication channels to promote best practice without significant additional resources	• Pollution • Unsympathetic management	Supports public health, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance, while contributing to maintaining or improving bathing water classification and promoting responsible use of the coastal environment	Monitoring by SEPA annually through the bathing season Implement 1 awareness raising initiative each summer. Report annually.	DCC with support from SEPA
	MC6	Promote responsible wildlife watching practices along the River Tay to minimise disturbance to wildlife while encouraging public enjoyment and awareness of local biodiversity.	• Work with stakeholders to develop clear guidance material • Deliver awareness campaign • Identify key users groups to contact and work with	• Use existing communication channels, partnerships and best practice guidance to deliver outreach activities with current resources	• Poorly managed recreation	Supports biodiversity conservation, reduces human impact on sensitive species and habitats, and aligns with wider environmental education and sustainable tourism objectives within the Tay catchment.	Deliver by 2030	DCC supported by RSPB, additional partners such as Fife Council and Forth Ports also to be included.

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	MC7	Design and promote a targeted campaign to raise awareness of the environmental and wildlife dangers associated with waste from fishing activities along the River Tay, encouraging responsible disposal and behaviour.	• Deliver campaign materials highlighting risks such as entanglement and pollution • Deliver outreach initiatives • Install informative signage at key locations	• Work with internal communications teams, fisheries groups, and environmental partners using existing channels and resources to develop and disseminate campaign materials effectively	• Poorly managed recreation • Pollution	Supports biodiversity conservation, reduces pollution, enhances river health, and aligns with wider environmental protection and public awareness objectives along the River Tay	Complete campaign by 2030	DCC supported by RSPB

Action Plan: Grasslands

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity.	GR1	Implement an ongoing management programme for areas designated as biodiversity and naturalised grasslands to maintain and enhance their ecological condition	• All areas will be cut as per agreed maps each year • Condition assessments will be carried out	• Delivery through annual maintenance plan • Rapid assessment surveys to be carried out • Utilise best practice guidance, staff training and existing staff expertise and ensure that appropriate consultation with SFRS	• Poor Management/ lack of management	Supports biodiversity conservation, improves habitat connectivity, and contributes to Dundee's Nature Network objectives.	Ongoing annual maintenance Condition assessment every 3 years	DCC
	GR2	Implement an ongoing management programme for areas designated as annual and perennial wildflower areas to maintain and enhance their ecological condition.	• 100% of areas will be sown and cut as per agreed maps each year	• Delivery through annual maintenance plan • Rapid assessment surveys to be carried out for perennial meadows • Utilise best practice guidance, staff training and existing staff expertise	• Poor Management/ Lack of management	Greenspaces across the city provide a mosaic of habitats suitable for a variety of species, contributing to Dundee's Nature Network.	Ongoing annual maintenance Condition assessment for perennial meadows every 2 years	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	GR3	Protect and enhance grassland areas designated for biodiversity and increase their extent where appropriate.	• Areas designated will not decrease • Areas for expansion to be identified where feasible	• Ongoing consultation with local communities • Use agreed management practices and allocate resources strategically to support both maintenance and expansion opportunities	• Poor management/ lack of management	Contributes to biodiversity conservation, habitat connectivity, and the strengthening of Dundee's Nature Network.	Annual maintenance ongoing, Annual reporting on the area of grassland designated for biodiversity	DCC
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	GR4	Area within Riverside Nature Park will continue to be promoted as an area where dogs should be on leads during bird breeding season.	• Fencing and signage to be erected and removed each year • On site presence by staff and volunteers to promote this.	• Number of breeding skylarks to be surveyed annually	• Recreation	Ground nesting bird species such as skylarks will be protected.	To be carried out annually during the breeding season	DCC, Friends of Riverside Nature Park

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	UR1	Map DCC owned street trees, park trees and trees in local greenspaces within the DCC GIS Tree Management System	• Progress tracked monthly	• Build on existing GIS Tree Management system and current mapping progress using available data sets, surveys and field work	• Climate Change • Habitat fragmentation • Unsympathetic/ lack of management.	DCC has well managed, accessible and interrogable information regarding urban tree assets within the city, facilitating efficient management.	At least 5000 trees recorded by April 2027 All known street trees mapped by 2030	DCC
	UR2	Maintain Green Flag (GF) Status for existing DCC Parks and Identify additional parks that meet the criteria for future applications	• Retain GF status for all current parks annually • Secure at least 1 additional Award	• Utilise existing park management practices, staff expertise and green Flag criteria assessments to prepare and submit applications	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Key parks in Dundee have individual Management Plans and are externally assessed against set criteria and a national benchmark for quality, including biodiversity.	Prepare and secure 1 additional award by 2030	DCC supported by relevant 'Friends of Parks' groups

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead

To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity.	UR3	Update DCC's Open Space Strategy to reflect new planning legislation and include targeted actions to improve the quality and accessibility of open spaces across the city	• Open space maps are up to date
			• Quality assessments of open spaces are completed
			• New Open Space Strategy:
			  • drafted
			  • agreed
			  • published
			  • implemented
				• Use existing policy frameworks, stakeholder engagement and available data including Open Space Audit to inform the update
				• Contractor procured to complete draft.
					• Development
					• Habitat fragmentation
					• Unsympathetic/ lack of management
						An Open Space strategy that links to other DCC strategies, provides a direction for management of open spaces and ensures equal and fair access to these spaces.	Complete by April 2027	DCC supported by WRD

	UR4	Ensure all new Dundee City Council projects and developments incorporate measures to protect and enhance habitats for European Protected Species and other protected species known to occur in Dundee, including otter, bats, red squirrel, beaver, common toad, and bottlenose dolphin.	• Assess all new projects and developments for potential impacts on protected species and their habitats. • Include species-specific habitat enhancement measures in all relevant projects. • Monitor and record enhancement measures through project completion reports.	• Utilise ecological surveys, planning assessments, biodiversity guidance, and stakeholder expertise to identify and implement appropriate enhancement opportunities.	• Development • Habitat fragmentation • Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Supports biodiversity conservation, statutory obligations relating to protected species, and Dundee's wider environmental and nature recovery objectives.	Ensure that 100% of new Dundee City Council projects and developments from April 2026 onwards	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	UR5	Ensure all new DCC development and regeneration projects incorporate blue and green infrastructure and include measures to mitigate any loss of habitat	• All new city projects assessed for blue/green infrastructure • All projects to demonstrate at least one blue/green infrastructure element • No net loss of biodiversity, with mitigation and enhancement measures clearly documented	• Apply existing policies, design standards and environmental assessments within project development and approval process	• Climate change • Development • Habitat fragmentation	Supports climate resilience, the Nature Network and sustainable urban development across the city.	100% of new projects from September onwards with compliance monitored through project reporting	DCC, WRD
	UR6	Hedges will be retained where feasible and ensure they are properly maintained and enhanced to improve their biodiversity value	• All DCC managed hedges are mapped • All DCC managed hedges are assessed for quality • Restoration/ enhancement of hedges is carried out where deemed necessary	• Utilise existing maintenance plans and practices, ecological guidance and surveys to inform retention and enhancement decisions	• Habitat fragmentation • Unsympathetic management	Enhancing and protecting the Nature Network	Hedge condition to be assessed at least once every 5 years. Achieve a good condition status for at least 80% of retained hedges by 2030	DCC
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	UR7	Nature Network for the city is identified and mapped with opportunities for protection, restoration and enhancement identified.	• Nature Network is mainstreamed into council strategies and policies • Develop a list and map of actionable opportunities for restoration and enhancement • Establish baseline data and indicators for ongoing monitoring	• Build on existing public ecological data • Utilise GIS systems • Complete new habitat surveys • Partnership working with relevant stakeholders	• Habitat fragmentation • Unsympathetic/ lack of management	The city has a well-connected nature network which is resilient to forecasted climate change risks and in line with national and local policy	A list/map of opportunities to be produced by April 2027 Annual monitoring and reporting on delivery progress of actions to council committee	DCC supported by WRD

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
	UR8	Identify and apply for relevant funding opportunities to support the planting of new street trees, ensuring that proposals prioritise areas of greatest need in line with Nature Network and Tree Equity principles	• Review available funding on an ongoing basis • Submit funding applications • Ensure applications include considerations for tree equity and Nature Networks • Track success rate of applications and number of trees funded	• Work with internal and external stakeholders to develop robust, evidence-based funding bids within capacity	• Habitat fragmentation	A well-connected nature network in the city which also benefits people through the ecosystem benefits street trees provide	Review and submit funding bids as opportunities arise	DCC supported by WRD
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	UR9	Investigate and identify practical solutions to reduce barriers to ecological connectivity within the Nature Network, with a particular focus on mitigating the impact of busy roads on wildlife movement	• Identify and map key barriers affecting potential routes of connectivity within the Nature Network • Identify 3 high priority locations • Evaluate potential mitigation measures • Produce a recommendation report outlining feasible interventions and next steps	• Use existing GIS data, ecological surveys and collaboration with stakeholders to assess barriers and develop realistic, evidence-based solutions with existing resources	• Habitat fragmentation	Supports biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and climate resilience, aligning with Nature Network objectives and contributing to the reduction of habitat fragmentation caused by transport infrastructure	Barriers mapped and prioritised by April 2028 Potential mitigation explored by April 2029 Report complete by 2030	DCC supported by WWCT

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
	UR10	Support schools across the city to develop and enhance gardens and biodiversity areas within their grounds, promoting outdoor learning, habitat creation, and environmental awareness	• Engage schools and provide advice and support • Assist with projects which create or enhance habitats in school's grounds • Develop guidance materials for schools • Record levels of participation and feedback from schools	• Work collaboratively with school staff, community groups and environmental partners • Use existing resources, volunteer support and small-scale funding opportunities when available	• Habitat fragmentation	Supports biodiversity enhancement, climate education, and community engagement, while contributing to greener school environments and fostering long-term environmental stewardship among young people	Support 3 schools to develop projects by 2030 e.g. as part of St Mary's Drainage Strategy. Develop guidance materials and distribute by 2030	DCC supported by WRD
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	UR11	Encourage and support community growing initiatives with an emphasis on organic practices, while promoting the inclusion of biodiversity-enhancing features such as orchards and ponds within community garden spaces.	• Engage with Community Growing Network • Facilitate the development of new biodiversity features • Provide sharing best practice opportunities	• Work with community groups, local volunteers and environmental partners • use existing knowledge, guidance and small-scale funding or in-kind support to deliver practical improvements	• Climate Change • Habitat fragmentation	Supports biodiversity, sustainable food production, and community wellbeing, while contributing to climate resilience and increased access to green spaces within the city	Hold 2 sharing best practice events by 2030 Support the development of additional biodiversity features in 4 existing community growing spaces by 2030	DCC, WRD

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
	UR12	Continue to support and collaborate with Friends groups across Dundee to deliver effective habitat management and creation projects that enhance local biodiversity and green spaces	• Engage with groups through meetings, site visits or joint activities • Support the delivery of habitat creation or enhancement projects • Provide advice or training as required • Record projects delivered, areas improved and participation levels	• Build on existing relationships with Friends groups, utilising council expertise, volunteer input, and available resources to provide practical and ongoing support	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management • Habitat fragmentation	Supports biodiversity conservation, community engagement, and improved management of green spaces, aligning with Nature Network objectives and improving climate resilience in the city	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	UR13	Ensure that all relevant Active Travel projects incorporate blue and green infrastructure elements, such as sustainable drainage systems, tree planting, habitat creation, and green corridors, to enhance environmental and user benefits	• Review all new Active Travel project designs for inclusion of blue and green infrastructure • Incorporate at least 2 types of blue/green infrastructure features (e.g., rain gardens, street trees, swales, habitat corridors) into applicable projects • Collaborate with internal teams and partners to ensure integration at design stage • Track and report on number of projects incorporating these elements	• Work with transport planners, engineers, and environmental specialists to integrate blue and green infrastructure into project design using existing planning processes, design standards, and available funding streams	• Climate Change • Development • Habitat fragmentation	Supports climate resilience, sustainable urban drainage, biodiversity enhancement, and improved wellbeing, while aligning Active Travel projects with wider environmental and Nature Network objectives	All new active travel projects up to 2030	DCC, WRD supported by WWCT

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
	UR14	Manage cemeteries to reduce reliance on herbicides and enhance habitat connectivity, contributing to the wider Nature Network through the creation and maintenance of wildlife-friendly spaces	• Reduce herbicide use across all cemeteries • Identify and implement alternative management practices • Enhance several cemetery sites across the city • Monitor and record the changes and biodiversity outcomes	• Work collaboratively with grounds maintenance teams, ecologists, and external partners to introduce practical alternatives to herbicide use, using existing resources and adapting maintenance regimes where feasible	• Habitat fragmentation • Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Supports biodiversity conservation, reduces chemical inputs, and strengthens ecological connectivity within the city, aligning with Nature Network goals and sustainable land management practices	Reduce herbicide use in cemeteries by April 2028 Implementation of alternative management practices by 2029 Monitoring to occur before and after any management changes	DCC
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	UR15	Investigate and identify suitable planting methods and tree pit systems that improve tree health and longevity while minimising damage to surrounding infrastructure such as pavements, roads, and underground services	• Review different tree pit and planting system types • Assess their effectiveness in terms of tree health, root growth and infrastructure protection • Identify preferred solutions • Produce a guidance document with recommendations for future planting schemes	• Use a combination of existing research, case studies, supplier information, and collaboration with arborists, engineers, and planning teams to evaluate practical and cost-effective solutions within available resource	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Supports urban tree health, reduces maintenance costs and infrastructure damage, and contributes to sustainable urban greening and Nature Network objectives within the city	Review and identify preferred systems by April 2029 New guidance documents by 2030	DCC supported by WRD

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
	UR16	Continue to reduce the use of herbicides in maintenance activities across the city by implementing alternative, environmentally sustainable vegetation management practices	• The amount of herbicide used by DCC will be reduced • Investigate and trial alternative weed control techniques • Record and report herbicide usage annually	• Work with grounds maintenance teams and contractors to adapt existing practices, supported by staff training, pilot projects, and the gradual introduction of alternative methods within available resources	• Unsympathetic/ lack of management	Supports environmental protection, biodiversity enhancement, and public health by reducing chemical inputs, while aligning with sustainable land management and climate resilience goals	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	UR17	Investigate opportunities to improve ecological connectivity between green spaces in the city centre and the wider Nature Network, identifying practical measures to create or strengthen habitat corridors	• Map and assess existing green spaces and potential connectivity routes within the city centre • Identify potential opportunities for improving connections • Evaluate types of intervention and produce a report or action plan with recommendations to be taken forward	• Use existing GIS mapping, planning data, and collaboration with urban planners, transport teams, and environmental partners to identify realistic, implementable solutions within available resources	• Habitat fragmentation	Supports biodiversity enhancement, strengthens the Nature Network, and contributes to urban climate resilience, placemaking, and improved access to green infrastructure in the city centre	Potential opportunities identified by April 2029 Action Plan by 2030	DCC supported by RSPB, WRD and other partners.

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Threat Addressed	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
	UR18	Investigate and map small sites within built-up areas that could support new blue green infrastructure, including pocket parks, or be restored and enhanced by local communities with appropriate guidance and support.	• Map and assess small /underutilised sites across Nature Network areas • Identify a number of quick win sites • Categorise sites based on potential interventions/ uses • Engage with local communities to explore interest and feasibility • Add feasible projects to Nature Network Opportunity map	• Use existing GIS data, site visits, and collaboration with planning teams, community groups, and environmental partners to identify feasible opportunities and support community-led improvements within available resources.	• Habitat fragmentation	Supports urban greening, biodiversity enhancement, and community engagement, while contributing to climate resilience and expanding the Nature Network within densely built environments	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC supported by WWCT, WRD

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To balance biodiversity issues with sustainable development within the city.	PL1	Ensure that Nature Network principles are effectively embedded within the new Local Development Plan (LDP) Review, integrating ecological connectivity, biodiversity enhancement, and blue green infrastructure into planning policy and land use decisions	• Contribute to relevant sections of the LDP Review, ensuring Nature Network objectives are clearly incorporated • Develop or influence policies and guidance that support habitat connectivity and blue green infrastructure • Ensure inclusion of mapd Nature Network priorities and opportunity areas within the plan	• Work collaboratively with planning teams, GIS specialists, and environmental partners, using existing data, evidence bases, and policy frameworks to integrate Nature Network priorities into the LDP within available resources and timelines	Supports statutory planning requirements, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, ensuring that long-term development aligns with Nature Network objectives and strengthens ecological connectivity across the city	To work with existing LDP review timescales	DCC
To balance biodiversity issues with sustainable development within the city.	PL2	Develop and produce specific guidance to support the integration of biodiversity and Nature Network principles into development, ensuring that new projects contribute positively to habitats, species, and ecological connectivity	• Review relevant national and regional biodiversity and planning guidance to inform local adaptation • Engage with key internal teams and stakeholders (e.g., planning, developers, ecologists) to gather input • Produce comprehensive guidance documents covering key topics • Record uptake and feedback from users of the guidance	• Use existing policy frameworks, best practice examples, and internal expertise, working collaboratively across departments to develop practical, locally relevant guidance within available capacity	Supports sustainable development, strengthens biodiversity protection and enhancement, and ensures that planning decisions contribute to the Nature Network and wider environmental goals within Dundee	Produce new guidance by 2030	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To balance biodiversity issues with sustainable development within the city.	PL3	Ensure that all relevant planning applications are systematically assessed in accordance with Policy 3 (Biodiversity) of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), to protect and enhance biodiversity and support the Nature Network	• Assess all applicable applications against NPF4 Policy 3 requirements • Provide documented biodiversity input or recommendations for each relevant application • Ensure mitigation, enhancement, or biodiversity net gain measures are identified where required • Track and report number of applications reviewed and influenced, including outcomes • Monitor compliance with Policy 3 in approved developments where feasible	• Work collaboratively with planning officers, developers, and consultees, using existing policy guidance, ecological expertise, and standard assessment processes to ensure consistent and efficient application reviews	Supports statutory planning responsibilities, biodiversity protection and enhancement, and alignment with national policy, ensuring development contributes positively to the Nature Network objectives	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC
To ensure that any plans and strategies produced by Dundee City Council protect and enhance biodiversity.	PL4	Ensure biodiversity principles and Nature Network objectives are fully embedded across all Dundee City Council (DCC) strategies, policies, and plans, integrating ecological considerations into decision-making processes across departments.	• Review all relevant DCC strategies and plans to assess current inclusion of biodiversity and Nature Network principles • Integrate biodiversity considerations into 100% of new or revised strategies where applicable • Track and report on the number of strategies influenced or updated	• Collaborate with internal departments (e.g., planning, transport, operations, climate teams) and use existing policy frameworks, guidance, and ecological expertise to integrate biodiversity considerations without requiring significant additional resources	Supports statutory biodiversity duties, strengthens the Nature Network, and ensures a coordinated, cross-departmental approach to environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and nature recovery	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	PL5	Review all current Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS) using up-to-date guidance and criteria, making evidence-based decisions to add, amend, or remove sites as appropriate, and produce a formal site statement for each agreed site	• Review all existing LINCS sites against current criteria • Identify and assess potential new sites • Produce a formal site statement for each agreed site • Maintain a revised and mapped dataset of LINCS	• Utilise existing ecological data, GIS mapping, and current best-practice guidance, supported by collaboration with ecologists, planners, and relevant stakeholders to ensure a robust and achievable review process within available resources	Supports the Nature Network, strengthens the evidence base for planning and land management decisions, and ensures that locally important sites are accurately identified, protected, and managed in line with current standards	To be completed for inclusion in updated LDP	DCC
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	PL6	Ensure that local suppliers of plants and seeds are registered and accessible within the council's procurement system, enabling staff to source locally provenanced planting material for projects across the city.	• Identify and onboard local suppliers of trees and seeds onto the procurement system • Ensure procurement guidance is updated to promote use of local provenance materials • Track number of purchases made from local suppliers annually • Provide guidance or awareness sessions to relevant staff on sourcing local materials • Monitor percentage of tree and seed procurement sourced locally where feasible	• Work collaboratively with procurement teams, nurseries, and suppliers to facilitate registration processes, using existing procurement frameworks and communication channels to improve access without significant additional resources	Supports biodiversity, strengthens local supply chains, improves resilience of planting schemes through appropriate provenance, and aligns with sustainability and Nature Network objectives	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	PL7	Ensure that the sale or leasing of council-owned assets does not result in an overall loss of biodiversity, by embedding biodiversity assessment, mitigation, and enhancement requirements into all relevant asset transfer processes	• Assess all applicable asset sales or leases for biodiversity impact • Require biodiversity mitigation or enhancement measures in all relevant agreements where impacts are identified • Provide documented recommendations for each case	• Work collaboratively with property, legal, planning, and Greenspace teams to integrate biodiversity considerations into existing asset management and disposal processes, using standard guidance and available ecological expertise	Supports biodiversity protection, aligns with Nature Network and policy objectives, and ensures that council decisions contribute to sustainable land management and environmental stewardship	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC

Invasive Non-Native Species

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	IN1	Source and secure appropriate resources to deliver ongoing grey squirrel control measures at key parks and woodlands across the city and Belmont Estate, to protect native species and woodland biodiversity	• Identify and secure funding, staff time, or partnership resources to support control measures • Implement grey squirrel control at priority sites • Collaborate with partner organisations (e.g., wildlife groups, forestry bodies) • Record levels of activity, effort, and outcomes achieved annually	• Work with internal teams, external partners, and potential funding bodies to secure resources, using existing networks, grant opportunities, and management frameworks to deliver control activities within practical limits	Supports biodiversity conservation, protects native species (e.g., red squirrels, woodland birds), and contributes to improved woodland health and resilience within the city's green spaces	Ongoing annually up to 2030	DCC
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	IN2	Continue to map the distribution of Giant Hogweed across Dundee City Council (DCC) maintained properties and use this information to inform and deliver a coordinated annual programme of control	• Update and maintain a comprehensive GIS map of Giant Hogweed locations across all relevant DCC sites • Survey and record extent and condition of infestations annually • Deliver targeted control measures at identified priority sites • Report on progress annually	• Utilise existing staff knowledge, GIS systems, established control methods (e.g., herbicide treatment, physical removal) to manage infestations effectively within available resources	Supports invasive species management, protects public health, safeguards biodiversity, and helps maintain safe and accessible public spaces	Ongoing annually up to 2030	DCC

Invasive Non-Native Species

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	IN3	Biosecurity is promoted to prevent the spread of INNS across the city through education of grounds maintenance staff	• Develop and distribute biosecurity guidance materials (e.g., signage, leaflets, online content) • Deliver training sessions or awareness initiatives for operational staff • Undertake public engagement activities or campaigns • Increase awareness by capturing feedback or participation data from staff and public engagement activities	• Work with internal teams, environmental partners, and existing campaigns to deliver training and awareness using established communication channels and available resources	Supports biodiversity protection, reduces environmental and economic impacts of INNS, and aligns with wider environmental management and biosecurity objectives at a local and national level	Guidance to be distributed by April 2028 Deliver at least 1 training session by 2030	DCC
	IN4	Continue to work collaboratively with partner organisations to deliver a coordinated and strategic approach to the management and control of animal and plant Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) throughout the Dighty Catchment, such as Giant Hogweed and Mink.	• Participate in partnership meetings or coordinated activities within the catchment • Contribute to or support the delivery of joint INNS control programmes at priority sites • Share and update mapping and data on INNS distribution with partners	• Build on existing partnerships with local authorities, environmental organisations, and community groups, utilising shared resources, data, and expertise to deliver coordinated action efficiently	Supports effective catchment-scale management of INNS, helping to reduce environmental impacts, improve biodiversity, and align with wider biosecurity and river management objectives	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC, SEPA, SISI, Angus Council

Communication and Awareness Raising

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
Communicate and engage with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations regarding biodiversity, supporting and educating them where necessary and encouraging them to consider the impacts of their actions.	CM1	Continue to work with local communities through the Take Pride Campaign to promote responsible use of greenspaces.	• Deliver or support Take Pride engagement activities or events each year • Promote clear biodiversity-focused messaging (e.g., responsible access, simple actions individuals can take) through campaign materials • Track participation levels, feedback, and outcomes from campaign activities	• Build on existing Take Pride Campaign structures and action plan, working with community groups, colleagues, and partners to deliver engagement using established communication channels and available resources	Supports community involvement, promotes sustainable, biodiversity friendly behaviour across the city	Ongoing annually to 2030	DCC
	CM2	Work with schools to support the successful integration of biodiversity and Nature Network principles into the curriculum, enhancing environmental education and student engagement with local nature	• Engage with schools to provide curriculum support or input • Assist in developing or sharing biodiversity-focused learning resources or lesson materials • Deliver or support educational sessions, workshops, or events annually • Gather feedback from teachers and students to assess effectivenenss	• Collaborate with teachers, education teams, and environmental partners, using existing curriculum frameworks and resources to integrate biodiversity topics without requiring significant additional funding	Supports environmental education, biodiversity awareness, and long-term stewardship by embedding ecological understanding in young people, aligning with wider Nature Network and sustainability goals	Ongoing annually to 2030	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
Communicate and engage with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations regarding biodiversity, supporting and educating them where necessary and encouraging them to consider the impacts of their actions.	CM3	Work with volunteers to improve local greenspaces and habitats, enabling meaningful contributions to site management while increasing understanding and awareness of biodiversity.	• The number of groups engaged each year • Support delivery of habitat improvement activities • Provide training or educational sessions • Record data and seek feedback from volunteers on their experiences	• Work with existing volunteer networks, Friends groups, and community organisations, using available resources, staff support, and practical guidance to deliver manageable and impactful activities	Supports biodiversity enhancement, strengthens community involvement, and builds local capacity for sustainable greenspace management, contributing to wider Nature Network and environmental objectives	Ongoing delivery of activities and support for volunteers Report on progress annually	DCC supported by NHS Tayside, RSPB
	CM4	Design and deliver a campaign to promote responsible feeding of birds, highlighting risks such as disease transmission, inappropriate food types, and feeding in unsuitable locations.	• Develop and distribute campaign materials outlining responsible feeding practices • Deliver awareness raising initiatives • Install or update informational signage at key locations • Monitor and record reported issues	• Work with communications teams, environmental partners, and local communities, using existing channels and resources to design and deliver clear, practical messaging on responsible bird feeding	Supports animal welfare, biodiversity protection, and public health, while reducing negative environmental impacts and promoting responsible use of public spaces	Develop and launch a campaign by April 2028 Signage installed at key locations by April 2029	DCC supported by RSPB
	CM5	Ensure the Council webpage provides clear, accessible information on biodiversity within the city, including details on local habitats, species, initiatives, and links to relevant strategies, guidance, and resources	• Review content of biodiversity pages • Track page metrics • Incorporate feedback from users and stakeholders to improve content	• Work with communications and digital teams to develop and maintain content using existing platforms, available information, and internal expertise without requiring significant additional resource	Supports public awareness, transparency, and engagement with biodiversity issues, providing a central and reliable source of information aligned with Nature Network objectives	Review of webpage annually	DCC

Communication and Awareness Raising

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
Communicate and engage with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations regarding biodiversity, supporting and educating them where necessary and encouraging them to consider the impacts of their actions.	CM6	Design and deliver a campaign to encourage wildlife-friendly gardening practices, highlighting the important role that private gardens play in enhancing biodiversity and improving connectivity within the Nature Network	• Develop and distribute campaign materials • Deliver awareness raising initiatives • Promote key actions that can be taken by householders • Engage with community groups	• Utilise existing communication channels, partnerships with community groups and environmental organisations, and established best-practice guidance to deliver a practical and achievable campaign within available resources	Supports biodiversity enhancement, strengthens habitat connectivity across urban areas, and empowers residents to contribute to the Nature Network from their own gardens, aligning with wider environmental and climate resilience goals	Develop and launch campaign by April 2029 Ongoing delivery of awareness activities up to 2030	DCC supported by RSPB
Celebrate Dundee's biodiversity through community engagement and publications	CM7	Deliver a programme of events throughout the year across the city to educate the public about biodiversity, including local habitats and wildlife, and encourage positive environmental behaviours.	• Organise and deliver events annually across different locations in the city • Ensure events cover a range of topics • Gather participant feedback and attendance data	• Utilise existing staff expertise, partnerships, and community networks to organise and deliver events, supported by available venues, materials, and communication channels	Supports public awareness, biodiversity conservation, and community engagement, helping to foster greater understanding and stewardship of local environments in line with Nature Network objectives.	At least 5 public events each year	DCC supported by NHS Tayside, RSPB, Eden (tbc)
To find a balance between providing for biodiversity and providing public amenity for all users within the city	CM8	Ensure that the public are actively consulted on new projects involving biodiversity improvements, enabling community input to inform design, delivery, and long-term success	• Appropriate consultation is completed prior to any new biodiversity projects • Record and incorporate feedback into project design and decisions	• Work with communications teams, community organisations, and existing engagement platforms to deliver consultations effectively, using established processes and available resources	Supports transparent decision-making, strengthens community involvement, and improves the quality and acceptance of biodiversity projects, aligning with wider Nature Network and environmental objectives	Ongoing for all biodiversity projects	DCC

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	CM9	Ensure DCC staff are provided with appropriate training on biodiversity and how to incorporate biodiversity and Nature Network principles into their respective areas of work	• Deliver training for staff across relevant departments • Develop guidance materials or toolkits to support staff in applying biodiversity principles • Track staff participation and feedback from training sessions	• Work collaboratively with internal teams and external experts where needed, using existing knowledge, training materials, and communication channels to deliver practical and accessible training within available resources	Supports organisational capacity building, ensures biodiversity is consistently embedded across council functions, and contributes to achieving Nature Network objectives	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC

Biological Recording and Data

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	BD1	Promote and support citizen science initiatives and biological recording across the city to improve data collection on species and habitats, and increase public engagement with biodiversity	• Promote citizen science platform and initiatives • Deliver a range of awareness raising events • Track participation levels and feedback	• Work with environmental organisations and community groups, using existing platforms and resources to promote and facilitate participation	Supports biodiversity monitoring, strengthens the evidence base for decision-making, and increases community involvement and awareness	Ongoing delivery of activities and promotion of seasonal events up to 2030	DCC supported by RSPB and Leisure and Culture Dundee
	BD2	Source and secure ongoing funding to contract North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC) to manage, maintain, and provide access to biological records data for Dundee	• Identify relevant funding opportunities annually to support biological records management • Secure sufficient funding to maintain an active agreement with NESBReC • Ensure all agreements are maintained • Monitor the use of records in projects, planning and decision making	• Work with internal finance teams, external funding bodies, and NESBReC to identify funding streams and justify investment through demonstrated value of high-quality biological data for planning and biodiversity management	Supports evidence-based decision-making, biodiversity conservation, and effective planning processes, ensuring access to up-to-date biological records that underpin Nature Network development	Identify and apply for funding opportunities as they occur.	DCC

Biological Recording and Data

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	BD3	Complete baseline habitat and ecological surveys for all areas identified as core or stepping-stone sites within the Nature Network, prioritising these locations to establish a robust evidence base for future management and enhancement	• Complete baseline habitat surveys for all identified core and stepping stone sites • Record this data in a suitable, open-source format	• Utilise existing ecological data, GIS tools, and staff expertise, supplemented by external survey support where required, to undertake surveys efficiently within available resources	Supports evidence-based decision-making, strengthens the Nature Network, and provides a foundation for biodiversity enhancement, monitoring, and future project development	Complete by 2030	DCC
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	BD4	Work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to establish and maintain effective systems and processes for sharing biodiversity and environmental data to support coordinated decision-making and Nature Network delivery	• Identify and engage with stakeholders with relevant data • Establish data sharing protocols where required • Ensure regular updates or exchanges of key data sets	• Build on existing partnerships and networks, utilising current data systems, agreements, and communication channels to improve coordination without requiring significant additional resources	Supports evidence-based decision-making, improves efficiency across organisations, and strengthens biodiversity conservation and Nature Network delivery through better access to shared information	Complete by 2030	DCC supported by JHI, Abertay
	BD5	Build and maintain a list of potential biodiversity-focused projects suitable for collaboration with colleges and universities, supporting survey, monitoring, and research activities within Dundee.	• Develop and maintain a project list • Engage with local academic institutions • Track number of research opportunities taken up and completed	• Work collaboratively with academic partners, using existing networks, staff expertise, and identified data gaps to develop relevant and achievable project ideas that align with course requirements and research interests	Supports biodiversity monitoring and research, strengthens the evidence base for decision-making and fosters ongoing collaboration	Complete by April 2028, list to be maintained and updated to 2030	DCC supported by JHI,NHS Tayside, Abertay

Biological Recording and Data

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To ensure no net loss of habitat and, where appropriate, increase the distribution and connectivity of all habitats	BD6	Actively identify, review, and promote relevant research, guidance, and best practice relating to biodiversity actions that are applicable to Dundee, ensuring this information is shared with appropriate stakeholders to inform decision-making and project delivery	• The number of relevant research papers and case studies identified annually • Maintain a central repository or reference list for relevant research	• Use existing networks, publications, and professional resources to identify relevant research, working with colleagues and partners to disseminate information through established communication channels	Supports evidence-based decision-making, improves the effectiveness of biodiversity actions, and ensures Dundee benefits from current best practice and innovation	Ongoing up to 2030	DCC supported by JHI, NHS Tayside, Abertay

Overall Objective	Action Ref	Specific Action	How will progress be measured?	How will this be achieved?	Relevant Outcome	Time	Lead
To promote sympathetic management to improve the health of Dundee's Ecosystems and ensure key sites are managed to a high standard for biodiversity	GD1	Source appropriate funding to assess the current condition of designated geodiversity sites across the city and implement any necessary repairs or management actions to ensure they are maintained to a high standard	• Secure appropriate funding • Survey and assess current sites • Implement any identified maintenance or repairs	• Use existing site inventories, staff expertise, and partnerships (e.g., geologists, environmental organisations), alongside external funding opportunities	Supports the protection of geological features, enhances educational and heritage value, and ensures geodiversity sites are well maintained and resilient	Complete by 2030	DCC
	GD2	Identify and assess potential new geodiversity sites within the city, evaluating their significance and suitability for formal recognition and ongoing management	• Identify potential new sites through desk-based research, stakeholder input and site visit • Produce site assessment reports and recommendations for formal adoption	• Utilise existing geological data, mapping tools, and collaboration with relevant experts (e.g., geologists, environmental organisations) to identify and assess sites within available resources	Supports the protection and recognition of geodiversity, enhances the evidence base for planning and conservation, and contributes to wider environmental, educational, and heritage objectives.	Ongoing	DCC

Appendix 1: List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CNC	City Nature Challenge
COP	Conference of Parties
DCC	Dundee City Council
EU	European Union
GB	Great Britain
GIS	Geographic Information System
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JHI	James Hutton Institute
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LDP	Local Development Plan
LINCS	Locally Important Nature Conservation Site
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NESBReC	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
PKC	Perth and Kinross Council

Acronym	Full Name
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SBIF	Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum
SEPA	Scottish Environment protection Agency
SISI	Scottish Invasive Species Initiative
SMART	Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPANS	Scotland's People and Nature Survey
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
TPO	Tree Protection Order
TDSFB	Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board
UK	United Kingdom
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WANE	Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act
WRD	Water Resilient Dundee
WWCT	Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust

Appendix 2: List of Relevant Documents

International

- Convention on Biological Diversity - Global Biodiversity Framework
- IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity
- IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health
- IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment
- IUCN Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors

National

- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan 2024-2030
- Scotlands Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
- Nature Network Framework
- National Planning Framework 4
- State of Nature Scotland 2023 Report
- Scottish Action Plan for Invasive Species 2026-2032
- Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027
- Scotland's Green Health Framework
- Forestry Statistics 2025
- Nature Scot Ecological Networks- Connecting Scotland at Scale
- Behaviour changes needed to achieve Scotland's goals for biodiversity- Independent research report by James Hutton Institute

Local

- City Plan for Dundee 2022-2032
- Dundee Local Development Plan
- Dundee Climate Action Plan
- Dundee Public Open Space Strategy 2008-2011
- Strategic Forest Plan for Dundee City Woodlands 2015-2025
- Dundee Tree and Urban Forestry Policy 2009

Nature Networks Consultation 2026- Results

The Nature Network public consultation was undertaken between the 14th March and the 30th June 2026. The consultation comprised an online survey, with paper copies made available at libraries, alongside face to face engagement activities at a rage of public events.

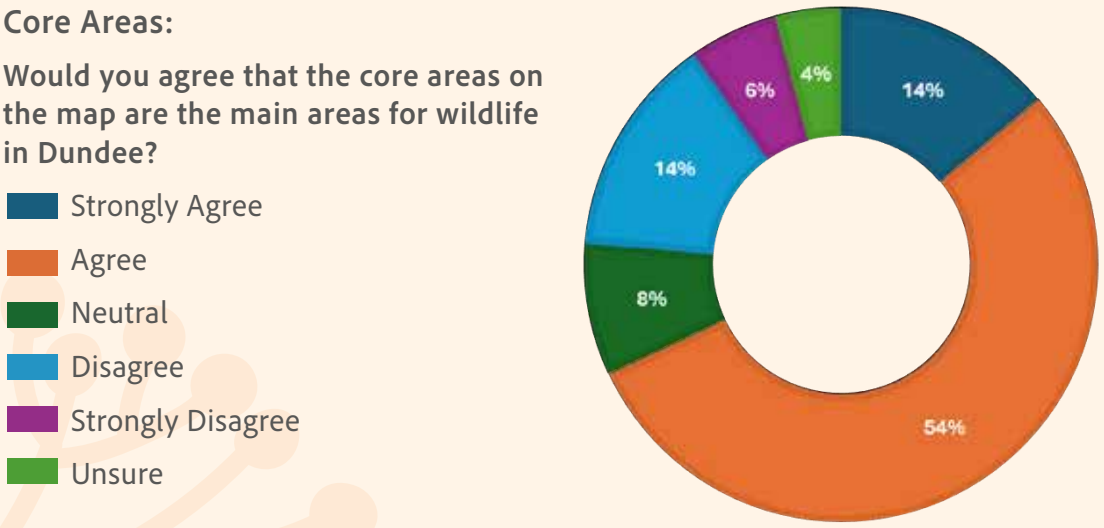
The consultation generated:

- 73 responses to the online consultation
- 1 completed paper copies of the survey
- Engagement with approximately 150 individuals through face to face discussions at public events.

Overall, the consultation demonstrated a strong appreciation for nature and greenspaces amongst residents of Dundee, with many respondents highlighting the value they place on their local parks and natural areas. While awareness and understanding of the Nature Networks concept varied, and some participants expressed limited interest in the terminology itself, there was clear support for improved management of natural spaces to deliver benefits for both local communities and biodiversity.

Core Areas:

Would you agree that the core areas on the map are the main areas for wildlife in Dundee?



Respondents who selected a neutral response generally indicated that they were not familiar with all the areas well enough to provide a view. Those who disagreed with the proposed core areas most commonly did so because they felt that at least one of the areas identified as stepping stones should be a core site or that private gardens should be recognised more.

This feedback was consistent with comments received during face-to-face engagement activities undertaken by Council officers, where the identified core sites were frequently highlighted as valued locations for recreation and enjoyment of nature.

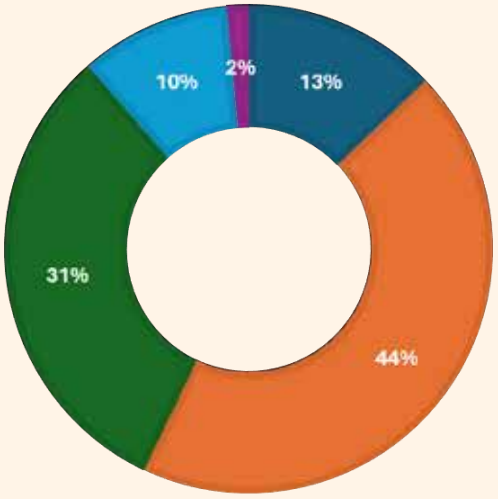
Participants were also invited to provide further comments on the proposed core sites. The principal themes arising from these responses were:

- Recognition that these areas already support rich biodiversity.
- The importance of protecting mature, veteran and heritage trees, alongside the implementation of effective woodland management practices.
- Desire to increase habitat diversity through varied interventions.
- Support for protecting existing grasslands and balancing habitat enhancement with existing ecological value.
- Red squirrel conservation was highlighted with strong concern about grey squirrel competition.
- There were concerns regarding proposed development within and adjacent to these areas.
- Antisocial behaviour and site management issues were frequently mentioned.
- Opportunities for education and community engagement.
- Need to balance biodiversity objectives with public access and recreational use.

Potential Routes:

Would you agree that the routes on the map represent the best potential routes of connectivity for nature between the core sites.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Comments provided in support of respondent's answers indicated that there was some misunderstanding regarding the purpose of the proposed routes. Many people interpreted them as active travel routes, whilst others understood them to represent continuous nature corridors and raised concerns about routes passing through private gardens. A small number of respondents questioned the need for Nature Networks, expressing the view that wildlife would simply go where it wanted without any human intervention.

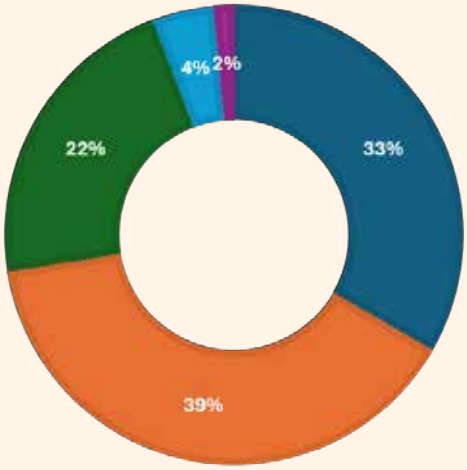
These responses suggest that further engagement and awareness raising will be required to improve public understanding of the role and functions of Nature Networks.

Respondents also identified locations where they felt potential routes were missing, most notably within the city centre. Given the highly developed nature of this area, the current lack of connected habitat is not unexpected. This issue has been recognised within the Biodiversity Action Plan, which includes actions to explore opportunities for strengthening habitat connectivity through the city centre in the future.

Stepping Stones:

Would you agree that the sites highlighted as Stepping Stones are either Good, or have the potential to be Good, for nature?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



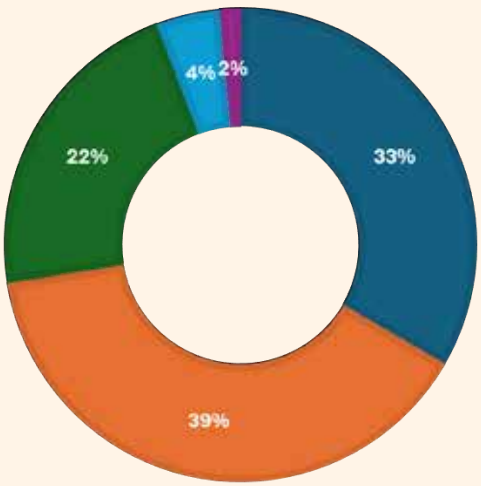
While some respondents considered that certain stepping stone sites would be more appropriately designated as core sites, and others suggested that additional smaller sites should be included, there was generally broad support for the areas identified.

Participants were invited to provide further comments on the proposed stepping stone sites. The themes emerging from these responses closely reflected those raised in relation to the core sites, including biodiversity value, habitat management, species conservation, public access and community engagement.

It was recognised that a number of smaller, locally important sites were not shown on the map. Respondents were therefore asked to consider how such sites might best be represented within the Nature Network framework.

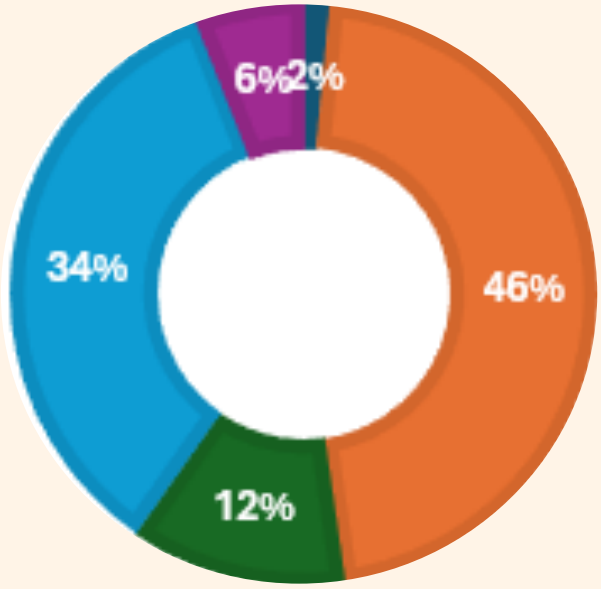
Other smaller sites such as community gardens and wee forests which might be important for nature, have not currently been highlighted as Stepping Stone areas along the routes. This is in order to keep the map simple when viewed at full scale and when in print format.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Other smaller sites such as community gardens and wee forests which might be important for nature, have not currently been highlighted as Stepping Stone areas along the routes. This is in order to keep the map simple when viewed at full scale and when in print format.

- Agree should not be included as part of this map
- Thinks smaller sites should be included as Stepping Stone sites
- Feel that smaller sites should be added as single points in a seperate category
- Think that smaller sites should be included as an online layer that can be switched on and off
- Other



This will be taken forward when the updated Biodiversity Action Plan is made available online and when considered as part of the Local Development Plan Review.

Appendix 4: Priority Species and Habitats

Taxa	Species	Status	Information
Bird	**Sky Lark** *(Alauda arvensis)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present at Riverside Nature Park LNR.
Bird	**Common Linnet** *(Carduelis cannabina)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed	Present in several areas including Riverside Nature Park and Broughty Ferry LNRs.
Bird	**House sparrow** *(Passer domesticus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed	Present city-wide in gardens, roadside verges and small areas of urban scrub where present.
Bird	**Song Thrush** *(Turdus philomelos)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in Dundee in several areas including Riverside Nature Park, Broughty Ferry LNR, Camperdown Park; will utilise some gardens.
Bird	**Yellowhammer** *(Emberiza citronella)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in several areas including Riverside Nature Park and Broughty Ferry LNRs.
Bird	**Reed bunting** *(Emberiza schoeniclus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed	Present in several areas including Riverside Nature Park, Trottick Ponds and Broughty Ferry LNRs.
Bird	**Spotted flycatcher** *(Muscicapa striata)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Recorded in Invergowrie, unknown presence in Dundee.
Bird	**European Dipper** *(Cinclus cinclus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed	In UK populations doing well. Important within Dundee - localised distribution - present only along the Dighty and Fithie burns (also Invergowrie burn in Perth and Kinross). Indicator of healthy waters.

Taxa	Species	Status	Information
Bird	**Swift** *(Apus apus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present city-wide but prefers old buildings with suitable breeding sites. Affected negatively by new building and development removing breeding sites.
Bird	**Sand martin** *(Riparia riparia)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed	Recorded on Angus coast but limited breeding habitat available in Dundee.
Bird	**Bullfinch** *(Pyrrhula pyrrhula)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed	Present in Dundee in several parks such as RNP, Broughty Ferry LNR, Balgay Hill and Templeton Woods.
Bird	**House martin** *(Delichon urbicum)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed	Present city-wide in small numbers in Dundee.
Bird	**Herring gull** *(Larus argentatus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Widespread and breeding across Dundee
Bird	**Lesser redpoll** *(Carduelis cabaret)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Red Listed	Breeds across Dundee in small numbers.
Bird	**Kestrel** *(Falco tinnunculus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Breeds in small numbers in the city.
Bird	**Black Headed Gull** *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found across Dundee, particularly near water.

Appendix 4: Priority Species and Habitats

Taxa	Species	Status	Information
Bird	**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *(Haematopus ostralegus)*	UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)- Amber Listed On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found across Dundee
Bird	**Salmon** *(Salmo salar)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in Dighty Burn and River Tay.
Bird	**River lamprey** *(Lampetra fluviatilis)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in Dighty Burn and River Tay.
Bird	**Common eel** *(Anguilla anguilla)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in the Dighty Burn and Trottick Ponds LNR.
Mammal	**Otter** *(Lutra lutra)*	European protected species UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present on the Tay estuary and along the Dighty burn.
Mammal	**Red squirrel** *(Sciurus vulgaris)*	UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in several areas of woodland in Dundee such as Templeton Woods, Camperdown Park, Balgay Hill, as well as some gardens.
Mammal	**Common pipistrelle** *(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*	European Protected Species. UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity list-	Present widely in Dundee including Camperdown Park, Templeton Woods, Balgay Hill, Stobsmuir Park and Riverside Nature Park.
Mammal	**Soprano pipistrelle** *(Pipistrellus pygmaeus)*	European Protected Species. UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present widely in Dundee including Camperdown Park, Templeton Woods, Balgay Hill, Stobsmuir Park and Riverside Nature Park.
Mammal	**Brown long-eared bat** *(Plecotus auritus)*	European Protected Species. UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present on the Dighty burn and River Tay. Known roosts in Templeton Woods Visitor Centre and Camperdown Wildlife Centre.

Appendix 4: Priority Species and Habitats

Taxa	Species	Status	Information
Mammal	**Daubenton's bat** *(Myotis daubentonii)*	European protected Species. UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present on the Dighty burn.
Mammal	**Water vole** *(Arvicola terrestris)*	UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity List	Declines due to presence of non-native species- namely Mink. Historical records in Dundee but presence in Dundee currently is unknown. Present in fens, swamps, rivers and ponds.
Mammal	**Hedgehog** *(Erinaceus europaeus)*	On Scottish Biodiversity List	Unknown distribution in Dundee.
Mammal	**Bottlenose Dolphin** *(Tursiops truncatus)*	European protected Species. On Scottish Biodiversity List	Found in the Tay
Mammal	**Eurasian Beaver** *(Castor fiber)*	European protected Species. On Scottish Biodiversity List	Found along the Dighty Burn and Invergowrie Burn
Mammal	**Grey Seal** *(Halichoerus grypus)*	UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity List	Found in the Tay
Mammal	**Harbour Seal** *(Phoca vitulina)*	UK protected species On Scottish Biodiversity List	Found in the Tay
Amphibian	**Common frog** *(Rana temporaria)*	Tayside LBAP	Declines due to development and inadequate management of pools and ponds. Unknown distribution in Dundee. Found in Trottick Ponds LNR, Broughty Ferry LNR, Caird Park, Barnhill Rock Garden, Middleton woods.
Amphibian	**Common toad** *(Bufo bufo)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found in Trottick Ponds LNR, Broughty Ferry LNR, Caird Park, Barnhill Rock Garden, Middleton Woods.

Taxa	Species	Status	Information
Vascular Plant	**Northern marsh orchid** *(Dactylorhiza purpurella)*	No designation.	Important in a local urban context; present in several areas including Broughty Ferry LNR, Riverside Drive and Nature Park.
Vascular Plant	**Common spotted orchid** *(Dacylorhiza fuschii)*	No designation.	Important in a local urban context; present in several areas including Broughty Ferry LNR, Riverside Drive and Nature Park.
Vascular Plant	**Dropwort** *(Filipendula vulgaris)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Very localised distribution.
Vascular Plant	**English stonecrop** *(Sedum anglicum)*	No designation.	Regionally important - Present on Grassy beach - only site in Dundee and Angus.
Vascular Plant	**Meadow saxifrage** *(Saxifraga granulata)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Regionally important - huge decline over Dundee and Angus. Present at Broughty Ferry LNR.
Vascular Plant	**Cornsalad** *(Valerianella locusta)*	No designation.	Important locally - present at Grassy beach but threatened.
Vascular Plant	**Large-flowered hemp nettle** *(Galeopsis speciosa)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present in seedbank at RNP
Vascular Plant	**Scarlet pimpernel** *(Anagallis arvensis)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present at Stannergate
Vascular Plant	**Dropwort** *(Filipendula vulgaris)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Very rare on the railway line at Grassy Beach. Locally important if genuinely wild.

Taxa	Species	Status	Information
Tree	**Ash** *(Fraxinus excelsior)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found throughout Dundee, often infected by Ash Dieback disease. Need to find resistant specimens.
Tree	**Aspen** *(Populus tremula)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found in 1 or two locations in the city including Camperdown Park.
Tree	**Crab Apple** *(Malus sylvestris)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found throughout Dundee
Tree	**Wych Elm** *(Ulmus glabra)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Found throughout Dundee, locally important cultivar camperdownii originated at Camperdown Park.
Insect Moth	**Garden tiger** *(Arctia caja)*	On Scottish Biodiversity list	Present at RNP

Appendix 4: Priority Species and Habitats

Broad Habitat	Habitat	Information
Woodlands	Semi-Natural Broadleaved	Many dominated by native species, high conservation value, some ash-elm woodlands. UK priority habitat. On Scottish Biodiversity List.
Woodlands	Semi-Natural Mixed	Mixed Scots pine and larch woodlands, with birch, sycamore and oak.
Grasslands	Unimproved Acidic	Mainly on hill sites, such as the Law. Generally rare. High conservation value in Dundee. UK priority habitat. On Scottish Biodiversity List.
Grasslands	Calcareous Grassland	Fragments found on Dundee Law. High conservation value in Dundee. UK priority habitat. On Scottish Biodiversity List.
Heath	Heathland	Rare in Dundee. UK priority habitat. On Scottish Biodiversity List.
Rivers	Rivers	The Dighty burn provides habitat for many species and is an important green corridor. UK priority habitat. On Scottish Biodiversity List.
Coastland	Intertidal Mud/Sand	At Broughty Ferry Beach. Little vegetation except seaweeds.
Coastland	Intertidal Boulders/Rocks	At Broughty Ferry Beach. Dense beds of seaweeds. May form part of Coastal Rock or Intertidal Rock habitats recognised as important marine/coastal habitats in Scotland.
Coastland	Sand Dune, Coastal grassland	At Broughty Ferry LNR and beach. UK priority habitat. On Scottish Biodiversity List.



Dundee City Council

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Designed by DCC SM/9/26