



South Lanarkshire Council

Biodiversity Duty Report

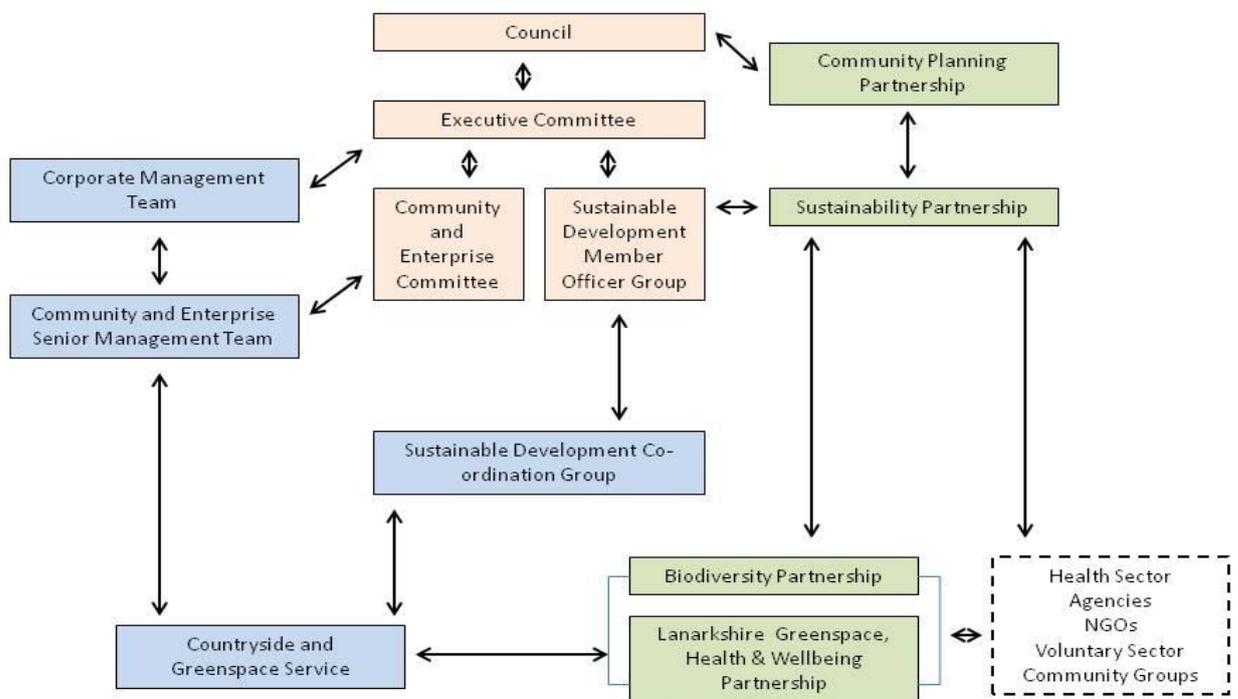
2015 – 2017



Photos: salmon (Malcolm Muir); volunteers controlling Himalayan balsam (CSGNT); conifer extraction at Chatelherault Country Park (Malcolm Muir); regenerating native woodland (Susan McNeish).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 South Lanarkshire Council was established in 1996 under the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994. Under this Act, and through a wide range of other legislation, the Council, as a unitary authority, exercises a range of statutory, regulatory and service functions.
- 1.2 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) places a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity; the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011) requires the Council to report its compliance with this biodiversity duty.
- 1.3 In order to ensure that the Biodiversity Duty is being met across the Council, the Sustainable Development Coordination Group has been tasked with taking forward the development, implementation and monitoring of our Biodiversity Duty. Representatives from each of the Council's Resources sit on this group and are able to act as coordinators for the implementation of our Biodiversity Duty through the delivery of action plans.
- 1.4 The Council published a Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan in 2012. A revised and updated Plan has recently been developed. The Biodiversity Duty is recognised in Council Resource and Service Planning. Additionally, biodiversity is a fundamental part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process that assesses all policies, plans, programmes and strategies produced by the Council.
- 1.5 Services and Resources report through their own structures and committees. Additionally, biodiversity activity is reported within the Council and to the Community Planning Partnership through the Sustainable Development Partnership, as the following diagram shows. In South Lanarkshire, biodiversity expertise is located in the Countryside and Greenspace (CAG) Team, within Community and Enterprise Resources. The Biodiversity Officer post is located within this team.



1.6 The following Council services are represented on the **Sustainable Development Co-ordination Group**:

Corporate Resources	Finance – Procurement
	IT Services
Community & Enterprise Resources	Carbon Management
	Countryside & Greenspace (Biodiversity)
	Countryside & Greenspace (Outdoor Access)
	Countryside and Greenspace (Greenspace)
	Environmental Health
	Planning and Building Standards
	Regeneration
	Roads and Transportation (Active Travel)
	Roads and Transportation (Flooding)
	Sustainable Development
	Waste Management
Education Resources	Support Services
Housing and Technical Resources	Business Development
	Strategy
Social Work Resources	Operations

1.7 The following Council services are represented on the **Corporate SEA Group**:

Corporate Resources	Finance and IT
Community & Enterprise Resources	Countryside and Greenspace
	Environmental Protection
	Regeneration
	Planning and Building Standards
	Roads and Transportation
	Waste Management
Education Resources	Support Services
Housing & Technical Resources	Performance Management
Social Work Resources	Directorate and Policy

1.8 The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership, established in 1997, is supported by the Council's Countryside and Greenspace team and reports to the Sustainable Development Partnership.

2. Mainstreaming

As a landowner and manager, the Council has a significant ability to impact biodiversity conservation across its Services. While the role of biodiversity planning in the Council's Planning and land management function is well understood, there is now much greater awareness of the benefits to Health and Social care, Education and other areas of service delivery. All Resources work to mainstream consideration of biodiversity and biodiversity measures have been incorporated into various policy areas.

As per the Council's Resource Planning guidance, annual Resource Plans should include details of the actions each Resource will take to contribute to the Council's Biodiversity Duty. The actions and measures from Resource and Service plans should be clearly marked, monitored and reported through the Council's performance management system.

As well as the biodiversity actions and measures included in core Resource and Service Plans, biodiversity objectives are also included in the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Progress is reported reported to the Executive Committee on all the strategy's actions (including biodiversity) twice a year.

The Council's guidance on writing committee reports also requires that any proposals being submitted to Committees or the Corporate Management Team include consideration to environmental implications including if SEA has been carried out or compliance with the biodiversity and climate change duties.

The follow table demonstrates the strong links between biodiversity and a range of council activities and services.

Code	Description
2.1	<p>The Council Plan – Connect 2012-17: The Council's service priorities and objectives are set out in the current Council Plan "Connect 2012-17". Connect 2017-22 is due to be published shortly. South Lanarkshire Council views the protection of biodiversity as a cross cutting objective that supports other key areas of service delivery, such as health, lifelong learning and community wellbeing.</p> <p>The Connect objective "Improve the Quality of the Physical Environment" lists six key steps and initiatives, including: "Implement plans for the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of greenspace in South Lanarkshire."</p>

Code	Description
2.2	<p>Local Development Plan: Biodiversity is covered in the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (LDP) under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 14: Green Network and Greenspace: “Any development proposals should safeguard the local green network, identified on the proposals map, and identify opportunities for enhancement and/or extension which can contribute towards:- iii. Supporting biodiversity. • Policy 15: Natural and Built Environment: covers the protection of designated and other important natural sites, and preventing and/or mitigating impacts on protected species. <p>“Supplementary Guidance 9: Natural and Historic Environment” provides additional information on biodiversity priorities in South Lanarkshire and a set of Policies designed to support LDP Policy 14, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy NHE8: Natura 2000 Sites • Policy NHE9: National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest • Policy NHE10: Prime agricultural land • Policy NHE11: Ancient semi-natural woodland • Policy NHE12: Local Nature Reserves • Policy NHE13: Tree preservation Orders • Policy NHE14: Woodland • Policy NHE15: Peatland • Policy NHE19: Protected species • Policy NHE20: Biodiversity • Policy NHE21: Geodiversity and soils <p>This guidance will be reviewed as part of the forthcoming LDP2.</p>
2.3	<p>Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan (BDIP): The previous Council BDIP covered the period 2012-14. A new Plan (2018-22) has been produced following consultation with Council Service representatives. This document has been subject to public consultation, in July 2017, alongside the draft Biodiversity Strategy and their associated Environmental Statement.</p>
2.4	<p>Community Planning – Sustainability Partnership: The South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Partnership is a sub-group of the Sustainability Partnership which is a thematic Group under the South Lanarkshire Community Plan. “Sustainable Environment” is one of three Core themes of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-17.</p> <p>Strategic outcome 2.2: “The natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected to provide long-term benefits for communities”, includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 4: Action is taken to safeguard and enhance the quality and function of priority biodiversity assets including peatland, farmland, freshwater systems and ancient woodland. • Action 5: Continue to work with statutory bodies and other organisations to conserve and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire.

Code	Description
2.5	Sustainable Development and Climate Change (forthcoming): this Strategy recognises the importance of healthy biodiversity and ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaptation, for example, the restoration of peatland that improves carbon storage capacity and can reduce incidents of flooding. The Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy provides a framework for embedding biodiversity in other strategies and plans across the Council.
2.6	Sustainable Development Co-ordination Group: The Group comprises representatives from all Resources within the Council. Its main remit is to oversee the preparation and delivery of the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Regular reports and presentations on biodiversity within South Lanarkshire are given to the Group. This is the main platform for overseeing the preparation and implementation of the BDIP.
2.7	Corporate SEA Working Group: The Group brings together representatives from key Services and Resources to oversee the SEA process within the Council. Representatives give information, advice and assistance on biodiversity to members who are responsible for preparing Council led policies, plans, programmes and strategies (PPPS) and their SEA. Many of the Council's plans have been strengthened by the SEA process and actions of the Group. This has proved to be one of the most effective ways of mainstreaming biodiversity into the strategic planning process.
2.8	SEA Scoping Workshops: These workshops are held for all our plans which are determined to require SEA. Biodiversity, flora and fauna is one of the environmental objectives considered as part of the SEA process. This helps to ensure that biodiversity is given early and effective consideration and often leads to further discussion between services, which helps to reinforce the delivery of our Biodiversity Duty.
2.9	Corporate Improvement Advisory Board: The Board issues Resource Planning Guidance to all Resources on an annual basis outlining standard content to be included within each of the Council's Resource Plans. This content includes text on sustainable development generally and specifically the Council's statutory requirement under the Biodiversity Duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. Resources are expected to set out within their Resource Plans the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan actions which they will be undertaking in the year ahead.
2.10	Air Quality Strategy (draft): South Lanarkshire's draft Air Quality Strategy recognises the importance of biodiversity in protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Sustainable South Lanarkshire is a key theme of this strategy which recognises the relationship between air quality and biodiversity. South Lanarkshire's contaminated land strategy also recognises the importance of biodiversity on our natural resources particularly in terms of nature conservation.
2.11	Education Resources: The Outdoor Learning Policy promotes biodiversity and reinforces the positive gains of being outdoors in relation to learning and wellbeing.
2.12	The Local Transport Strategy (2013 – 2023) will be fully reviewed and renewed in 2023. Where the scale of a project requires that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be undertaken, appropriately qualified and experienced consultants are appointed to carry these out. The results of the

Code	Description
	<p>EIA are reported in an Environmental Statement which includes guidance on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and Nature Conservation • Geology and Soils • Drainage and the Water Environment <p>If a project is of a scale that does not statutorily require an EIA but will still have an environmental impact then an Environmental Report is always produced.</p>
2.13	<p><u>Local Housing Strategy</u> (2017 – 22): emphasises improving the environment in a sustainable manner. Across rural and urban areas the Council has a real focus on improving the overall environment across our areas, encouraging responsibility of tenants and owners to look after their grounds, and ensuring we do the same. Significant investment programmes that help work towards the aims of our Local Housing Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving energy efficiency • reducing fuel costs • high quality new build programmes
2.14	<p>Housing and Technical Resources: Biodiversity measures are incorporated into activities through wider planning and land use strategies and policies which inform development activity, land maintenance and management procedures.</p>

3. Biodiversity Action

The Councils [Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan](#) sets out the commitments the Council continues to make to the conservation of biodiversity. Our previous Plan was written in 2012, and has been updated in 2017. The progress made over the years highlights the efforts we have made and what we aim to continue to deliver and improve on. It is clear that the creation of this Plan and a larger emphasis on the importance of biodiversity has helped to integrate its consideration within Council resources, both in terms of incorporation within PPPS as well as action on the ground. We are committed to continue developing our work in this area.

The following table demonstrates actions the Council has taken over the last three years to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Code	Description
3.1	<p>Local Nature Reserves (LNR): The Council has identified a suite of potential new LNRs that were made available for public consultation through the Main Issues Report of the LDP. Following recommendations from the consultation, there are 15 new sites to progress designation. The Council is in consultation with SNH and local communities to progress designation, with the Countryside and Greenspace Team developing management statements for sites.</p>
3.2	<p>Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS): A series of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Wildlife Sites from the 1990s are being reviewed. CAG are also creating draft site assessment criteria and consulting with partners to bring together a list of potential new LNCS. The initial focus is on the urban and greenbelt area to provide support to the planning system.</p>
3.3	<p>SEA: Biodiversity has been scoped into to all SEAs proceeding to Scoping stage; potential environmental effects are considered and where appropriate, relevant mitigation and enhancement measures identified. The figures below show the number of PPPS assessed as part of the SEA process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015: Total 9 (8 Pre-screened and 1 where SEA not required). • 2016: Total 12 (5 Pre-screened, 5 where SEA not required). Two Post Adoption Statements (LDP and Supplementary Guidance – renewable energy). • 2017: Total 11 (9 Pre-screened, 2 where SEA not required). <p>There are an additional number of PPPS which are currently partway through the SEA process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Adoption Statement: Air Quality Strategy; Biodiversity Strategy; BDIP • Environmental Report: Contaminated Land Strategy, Invasive Species Strategy, LDP 2 • Pre-screening: Sustainable Procurement Policy <p>The following SEA Scoping Workshops have been held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015: Supplementary Guidance – renewable energy: Biodiversity Strategy and BDIP • 2016: LDP 2

Code	Description
3.4	<p>Assessment of biodiversity assets: A student from Caledonian University is on placement with the Planning team during 2017 and is carrying out various tasks to digitise information relating to biodiversity and land use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUDS location • Changes to native woodland cover • Land under Habitat Management Plan (HMP) framework
3.5	<p>Conservation days: fortnightly sessions have been running since 2013, providing a volunteering opportunity which gives much needed management to South Haugh and Low Parks (Hamilton). Woodland management, Himalayan balsam bashing, scrub clearing and drain digging are just a few of the activities that take place. A steady number of volunteers attend (anything from 6 to 36 each session), with work achieved having a positive impact on the sites and people involved. Volunteers attend from various organisations including Enable Scotland, Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health (LAMH), Greensteps, Richmond Fellowship, Threshold and Right Tracks Scotland.</p>
3.6	<p>Biodiversity Assets: The draft Biodiversity Assets approach was published in 2015 as part of Supplementary Guidance (9: Natural and Historic Environment - Chapter 6 “Biodiversity and Geodiversity”) for the South Lanarkshire LDP. This process can be used to assess the biodiversity value of a site and the potential impact of proposed changes.</p>
3.7	<p>Planning Applications: the Council receives many planning applications of various scale across the area. Staff comment on biodiversity aspects of these applications, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect on native woodland • Proximity to locally important areas • Impact on access • Effect on priority or protected habitats and species • SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) design • Impact on the landscape
3.8	<p>Air Quality: South Lanarkshire has declared three Air Quality Management Areas and are in the process of developing an action plan designed to improve air quality. Actions will aim to reduce particulates and nitrogen oxides which will improve air quality and have subsequent positive impact on biodiversity. In particular the benefits of greening existing hard standing surfaces is recognised as an action for development that will also contribute to reducing flooding risk. A pilot project to introduce planting in a key target area is being developed with cross resource working between air quality, flooding and biodiversity personnel.</p>
3.9	<p>Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL): From 2015 to 2017, there has been a reduction in area of land on the VDL Register of 40.64ha. There is biodiversity value in the sites that have become naturalised to woodland or greenspace; 36ha of land.</p>
3.10	<p>Contaminated land: a reed bed project to improve the quality of leachate arising from an historical landfill site has recently included a wild flower meadow to further improve the quality of the local environment.</p>
3.11	<p>Green Flags: Three parks in South Lanarkshire maintain Green Flag Awards which recognise and reward well managed parks and greenspaces; Strathaven</p>

Code	Description
	<p>Park, Cambuslang Park and Castlebank Park. Biodiversity friendly elements of site management include reducing the use of peat and chemicals, and appropriately managing natural features and wildlife. These sites have associated active Community Groups.</p>
3.12	<p>Wildflower verges: Wildflower areas have been created in some road verges and landscape areas to improve the maintenance of existing road infrastructure, for example within the new cycle path between Kirkmuirhill and Lesmahagow. Species included within these areas are native in origin, with those local to the area incorporated wherever possible. Similarly some native hedgerows have been planted.</p> <p>For the last two years, the Council has been trialling using a perennial flower mix at various sites that were previously amenity grassland or planting beds.</p>
3.13	<p>Roadside verges: Since 2015 the Council has reduced the number of grass cuts to all verges owned by SLC from six to one cuts per year, except where safety reasons demand a more regular cut. There has also been a reduction in cuts on steep banks, where the aim is to now cut these areas once at the end of the growing season.</p>
3.14	<p>Invasive, Non-Native Species: the location of INNS, mainly Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed are recorded. Treatment is applied where appropriate; areas are subsequently monitored.</p>
3.15	<p>Dead wood: On Council land, cut and fallen trees and stumps are left in situ where possible, such as within woodlands, to provide a valuable habitat. Where wood is removed for safety or amenity reasons, it is chipped and used on plant beds.</p>
3.16	<p>Green waste: The Council's green waste and that from households is composted locally at GP Landscapes. The resultant material can be used by the Council for horticultural projects.</p>
3.17	<p>Schools Modernisation: as part of this programme, the Council supports schools in shaping the external environment by providing basics such as planters, undeveloped grassed areas, and allowing the schools to develop natural play areas over time. Examples of further development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Step Nursery (opened April 2016) has an insect hotel in their play area and plan to develop the grassed area over time. • Auchengray Primary School (opened January 2016) has a wildflower area and plan to further develop an eco garden. • Machanhill Primary School (opened November 2015) has a nature trail through new trees plus planters to develop as the school wishes. • New Lanark Primary School has a sedum roof on the flat roof extension to promote biodiversity.
3.18	<p>Eco-Schools: 100% of schools in South Lanarkshire are registered as Eco-schools; currently 212 establishments.</p>
3.19	<p>John Muir Award: 11 schools gained 547 awards during 2015/16. 15 schools gained 641 awards during 2016/17</p>
3.20	<p>Amenity Provision: Play park developments have included enhancements to biodiversity through mature and semi-mature tree planting, as well as shrub</p>

Code	Description
	planting. These include play areas in Rosebank, Tarbrax and Carluke, as well as several primary school landscapes. Cemetery extensions have included similar planting works, as well as wildflower seeding to enhance biodiversity and significantly reduce maintenance, notably at Westburn Cemetery.
3.21	Community Payback: The Council's Social Work team provides over 500 unpaid work placements each year. People can do work on environmental improvements or conservation work.
3.22	Purchasing: where possible, bio-degradable packaging is used and locally produced food is sourced. There has been a reduction in the quantity of chemicals purchased and used.
3.23	Provision of land: Housing and Technical Resources has supported wider council activity which has improved or conserved biodiversity through the transfer or use of land for communities. This includes land transferred to Community Resources for the improvement of a woodland walk at Morgan Glen, and land provided to the Larkhall Community Growers for the development of a community garden.
3.24	Housing estate: the Council undertakes environmental programmes on an annual basis. In Clydesdale this has recently included removing derelict bin stores to add greenspace, and upgrading back courts to add grass areas.
3.25	Ecological Surveys: Where necessary, the procurement process ensures the completion of ecological surveys to provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected species such as badgers, bats and breeding birds • Vegetation Surveys • The treatment and eradication of invasive species. • Habitat Surveys to identify and quantify sites of interest, provide baseline information and provide guidance and recommendations



Volunteers clearing the path at South Haugh
(photo: Melanie Craig)

4. Partnership Working

There is a strong track record of partnership working in South Lanarkshire in which biodiversity has a role. Detailed below are partnerships with which the Council has involvement with external organisations:

- 4.1 [The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership](#) (SLBP) was established in 1997 to bring together partners with an interest in conserving and promoting biodiversity. The partnership is supported and facilitated by the Council and has members from organisations including the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). It is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.2 [The Clyde and Avon Valleys Landscape Partnership](#) (CAVLP) 2012-18: CAVLP has been a partnership between South and North Lanarkshire Councils, SNH, RSPB, the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) along with local community interests and social enterprises. The programme has seen nearly £5m brought into the nationally significant landscapes, ancient woodlands, orchards and other features of the mid Clyde Valley and lower Avon Water. CAVLP was a development of the Clyde Valley Woodlands Group, one of the first sub-groups to have been established under the SLBP. The work builds on earlier achievements under the “Core Forest Sites” LIFE programme (European Union funded) that finished in 2005. The project has approached biodiversity conservation from a landscape scale perspective with a focus on community engagement and capacity building.
- 4.3 **The Sustainability Partnership** comprises elected members and officers from the Council, community planning partners and third sector organisations. Staff from CAG regularly present on biodiversity activities to the Partnership and explore ways in which we can achieve more value from our activities in collaboration with partners.
- 4.4 [South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum](#) (SLOAF): The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires all access authorities in Scotland to set up at least one Local Access Forum. SLOAF advises the Council and any other person or body on issues that arise in relation to outdoor access. Our Forum consists of representatives from a wide range of interests including land managers (farmers, estate owners, agencies such as SWT, FCS and Historic Environment Scotland), walkers, cyclists, equestrians, disabled people, anglers and communities.
- 4.5 [Lanarkshire Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing Partnership](#) (LGHWP): This multi-agency partnership provides a platform to maximise the use of greenspaces for community health and wellbeing. Originally established by South and North Lanarkshire Councils and NHS Lanarkshire, LGHWP has expanded to include the two local Leisure Trusts, volunteer agencies, SNH, FCS and Paths for All. Projects such as “Get Walking Lanarkshire” encourage people of all abilities to access the outdoors.
- 4.6 The Council works with other external partners to further its biodiversity duty, including:
 - [The Central Scotland Green Network Trust](#)
 - [Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership](#)
 - [South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership](#)
 - [Greenspace Scotland](#)

Various projects have been developed and implemented over the last three years that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity:

Code	Description
4.7	<p>The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership: South Lanarkshire Council co-ordinates and provides support for the Partnership. We facilitate and chair meetings of the partnership and it's five sub-groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and nature • Vacant and derelict land • Invasive, non-native species (INNS) • Peatland and freshwater • Habitat networks <p>We are in the process of reviewing our Biodiversity Strategy. This takes an ecosystem level approach to the conservation of biodiversity in the area. The document was available for public consultation in July 2017 alongside its Environmental Statement. It is due for formal publication in early 2018.</p>
4.8	<p>Conservation Volunteering: During 2017 there has been a programme of conservation volunteering with CAVLP and Clydesdale Community Initiatives across several sites including Mauldslie Woods and Chatelherault Country Park (both of which are SLC owned elements of the Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve (NNR)). Additional sites included several potential LNRs. Tasks have involved a mix of woodland management including the removal of INNS, coppicing of hazel, and general access improvements.</p>
4.9	<p>Community groups: the Council continues to support community groups with an interest in engaging with their local greenspace, for example, by assisting with events and conservation activities, attending meetings and applying for funding.</p> <p>Examples of supported groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Cadzow Glen • New Roots - Neilsland and Earnock Heritage Group • The Cadzow Crew • The Friends of Holmhill Wood Community Park • The Friends of Langlands Moss • The Friends of Morgan Glen • The Friends of Stonehouse Park • The Friends of the Calder • The Friends of Udston and Glenlee Woods <p>Many sites have undergone improvements in the past to make them more accessible and usable by local communities and nearby schools, and to give a higher biodiversity value, for example by improving the quality of the woodland.</p> <p>Examples of these groups are shown in 4.10 and 4.11</p>
4.10	<p>The Friends of Holmhill Wood Community Park: Since 2015 the Friends have carried out several community action days that have included litter picking, seed sowing and planting around refurbished ponds. They have installed seating and art works related to biodiversity for public use and enjoyment. They also work closely with the local high school who have used the area to achieve the John Muir Award. They have carried out a Phase 1 survey and a preliminary tree assessment, which have contributed to the site management plan.</p>

Code	Description
4.11	<p><u>New Roots - Neilsland and Earnock Heritage Group</u>: New Roots continue to hold regular community action days and events such as litter picking, path maintenance and wildlife walks including a successful badger watch in summer 2017. As part of £100,000 Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) funding, volunteers continue to assist in delivering ongoing WIAT outcomes and indicators in relation to the monitoring and eradication of INNS including rhododendron and laurel. The community group was awarded £10,000 of funding from The Mushroom Trust in 2015 for further INNS clearance and renovation of a feature entrance at Neilsland Estate. The group work in partnership with the Council's CAG team and participate in a Local Management Group. This local greenspace is regularly used by three local primary schools and a nursery group for study and play activities.</p>
4.12	<p><u>Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve</u>: this composite NNR comprises six sites which are managed by their respective owners; SLC, SWT and SNH. The sites are managed under joint objectives; members of staff attend regular steering group meetings. The Draft Management Plan for the sites includes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain a naturally dynamic semi-natural gorge woodland. • To maintain and enhance biodiversity on the reserve. • To encourage research, survey and monitoring appropriate to the reserve. • To increase awareness and understanding of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR.
4.13	<p><u>Water Vole Project</u>: from 2016 to 2018 CAVLP are funding a project run by CAG to determine the presence of the native water vole in South Lanarkshire; current records of this mammal are sparse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion was initially through fliers and posters, with the aim to raise the awareness of the water vole. We also targeted specialist groups such as anglers and SNH. • The Countryside Ranger Service carried out field surveys of old National Biodiversity Network recorded sites. • LAMH volunteers designed and constructed water vole platforms which have been installed along watercourses in Douglas and Abington. • Remote field cameras were also installed at these sites. • A water vole training day was held in 2017 for volunteers and Council staff, run by the Glasgow City Council Water Vole Project Officer. • The project so far has identified ten possible areas for water voles in South Lanarkshire; we are currently monitoring these locations. <p>Throughout this project we have worked in partnership with adjacent Local Authorities who have known populations of water voles. Glasgow City Council and North Lanarkshire Council have established a wealth of data on the location of the mammals and have been involved in a wide variety of water vole projects.</p>
4.14	<p><u>Life in the Cadzow Oaks</u>: Staff and volunteers from the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow have been funded by HLF supported CAVLP and the Glasgow Natural History Society to carry out invertebrate sampling at the Cadzow Oaks (Hamilton High Parks SSSI) during 2017. The sampling concentrates on fauna associated with dead wood over a full calendar year, using a combination of proved search methods. Up-to-date knowledge of the invertebrate community is of central importance in the conservation of the natural heritage in this area. It will facilitate the evaluation and formulation of appropriate management prescriptions and future monitoring of site quality.</p>

Code	Description
	Volunteers and CAG staff are assisting with trap checks, sample sorting and basic insect identification. There have been two events for the public to learn about this project, discover volunteer opportunities and access this interesting site.
4.15	<u>Clyde and Avon Valley Wildlife Campaign:</u> This is a partnership project between Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) supported CAVLP, SLC, North Lanarkshire Council, RSPB Baron's Haugh, SNH and SWT Falls of Clyde. The campaign, including wildlife spotting events and a writing challenge, focuses on 12 species that can be found throughout the year in local woodlands such as Chatelherault Country Park, Baron's Haugh, Dalzell Estate and Falls of Clyde. Individuals and schools can get involved to find out more about local wildlife, visit local nature sites, take part in wildlife spotting events and help contribute to wildlife recording. This is a yearlong project during 2017.
4.16	<u>Access to the Countryside:</u> The Council has worked with CAVLP and other partners to improve the path network in the Clyde Valley, giving people safe access to explore the countryside. The Community Links project upgraded and improved paths linking the communities of Rosebank, Ashgill, Dalsersf, Larkhall, Law, Crossford, Nemphlar and Braidwood with the <u>Clyde Walkway</u> . These improve connections to sections of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR.
4.17	Windfarm habitat management: as part of windfarm development, many of which are in upland areas, large areas of land are covered by Habitat Management Plans (HMP). These aim to improve habitat such as woodland and bogs for species including black grouse and hen harrier. In South Lanarkshire over 11,000ha (approximately 6.3% of the total land area) is managed in this way. Staff from SLC and organisations including RSPB, SNH and FCS, are involved with various stages of wind farm development and sit on steering groups to ensure effective long term management of mitigation sites.
4.18	Deer Management: The Council is carrying out pilot work with SNH, participating in the Lowland Deer Network Scotland and liaising with the South Lanarkshire Deer Management Group to ensure that deer management is carried out effectively.
4.19	Peatland restoration: In 2017, the Peatland and Freshwater sub-group of the Biodiversity Partnership has been awarded funding from SNH's PeatlandACTION programme to carry out feasibility studies on 11 sites. The studies will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat depth surveys • On site surveys to establish areas suitable for restoration through active management • Landowner liaison and engagement <p>These are non-designated sites in two clusters; East Kilbride and Lesmahagow. The improvement of these sites would greatly improve bog quality in a complex of sites that includes areas designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).</p>
4.20	<u>Badgers in the Landscape:</u> this is a three year HLF funded project based exclusively in South Lanarkshire in partnership with Scottish Badgers. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Project – working with three schools in an area of high wildlife

Code	Description
	<p>persecution to raise awareness and educate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses including: “Rhododendron eradication and badgers”, “Level 1 Badger Training” and “Basic Scenes of Crime”. • Running at least ten sett surveys with volunteers each year and with Level 1 Badger trainees in proposed LNR sites.
4.21	<p>Living Waters: In 2016 and 2017 SLC worked with Froglife to create six new ponds and improve seven ponds at various locations, as part of the Living Waters project. Improvements included enlarging ponds, removing overhanging trees and creating pathways. The Cadzow Crew (LAMH volunteers) helped to clear vegetation from various ponds. Plants and seeds have been added to the site by local volunteers and surveys have been completed. Monitoring is ongoing and amphibian identification training is scheduled for 2018.</p>
4.22	<p>Volunteer Capacity Building: Countryside and Greenspace provide regular opportunities for volunteers to attend training sessions and events. Examples include: bat survey training; bushcraft skills and a botanical walk.</p>
4.23	<p>Education in Greenspaces: The Countryside Ranger Service continues to support schools to connect with their local greenspace, provide advice and signpost to available resources. In 2015 the team worked with CAVLP and Impact Arts to carry out environmental surveys using OPAL (Open Air Laboratory) education packs, and create art works with six schools in the Carluke learning community.</p>
4.24	<p>Branching Out: During the reporting period, four Branching Out programmes (conservation therapy for clients with mental health issues) were run in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland.</p>
4.25	<p>Outdoor Play Groups: activities are run at various locations throughout the year. The Countryside Ranger Service also supports outdoor play groups that meet once a month at Morgan Glen, Stonehouse Park and Sandford where up to 40 people attend. These are being guided into becoming constituted groups so that they can run independently and access funding to help improve their sites.</p>
4.26	<p>School Partnerships: Education Resources support a wide range of partnerships including Forest Schools, working with local groups and the development of orchards. Schools are active in engaging with their local community and other partners in support of these initiatives.</p>
4.27	<p>Sharing spaces: At Quarter Primary School the local nursing home’s garden is adjacent to the school and provides an additional off-site, educational resource which can be accessed directly from the school grounds. Developing close links with the Duchess Nina Nursing & Residential Home has in turn provided the school and pupils with excellent opportunities to work with the residents and develop links with the wider village community.</p>
4.28	<p>Community decision making: The Council has worked the Coalfield Trust in a participatory funding project at Rigside, where the community has set out their priorities. This includes better transport links, more activities, and environmental improvements such as demolition of vacant housing stock, more flowers and plants in the area. The community will decide which projects to fund.</p>

Code	Description
4.29	<p>Where You Live: Housing Services officers work with a number of resident and community groups with interests in improving local environments and support indirect activity to improve open space. Housing staff in a number of areas have been involved with local communities helping to develop community gardens and allotment projects. Biodiversity is also supported through wider community regeneration and health and wellbeing initiatives such as supporting the development of sensory gardens within sheltered housing developments.</p>
4.30	<p>Working with businesses: CAG have worked with private businesses to carry out conservation work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for International Development staff carried out scrub clearance at Cadzow Castle, Chatelherault Country Park. • Portakabin team completed scrub clearance along National Cycle Route 74 • Scottish Gas Network provided staff and plant to create an access routes and remove INNS and other vegetation at Milheugh with the Friends of the Calder.
4.31	<p>Play Park Redevelopment: play parks have been redeveloped in partnership with community groups to include biodiversity friendly landscaping such as native trees including apple trees, shrubs, herbaceous beds, bulb planting and a sensory gardens at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crofthead Park, Uddington in partnership with Uddington Pride. • Kirkfieldbank Play Park, in partnership with Kirkfieldbank Community Group. • Rigside Skatepark, in partnership with Rigside Playpark Group. • Blackwood Park, in partnership with Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood Play Parks Group.



Health Walk at Chatelherault Country Park
(photo: Paula Hubens, Get Walking Lanarkshire)

5. Communication

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

Code	Description
5.1	South Lanarkshire Council website : provides information relating to biodiversity including the Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan.
5.2	The Councils environmental statement is designed for all employees and provides information on how they can contribute to improving the environment. One of our commitments is: "We will work to protect biodiversity and safeguard ecosystems services in accordance with national, international legislation, policies and guidelines".
5.3	The Learn Online course "Your Biodiversity Duty" is available to all staff.
5.4	Facebook Page : CAG runs a Facebook page which provides information and promotes the work of the Council and our partners. This is the main media that we use to advertise events and activities run by the Council and community groups.
5.5	Environmental Volunteer Newsletter : CAG produce a newsletter twice a year which includes article on biodiversity projects such as Citizen Science opportunities.
5.6	Volunteer Network : CAG maintains a database of environmental volunteers that work across the area. They receive regular emails giving information and invitations to events and training courses.
5.7	South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership website : this site provides information relating to biodiversity in the area and resources such as Your Nature Space cards.
5.8	The Clyde and Avon Valleys Landscape Partnership website includes information on biodiversity projects, events and volunteer opportunities. CAVLP also produce regular Facebook posts and press releases.
5.9	School projects : Schools and pupils involved in projects will often communicate information about these to parents/carers and the wider community through their own websites, blogs and newsletters.

Training and Learning

5.10 Members of staff across the Council have attended various conferences and training events, some of which are:

- 20 Years of Scottish Biodiversity Partnerships event (Oct 2016)
- Central Scotland Green Network Forum (annual)
- Corporate SEA Working Group Meetings and Site Visits
 - 2015: 5 meetings (including site visit to Chatelherault Country Park)
 - 2016: 4 meetings (including site visit to South Lanarkshire College)

- 2017: 5 meetings (including site visits to Broken Cross Surface Mine and Chatelherault Country Park).
- Forest School and Outdoor Learning training is delivered within the Council; two teachers completed Forest School training in 2015/16, and two in 2016/17.
- Going with the Flow: Supporting NBN Data Flow Pathway (Nov 2016)
- Landscape-Scale Practitioners Event (Nov 2017)
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Officer Network meetings (twice a year)
- Member of the Lowland Deer Network Scotland
- Member of the Park Managers Forum
- National Access Forum (quarterly)
- Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum workshops (Oct 2017)
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Working Groups
- Scottish Windfarm Bird Steering Group workshop
- SEA Webinar and Learn Online course
- SNH Biodiversity Stakeholders Conference (June 2017)
- SEA / Habitat Regulation Assessment National Forum (Apr 2016)
- Sustainable Development Partnership (annual site visits)
- Water voles field signs (Apr 2017)



Water vole identification and survey training
(photo: Louisa Maddison)

6. Biodiversity highlights and challenges

The Council has undertaken many projects and activities to conserve biodiversity, as detailed within this report. The following examples highlight some of the work we are most proud of.

6.1 Friends of the Calder: The Council has been working with this community group at Millheugh/Greenhall/Barnhill in High Blantyre since 2015. The Countryside Ranger Service has helped with around six events per year such as pond dipping, bat watching and OPAL surveying, with the aim to involve the community with Citizen Science activities.



Tree planting event (Photo: Jo Birkin)

An area of amenity grassland (1.6ha) has been converted to wildflower meadow by changing the mowing regime and sowing wildflower seed. The group have also cut back and thinned trees from the newly created Barnhill pond, creating habitat piles at the edge of the pond, and cleared invasive snowberry plants. They have carried out tree planting with trees from Woodland Trust. In addition to this the volunteers regularly clear litter from the site. Volunteers from Scottish Gas Network have contributed path improvements and INNS removal.

In July 2017 the the Royal Zoological Society brought their “Wild about Scotland” tour bus to the site, which promotes Scotland’s Biodiversity. 130 people attended this event.

From August to October 2017, 3ha of conifer plantation was removed from the site as part of Forestry Commission’s WIAT programme. Paths were improved and river edges strengthened. This area will now convert to native woodland with associated ground flora that will greatly improve the biodiversity value of the site and contribute to local habitat connectivity of woodland and river corridor.



Ferniegair fish pass in construction (photo: Malcolm Muir)

6.2 Restoring salmon to the Avon Water: Working in partnership with SEPA and the River and Fisheries Trust Scotland (RAFTS), in 2016 fish passes were installed on two former mill weirs that had been preventing migratory fish passage into the Avon Water catchment since the 1820s. This work has moved the Avon from “Poor” to “Good” status under the Water Framework Directive and has opened up 170km of potential spawning grounds to the recovering Clyde salmon population.

After the weir improvements were made, the Clyde River Foundation worked with the local community to show the benefits of the project. 21 schools (over 500 children) took part in the “Salmon Homecoming” where they participated in the “Clyde in the Classroom” project, which uses the life cycle of the Atlantic salmon and brown trout to demonstrate the conservation and biodiversity importance of their local river system. Community days at Smithycroft, Millheugh, Stonehouse Park and Strathaven Park attracted over 150 people. This included a guided river visit and various activities.

6.3 The Friends of Langlands Moss (FOLM):

The Council has worked in partnership with FOLM to manage this lowland raised bog for over ten years, and have been awarded over £100,000 in funding. The Bog Squad team worked with the Friends from 2014 to 2016 to help restore the site. This volunteer task force was created by Butterfly Conservation Scotland to carry out rehabilitation works on peat bogs across central Scotland, with funding from SNH's PeatlandACTION project.



The Bog Squad launch at Langlands Moss
(Photo: Maureen Potter, FOLM)

The volunteers installed 37 ditch-blocking dams and cleared many invasive spruce trees. These works have helped to rewet parts of the moss to ensure that specialist bog species such as the increasingly rare large heath butterfly can continue to survive at Langlands. The effectiveness of the dams (purchased with funding from SNH and the Big Lottery Fund) has been quickly demonstrated with large pools of water helping to re-wet the surrounding peat, and provide breeding habitat for common hawker dragonflies.

Volunteers also carried out a peat depth survey of the moss, which revealed that in places the peat is over 7.5metres, deep helping to underline the importance of such sites as carbon stores. As part of the Bog Squad project, Butterfly Conservation ran a training course in 2017 to encourage volunteers to survey for small pearl bordered fritillary, large heath and green hairstreak butterflies.

In 2017, SNH's PeatlandACTION programme granted funding for a feasibility study to assess the bog and surrounding land. This will help inform the direction of future management which will aim to continue to restore the natural hydrology of the bog by installing more dams and creating a lagg zone in place of the existing adjacent conifer plantation.



Example of an insect hotel
(photo: Louisa Maddison)

6.4 Neilsland Primary School was opened as a Centre of Excellence for Natural Outdoor Play in 2016. The aim of this was to promote outdoor learning and showcase how schools could develop their grounds to provide a stimulating, external environment to enhance play and provide unique and varied learning experiences. This facility includes insect hotels, fruit trees, bulb planting, native species hedges, trees and planting beds.



Conifer extraction at Chatelherault (photo: Malcolm Muir)

6.5 Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) restoration: Under a regeneration programme for the ancient gorge woodlands on the Avon Water, 20 hectares of conifer plantation have been removed from Chatelherault Country Park (part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR) during 2016 and 2017 to allow native woodland to regenerate. This is addition to 16 hectares (ha) that were cleared of conifers in 2005 and have regenerated very successfully. In 2017, a further 3ha of conifers were removed from the Rotten Calder valley at Blantyre under a community led regeneration programme with the Friends of the Calder.

6.6 Cathkin Relief Road: This new road was opened in 2017 and was constructed by South Lanarkshire Council as part of the Glasgow City Region City Deal. Opportunities were taken throughout the project to protect and enhance areas of openspace surrounding the new road, including:

- Minimising the footprint of the development to reduce the extent of required vegetation clearance and tree felling.
- Avoidance of ecological receptors by careful planning using available field and desk based survey information, such as avoiding areas of established woodland where possible.
- The creation of new woodland shelterbelts to offset tree removal using semi-mature trees, shrub and hedge planting of native species.
- An enlarged and enhanced area of amenity grassland.
- Japanese knotweed control.
- Areas of wildflower meadow created using existing top soil and native species mix.
- Natural flood management including SUDs basins and swales to attenuate and treat run-off water from the road.
- Acoustic barriers created using woven and live willow screening fences with native climbing plants including ivy, honeysuckle and climbing rose.
- Improved path networks to encourage public access for walking and cycling.



The vision of the new road

7. Challenges

We are aware that there are challenges to conserving biodiversity. The following table highlights specific concerns that have been raised by the Council. While there are challenges to protecting biodiversity, there are many more benefits, including those with cross-cutting benefits. For example the protection and improvement of peatlands has benefits for wildlife; it also contributes to mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing flood risk.

Changes to budget and staff levels over the past few years have highlighted the importance of working with communities and external organisations to further our aims. This has become a key element of how we work and we consider it to be a strategic factor in how we will continue to develop our partnership and project work into the future,

Code	Challenges
7.1	Decline in resources including staff numbers
7.2	Carrying out strategic control of INNS with multiple landowners. This is likely to become more difficult as species continue to spread, the likelihood of long-term funding reduces, and the potential ban on glyphosate herbicide use.
7.3	Within schools there are maintenance issues relating to cultivating areas within school grounds, as this relies on school staff. Budgets for external maintenance have been cut. In some cases, areas encouraged to be natural and wild end up appearing overgrown or unsightly which leads to public complaints.
7.4	Being able to fulfil community expectation and promote our work.
7.5	Growing cost of locally produced food and packaging.
7.6	With increasing emphasis on use of the outdoors, especially in relation to outdoor learning and play, there will be a potential impact on local greenspaces.
7.7	Potential and unknown factors that will affect decision making, budgets, subsidies in the future, as a result of leaving the European Union.
7.8	The ability to encourage, implement and monitor biodiversity inclusion, mitigation and compensatory works within development.
7.9	The effect of changes to future funding and national focus on the continuing development of community partnerships.
7.10	Lack of ability to influence subsidy and incentive with regards to rural funding.
7.11	Ability to develop wide scale partnerships involving external partners, non-government agencies and private land owners to further biodiversity projects on ecosystem scale.

8. Monitoring

8.1 Environmental data is collated and presented in the [South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report](#) which is updated every two years. Extracts relevant to biodiversity from the SOE Report are shown below. This shows that there has been an improvement in South Lanarkshire in relation to LNRs and woodland cover.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Designated areas	F	↔	Few sites have been surveyed since the previous report. Although there has been some isolated improvement, in general the condition of the designated features remains similar to previous reports.
Local Nature Reserves	G	↑	The Council's LNR at Langlands Moss is in good condition. Considerable improvement was made to the Reserve in partnership with the Friends of Langlands Moss. Further potential LNR sites have been identified.
Native woodland	F	↑	Although total native woodland cover is increasing, further work is required to improve connectivity of habitats, expanding native broadleaf woodland cover.
Ancient woodland	F	↑	There is no change in the area of ancient semi-natural woodland cover. There is limited data on the overall condition of this habitat. However, 36ha of plantation has been removed from Council owned ancient woodland sites.
Peatland			There is insufficient data on the overall condition of raised and blanket bogs across the area, with only a small number of designated sites recorded as unfavourable.

Key:



Good



Fair



Improving



No change



Poor



Limited data



Deteriorating

8.2 The following diagram shows changes in various environmental conditions from the 2011 SOE Report to 2017. The boxes highlighted in yellow show changes from 2015; there has been stabilisation in the cover of native woodland and sustained improvement in the management of access to the countryside.

Environmental Issue	Indicator	Status and trend				Comment
		2011	2013	2015	2017	
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Designated areas	↔	↑	↔	↔	Improvement sustained
	Ancient woodland	↔	↔	↔	↑	Stabilised
Material assets and landscape	Recreational land	↔	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Countryside access	↑	↑	↑	↔	Improvement sustained
Water	Groundwater and wetlands	↓	↔	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
	Flooding	↓	↑	↑	↑	Continuous improvement
Good	Fair	Poor		Change from 2015		

The following table shows monitoring and other reporting actions that take place in South Lanarkshire in relation to biodiversity. This includes biological recording, information relating to schools and education, and environmental volunteering. Where there is a trend or concern noted from this information, it is noted in the text.

Code	Description
8.3	Actions within the SLC BDIP are reviewed annually within the Sustainability Partnership.
8.4	Actions within the SLBS are reviewed at regular meetings of the Biodiversity Partnership and sub-groups.
8.5	All biodiversity actions and measures in the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy's action plan are monitored and reported through the Council's performance management system, IMPROVe. A progress report is presented to the Executive Committee twice a year if the actions and measures are on target.
8.6	<p>CAG staff contribute to national recording schemes and uses various apps for casual recording, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bat Conservation Trust: Waterways and Field surveys completed at Calderglen Country Park since 2006. British Trust for Ornithology WeBs Count (Wetland Bird Survey) undertaken every month at Hamilton Low Parks. Butterfly Conservation's UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme: weekly transect at South Haugh (by CAG staff) and Langlands Moss LNR (volunteer on SLC land). <p>Participation in these recording schemes contributes to a national picture of these species and their population trends.</p>

Code	Description
8.7	Other biological data is contributed to the Record Centre at the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre. These are then passed on to various organisations, for example to the Botanical Society of the British Isles vice-county recorder for inclusion in the forthcoming 2020 botanical atlas. CAG staff continue to digitise historical data when able.
8.8	CSGNT manages a database of INNS which includes South Lanarkshire information. Records from the public and council staff contribute to this. The Council also manages a database of INNS locations and their control.
8.9	The installation of fish passes has moved the River Avon from "Poor" to "Good" status under the Water Framework Directive.
8.10	An annual census at the heronry at Hamilton Low Parks SSSI is carried out. The site hosts one of Scotland's largest heronries.
8.11	CAG have been working with volunteers and community groups for many years, supporting various types of work. Since 2010 the average time spent on environmental volunteering each year is 2,751 days, which equates (based on £50 per day) to £137,550 annually. This is an under-representation of the work carried out in South Lanarkshire by volunteers as we do not receive information from all our groups every year.
8.12	In 2015, the Council was controlling INNS on 256 sites. In 2017, treatment is occurring at 287 sites. Species cover has reduced in size or been eradicated at 95% of locations; annual monitoring takes place to check for re-growth.

9. Contribution to targets

The following table shows where South Lanarkshire Council actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity tie in with Scottish Government targets and key steps as identified within "[Scotland's Biodiversity – a routemap to 2020](#)".

Chapter 1: Healthy ecosystems	Contribution to key step?	Project code	
Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced the greatest degradation	Yes	4.7 4.17	6.2 6.5
Use assessments of ecosystem health at a catchment level to determine what needs to be done	N/A	N/A	
Government and public bodies, including SNH, SEPA and FCS, will work together towards a shared agenda for action to restore ecosystem health at a catchment-scale across Scotland	Yes	4.2 4.2 4.6	4.7 4.17 4.19
Establish plans and decisions about land use based on an understanding of ecosystems. Take full account of land use impacts on the ecosystems services that underpin social, economic and environmental health	Yes	1.3 2.5 2.8 2.10 3.1 3.2	3.6 3.7 4.7 4.17 6.5
Chapter 3: Biodiversity, health and quality of life	Contribution to key step?	Project code	
Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups	Yes	3.1 3.5 3.20 3.21 3.23 4.5 4.7 4.8 4.9 4.13 4.14	4.15 4.16 4.20 4.22 4.24 4.25 5.4 5.5 6.1 6.3
Support local authorities and communities to improve local environments and enhance biodiversity using green space and green networks, allowing nature to flourish and so enhancing the quality of life for people who live there	Yes	2.2 3.1 3.5 3.7 3.9 3.11 3.12 3.14 3.15 4.7	4.8 4.9 4.16 4.21 4.31 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.5
Build on good practice being developed by the National Health Service (NHS) and others to help encourage greenspace, green exercise and social prescribing initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing through connecting people with nature	Yes	2.3 3.1 3.5 4.5	4.8 4.9 4.24
Increase access to nature within and close to schools, and support teachers in developing the role of outdoor learning across the Curriculum for Excellence	Yes	2.3 3.1 3.11	4.11 4.20 1.23

		3.17 4.25 3.18 4.26 3.19 4.27 4.9 6.1 4.10 6.4
Encourage public organisations and businesses to review their responsibilities and action for biodiversity, and recognise that increasing their positive contribution to nature and landscapes can help meet their corporate priorities and performance	Yes	4.30
Chapter 4: Wildlife, habitats and protected places	Contribution to key step?	Project code
Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits	Yes	2.8 4.12 3.1 6.3 4.8 6.5
Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to combat fragmentation and restore key habitats	Yes	2.2 3.7 4.7
Involve many more people than at present in this work and improve understanding of the poorly known elements of nature	Yes	3.1 4.14 4.9 4.18
Chapter 5: Land and freshwater management	Contribution to key step?	Project code
Promote an ecosystem approach to land management that fosters sustainable use of natural resources and puts biodiversity at the heart of land-use planning and decision-making	Yes	2.2 4.17 3.7 6.2 4.7 6.5
Ensure that measures taken forward under the Common Agricultural Policy encourage land managers to develop and retain the diversity of wildlife habitats and landscape features	N/A	N/A
Support 'High Nature Value' farming and forestry	N/A	N/A
Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland's protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water bodies	Yes	4.12 6.2 4.19 6.5
Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem objectives are fully integrated into flood risk management plans, and restore wetland habitats and woodlands to provide sustainable flood management	Yes	3.8 4.21 4.7 6.1 4.17 6.3 4.19 6.5
Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change	Yes	4.7 6.1 4.8 6.2 4.17 6.3 4.19 6.5
Provide clear advice to land and water managers on best practice	N/A	N/A
Chapter 6: Marine and coastal (n/a)		

Appendix 1: Acronyms

BDIP	Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan
CAG	Countryside and Greenspace Team
CAVLP	The Clyde and Avon Valleys Landscape Partnership
CMT	Corporate Management Team
CRF	the Clyde River Foundation
CSGNT	Central Scotland Green Network Trust
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FOLM	the Friends of Langlands Moss
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
Ha	Hectare
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HMP	Habitat Management Plans
INNS	Invasive, Non-Native Species
LAMH	Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGHWP	Lanarkshire Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing Partnership
LNCS	Local Nature Conservation Sites
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
NBN	National Biological Network
NHS	the National Health Service
NNR	National Nature Reserve
OPAL	Open Air Laboratory
PAWS	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
PPPS	Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies
RAFTS	the River and Fisheries Trust Scotland
RSPB	the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SLBP	The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership
SLBS	South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy
SLC	South Lanarkshire Council
SLOAF	South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS	Sustainable (Urban) Drainage System
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
VDL	Vacant and Derelict Land
WIAT	Woodlands In and Around Towns

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone 0303 123 1015 or email equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk