



North Lanarkshire Council

Biodiversity Duty Report 2015 - 2018

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. Section 1 of the Act 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 it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”.
- 1.2 The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 amends the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and introduced a requirement for all Public Authorities to produce and make available a report, every three years, detailing their compliance with the biodiversity duty.
- 1.3 The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is comprised of ‘Scotland’s Biodiversity: It’s in Your Hands (2004)’ and the ‘2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity’. Together, these documents outline the Scottish Government’s vision for Scotland’s biodiversity and our response to international and European Union targets.
- 1.4 North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) achieves its Biodiversity Duty through the delivery of the ‘North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan’, focussing on biodiversity at a service level, coordinating partnership work and facilitating local action to help achieve the ‘2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity’.
- 1.5 Within NLC, there are 5 core council services: Chief Executive’s Office, Enterprise and Housing Resources, Infrastructure, Education, Youth and Communities, and Health and Social Care.

2 Governance

- 2.1 There are 77 councillors within NLC, representing 21 wards and a population of 339,390. The council operates through a system of committees and sub committees.
- 2.2 The Council is the lead partner for the North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and coordinates the delivery of the LBAP through the North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership. Councillors oversee the production and delivery of the LBAP through the committee reporting process.
<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6400>
- 2.3 Greenspace Development, within Infrastructure, is primarily responsible for meeting key national and local biodiversity responsibilities and objectives, as well as delivering projects. Officers delivering positive action for biodiversity are: Biodiversity Projects Officer, Countryside Rangers, Biodiversity and

Conservation Manager. Greenspace Development works with several other departments in partnership projects, and in providing advice and guidance.

2.4 The importance of biodiversity in North Lanarkshire is recognised at a Service level and this report highlights the delivery of the Biodiversity Duty from the period 2015 - 2018.

2.5 The delivery of the Biodiversity Duty is highlighted through 6 key areas:

- Mainstreaming
- Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation
- Partnership working and biodiversity communications
- Biodiversity highlights and challenges
- Monitoring
- Contribution to targets

3 Mainstreaming

3.1 Biodiversity and the Planning system

The Biodiversity team, based within Greenspace Development, provide detailed comments in regards to ecology as part of the planning process. Acting as internal consultees to the planning authority, this ensures compliance with wildlife and nature conservation legislation. It also ensures that ecological surveys carried out by developers follow best practice and where appropriate, ensures that any mitigation is carried out to a high standard.

From the period 2015 - 2018, Greenspace Development was consulted on 473 planning applications and 240 land disposals.

The North Lanarkshire Local Plan, published in 2012 set the local authority's strategy for physical development. Its policies and development proposals are intended to ensure that:

- There are enough different land uses, for North Lanarkshire to be a successful place
- Facilities are in the right places for people to access them
- Development does not harm the environment

The key policy objectives of this plan which protect, promote and assess development in support of Natural and Built Environment Issues are;

NBE1 Protecting the Natural Built Environment
NBE2 Promoting the Natural and Built Environment; and
NBE 3 Assessing Development in the Green Belt and Rural Investment Area

It is noted in the Local Plan that “To achieve its aim of Sustainable Growth, the Local Plan needs to ensure that economic growth is not at the expense of the environment” and “Preserving and enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment contribute to the attractiveness of North Lanarkshire as a place in which to invest, work and live”.

3.2 Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs)

Since 2008 all sites proposed as SINCs in North Lanarkshire have been assessed in according to each of these five factors:

- Connectivity - this is assessed according to a sites proximity to (*physical links between*) broadly similar habitats found in the surrounding countryside, and ability for the potential of new links (wildlife corridors) to be created.
- Species diversity – this is assessed according to the number and variety of species found on the site compared with what may be expected to occur within similar habitats.
- Species rarity – this is assessed according to the rarity of a habitat within the national and local context, including those on the Scottish Biodiversity List and those listed as priorities in the LBAP.
- Habitat rarity – this is assessed according to the rarity of a habitat within the national and local context, including those on the Scottish Biodiversity List and those listed as priorities in the LBAP.
- Habitat extent - this is assessed according to the amount of a particular habitat found on a site relative to the total found in the local area.

Priority designations are also given to peat lands, riparian corridors and sites with locally/regionally rare species and locally/nationally important populations of common species.



Holmforge riparian corridor SINC



Cathburn Moss SINC

There are currently 380 SINC sites in North Lanarkshire.

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6407>

3.3 The Community Plan 2013 – 2018 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)

The Community Plan 2013-2018 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) incorporates biodiversity by including “North Lanarkshire in 2022 will be a place where people want to live because of...the quality and accessibility of the natural environment”

One of the five key themes of the SOA is “regeneration” with a strategic priority for a “Sustainable North Lanarkshire” The North Lanarkshire Partnership Officer’s Group supports the work of the NLP Board through the ‘developing the partnership’ group. This group comprises officers from each of the organisations represented on the NLP Board and meets regularly

to manage and facilitate the work of the Board. Each partnership working group is led by the chair and supported by a link officer from the Corporate Service Improvement team in the Chief Executive's Office

The SOA notes that "We will protect, enhance and create habitat and ecological resources throughout North Lanarkshire, and promote these ecological resources within new developments. We will continue to protect our lochs, rivers, woodlands and peat lands and will ensure that their visual and recreational value is maintained. Our public parks and open spaces will be safe, well-cared for and accessible. We will maintain traffic-free footpaths and routes, cycle paths, green spaces and key recreational sites".

A key local outcome is "Enhanced network of greenspace and woodland for local communities and wildlife".

3.4 North Lanarkshire Council's Corporate Plan 2013 to 2018

'North Lanarkshire Council's Corporate Plan 2013 to 2018' includes in its vision that North Lanarkshire will be a place where everyone has access to a pleasant, safe environment and that the council will "make the most of opportunities for economic and environmental improvements".

The Corporate Plan notes that "Over the last decade, the image of North Lanarkshire has improved and the benefits of our natural environment are now being realised. We are committed to improving and sustaining our natural and built environment, ensuring it is protected, cared for and looked after.

3.5 The Environmental Partnership Group

The Environmental Partnership Group, attended by Senior staff members, was set up to manage activity relating to the Corporate and Community Plan key objectives. The Environmental Partnership Group is supported by three sub-groups: Sustainability and Climate Change, Natural Environment and Built Environment. Progress on LBAP actions is reported through Natural Environment sub group on a quarterly basis.

3.6 North Lanarkshire Council Low Carbon Strategy 2014 - 2017

NLC has a low carbon strategy and carbon management plan, which sets out the key focus for carbon management, energy efficiency and investment in renewables until 2018. This includes actions to continue achievement through EcoSchools, and the EcoStars Scheme.

NLC completed various initiatives which contributed to a reduction in carbon and energy consumption and included the introduction of pool cars and

energy monitoring systems, increased numbers of recycling sites and expanded provision of park and ride facilities.

4 Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation

4.1 Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) projects

From the period 2015 - 2018, North Lanarkshire Council secured funding, and delivered two Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) projects. The WIAT programme provided the focus for Forestry Commission Scotland's work on improving quality of life in towns and cities. The role of urban woodlands in delivering environmental and economic benefits was a key aspect of this programme.

Woodlands which have benefitted from Management Plans and WIAT grants are Thornwood Woods in Tannochside, and Newarthill Woods in Newarthill. This enhancement has allowed the establishment of accessible path networks through the woodlands, silvicultural thinning, where appropriate felling and replanting compartments, with improvements to fences, drainage, signposting, elimination of invasive species and biodiversity gains.

WIAT Case Study – Newarthill Wood

Newarthill Wood provides valuable recreational greenspace adjacent to local housing and Newarthill Primary School. The woodland had been planted in a number of separate blocks which have developed with varying degrees of success, and combine to make a well-wooded site with areas of amenity grassland.

Site issues include a history of fire raising and vandalism, which had impacted on tree establishment in some locations. The woodland in the north has a general dominance of ash, which has been planted in single species groups and while this has grown well it is vulnerable to Chalara, Ash Die-back disease. Elsewhere, slower growing species such as oak are becoming overshadowed by pioneer species.

The project aimed to bring the woodland into management and to improve the site entrances, up-grade the existing path routes and to re-establish the site as a valued local resource. The proposals include opportunities for community involvement for the local residents and the local primary school.

Significant consultation work was undertaken with the local community prior to works being undertaken. On completion of the woodland and access

improvement works, many positive comments were received from the local community, with the local primary school utilising the site for Forest School. The structurally diverse woodlands open ground habitats created as result of the projects provides many biodiversity improvements on the site for wildlife.

4.2 Local Nature Reserves

North Lanarkshire Council has 9 Local Nature Reserves. These community green spaces are designated for their wildlife value and habitat features, as well as the importance and value they hold within local communities in terms of education and health and wellbeing benefits. The 9 LNRs are:

- Braedale Hill
- Brownsburn Community Nature Park
- Cambusnethan
- Gartcosh
- Greenhead Moss
- Kingshill
- Mosswater
- Ravenswood
- Dumbreck

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=28105>



Gartcosh Local Nature Reserve



Brownsburn Local Nature Reserve

Management plans have been written for each Local Nature Reserve, identifying management prescriptions to be taken forward to further benefit biodiversity on a local scale.

Our priorities are now to improve the LNRs for local communities and wildlife. This is taken forward through annual events, improved interpretation, improved access, community consultations, and habitat improvements. Habitat improvement projects and events have been taken forward at all of the Local Nature Reserves over the reporting period. Including the following:

- Water vole habitat improvements at Brownsburn
- Wildflower meadow planting at Braedale hill and Kingshill
- Bog restoration at Greenhead Moss
- Woodland Management planning at Cambusnethan
- New Great crested newt habitat at Gartcosh
- Improved entrance features at Ravenswood
- LNR community event at Mosswater
- River restoration survey work at Dumbreck

5 Partnership working and biodiversity communications

5.1 The North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (NLBAP)

The North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (NLBAP) covers the period of 2015-2020 and outlines actions and targets for local priority species and habitats. The Action Plan sets a framework for action to conserve and enhance the biodiversity found in North Lanarkshire.

The NLBAP 2015-2020 was developed throughout 2014, and includes 2 new species action plans and 4 new habitat action plans as well as an invasive non-native species action plan and geodiversity action plan.

The NLBAP process is led by North Lanarkshire Council's Biodiversity Team. Partner organisations wrote species and habitat action plans and contribute text and ideas to other plans.

The NLBAP is the main driver in directing Biodiversity Action in North Lanarkshire, and a key information source for partners and projects operating in the area.

5.2 Landscape Scale Partnership Projects

During the period 2015 - 2018 North Lanarkshire Council were involved in 3 landscape scale projects.

Seven Lochs Wetland Park

The Seven Loch Wetland Park is a Green Network Project bringing together 20sq km of lochs, parks, nature reserves and woodlands between Glasgow and Coatbridge to create a major new heritage park for Scotland. In early 2014, £250K of development funding from HLF were secured to take forward plans for the park. Led by the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, other partners include Glasgow City Council and Forestry Commission Scotland. The project has led to several biodiversity improvements in the area, and has contributed to local knowledge and appreciation of greenspaces.

Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) is a Heritage Lottery funded project which aimed to conserve, enhance and celebrate the unique landscape and cultural heritage of the Clyde and Avon Valleys. The Landscape Partnership, was comprised of nine public bodies and charitable organisations, and worked with communities and landowners to identify and develop projects which conserve the natural and built heritage of the area, strengthen the connection between people and the landscape and provide a range of volunteering and learning opportunities in traditional heritage skills and land management practices. The projects were built around four themes;

to conserve the built and natural heritage of the area; to increase community participation and landscape connection; to improve access to and learning about the landscape and heritage of the Clyde and Avon Valley; and to provide new training opportunities in local heritage skills in this extraordinary part of the world.

Cumbernauld Living Landscape

Cumbernauld Living Landscape is a partnership project led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, North Lanarkshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland. By working with a network of community partners the project aims to:

- Connect, manage and enhance woodlands
- Support community activities and improve access
- Restore and manage peatlands
- Protect the town's green network
- Influence the design of green buildings and infrastructure
- Improve water quality

5.3 Biodiversity communication

Biodiversity communication in North Lanarkshire Council is taken forward through a number of methods and programmes. We have found that some of our most successful and far reaching biodiversity communication is gained by encouraging people to use our greenspaces. We take this forward through a programme of healthy walks, through maintenance and provision of interpretation in our Local Nature Reserves, and through working with local community Groups and volunteers to improve local greenspaces for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

One of our main services undertaking biodiversity communication with the public alongside other engagement activities are the Countryside Ranger Service.

5.3.1 The Countryside Ranger Service

The Countryside Ranger Service play an important role in delivering local and national Biodiversity Action Plan targets with a range of projects including biological monitoring and recording, habitat improvement and tackling non-invasive species. The Countryside Ranger Service are active within local communities and offer formal and informal learning opportunities within North Lanarkshire to deliver environmental education at no charge.

They assist groups to develop and enhance access, biodiversity and facilities of their own parks and green spaces through consultation and public participation.

The Countryside Ranger Service has successfully integrated Biodiversity actions and Health and Wellbeing outcomes through their successful Branching Out programme of events. The programme has grown over the last three years and we now take forward five 12 week programmes in our Country Parks, each programme involves 10 – 12 participants with a range of mental health conditions.

Branching out consist of twelve 3 hour sessions of conservation work, art creation, and bush craft followed by a graduation ceremony. Health care professionals accompany their patients and take part with our specially trained Countryside Rangers leading the sessions. The progress of participants is clear as the sessions progress towards the Graduation ceremony.

Year	Number of Schools Visited	Number of School Pupils Engaged With	Community & Volunteer Sessions held	Number of Volunteers Engaged With	Number of Events	Event Attendance
2015	69	957	149	1405	41	991
2016	19	575	62	532	14	600
2017	16	654	108	792	67	1068
Total (2015 - 2017)	104	2186	319	2729	122	2659

Ranger statistics 2015 - 2017

5.3.2 Healthy walking in our Greenspaces

It has been shown by numerous studies that walking and in particular walking in greenspaces has many benefits to both physical and mental health.

Greenspace Development has been working in partnership with Paths for All and NHS Lanarkshire on various projects that promote the enjoyment of walking and the benefits of a more active lifestyle. This has included employing a Health Walk Co-ordinator and a Greenspace and Health Officer through the Graduate Employment Scheme.

A current project within Greenspace Development is to survey paths within the nine Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) for accessibility, following all-abilities guidelines, so that we can better inform users. This information is to be provided through an accessibility pack.

We have also started a project surveying paths around greenspaces so that we can sign the best and shortest routes from residential areas to our Local Nature Reserves and Country Parks.

5.3.3 Keep Scotland beautiful – working with local communities to make green spaces better

North Lanarkshire Council supported campaigns such as 'Beautiful Scotland' and 'It's Your Neighbourhood' during the period 2015 - 2018. They were ideal opportunities to support local communities and instil local pride. It also gave a chance to give recognition to the work that voluntary groups and individuals carried out to improve the places where they live. Aimed at community groups making environmental improvements, the non-competitive 'It's Your Neighbourhood' campaign gives support and recognition to those cleaning up and 'greening' up their immediate local areas: from the street they live in, to a patch of communal land, or a shared outdoor space. 'Keep Scotland Beautiful', recognised the work

Community groups recognised over this period included were;

2016: Golden annual ceremony recognised North Lanarkshire's efforts to improve environmental quality through the efforts of Beautiful Cumbernauld which received a Silver Award.

2017: In 2017 Cumbernauld's Bloomin' Wild won the 'Garden for Life Biodiversity Award', and the Silver Gilt medal. An exemplary approach to biodiversity was demonstrated by this group in all three core pillars of Beautiful Scotland's campaign. Activities taken account of included: the new, fully accessible Badger Trail at Palacerigg Country Park; work to eradicate New Zealand Flatworm at Ravenswood LNR; the attempt to build the world's longest bug hotel and survey it to find out the species using it; working with a local developer to create and enhance woodland buffer strips; and the engagement, consultation and inclusion of local people in biodiversity projects throughout the city.

Burngreen Park

Burngreen Park in Kilsyth is one of 73 across Scotland presented with a Green Flag Award this year by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Burngreen Park, run by the council, has received the award acknowledging the quality outdoor space that it provides and the wider benefits it delivers for communities - including enabling and encouraging exercise, improving mental well-being and encouraging play for child development.

5.3.4 Social media and websites

Get Walking Lanarkshire is a partnership programme between Paths for All, North and South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire. The project aims to improve residents' health and wellbeing by joining a local health walk group and taking part in short, safe, low-level walks whilst exploring local parks and green space. The project has an active Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/getwalkinglanarkshire>

The NLC biodiversity web pages were updated in 2017 and a more active social media presence has been established to communicate biodiversity issues <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=30026>

5.4 Training and learning activities that have been carried out internally or externally relating to biodiversity.

The Biodiversity team and other staff within Greenspace Development provide expert advice regarding biodiversity issues to colleagues within North Lanarkshire Council.

Staff are encouraged to attend conferences and training events provided by external organisations, such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Central Scotland Green Network Trust

A Biodiversity Officer attends the LBAP network meeting twice a year to share and learn from good practice examples.

North Lanarkshire Council wishes to encourage high quality development that contributes positively to local environments - including the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and has produced planning guidance to make clear the constraints and biodiversity improvements that should be considered:

Biodiversity and Development (2011)

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7463&p=0>
<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7464&p=0>

Environmental Impact Assessment (2011)

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7465&p=0>

6 Biodiversity highlights and challenges

6.1 The aforementioned partnerships and projects facilitated numerous biodiversity benefits. Here are our highlights over the reporting period:

Floating Islands at Drumpellier Country Park and Garnqueen - Five islands designed to maximise habitat for sub aquatic vegetation, breeding wetland birds, and invertebrates such as dragonflies and damselflies were installed at these two locations in 2017.

Gartcosh Local Nature Reserve extensions, mitigation and monitoring – due to a major road development spanning the width of this Local Nature Reserve the Biodiversity Team worked closely with developers, NLC Planning, and SNH to put together the best possible mitigation and monitoring works to benefit populations of Great crested newt and other protected species.

The Garrell and Dumbreck river restoration - Survey work at Dumbreck and funding for river restoration supported by the Water Environment Fund and through community consultation.

Wildflower meadows – wildflower meadows planted at North Lanarkshire's Buzzing

This partnership project between Buglife and North Lanarkshire Council transformed five areas of amenity grassland, totaling 5.2 hectares, into colourful species-rich wildflower grasslands. These wildflower and grassland meadows were created with the help of the local community who were also involved in bug walks, survey days and workshops. A total of 1,923 people directly benefited during this project through involvement in educational events, meadow creation and management, including the councils land Management Team who attended training on the benefits of wildflower meadows.

Bog restoration - SNH allocated £89,000 funding for the restoration of four sites across North Lanarkshire: Greenhead Moss, Broadwood Moss,

Cathburn Moss and North Shotts Moss. All completed within this reporting period.

Calderbank Wildlife Garden a community project funded by North Lanarkshire Council - Greenspace and Communities, and Virrador. Working in partnership with Calderbank Conservation society to improve local Greenspace.

Marvellous Mud Snail a partnership project with Buglife that started this year. Targets in progress are - working with 44 pupils in North Lanarkshire, including involvement in a captive breeding programme. 96 people trained in importance of freshwater invertebrates and identification of Pond mud snail through talks and workshops. Alongside pond creation to improve local habitat for this rare species.

Hall Gill, Cambusnethan Woodlands Local Nature Reserve a SAC Compensatory Measures Site agreed to bring the woodland at Hall Gill up to the required standard for inclusion within the Clyde Valley Woods SAC. The aim of the CHMP is to restore the condition of the native woodland at Hall Gill.

6.2 Challenges

Achieving what we do requires external funding this is an ongoing challenge, and something which can make it difficult to plan and implement action.

7 Monitoring

With the unfortunate loss of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) and no equivalent national reporting system provided North Lanarkshire has lost access to several years of detailed data on actions taken forward. We are now working to develop our own internal biodiversity action recording and monitoring systems.

7.1 As well as this overarching action reporting and monitoring function. We do monitor individual species and project work where possible.

North Lanarkshire is home to an internationally important species of Taiga Bean Goose and NLC are a partner of the Bean Goose Action Group, contributing to monitoring efforts that have been ongoing since 1990.

A highly successful Barn owl project was undertaken to contribute to the Barn owl action plan. There are over 25 Barn owl boxes. In 2016, there were 6 Barn owl nesting. Monitoring these boxes and ringing is carried out and the

project provides additional benefits as it is an effective way to deliver environmental education.

Annual Odonata surveys are conducted at Gartcosh Local Nature Reserve to contribute to the long term monitoring of the site.

The Countryside Ranger Service monitor stewardship sites, noting any issues such as disturbance or potential threats, as well as recording species present.

The Greenspace Development department of NLC holds protected species data and protected area boundary shapefiles.

Many of the species records are obtained following ecological surveys conducted in preparation of development.

Section 8 Contribution to targets

The following table indicate the biodiversity targets to which North Lanarkshire Council has contributed.

Targets/key steps from Chapter 1 (Healthy ecosystems) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"	Contribution to key step?	Justification
(1.1) Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced the greatest degradation	✓	5 Bog restoration projects
(1.2) Use assessments of ecosystem health at a catchment level to determine what needs to be done	✓	7 Lochs Project
(1.3) 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	✓	5 Bog Restoration Projects. 7 Lochs Project.
(1.4) 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	✓	7 Lochs Project. Local Plan development. 3 Community Growth Areas.

environmental health		
Targets/key steps from Chapter 3 (Biodiversity, health and quality of life) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"	Contribution to key step?	Justification
(3.1) Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups	✓	Branching Out Programme. Healthy walks Programme. Phoenix Futures.
(3.2) 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	✓	9 Local Nature Reserves development and support.
(3.3) 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	✓	Branching Out Programme. Healthy walks Programme. Phoenix Futures. Annual walking Festival.
(3.4) Increase access to nature within and close to schools, and support teachers in developing the role of outdoor learning across the Curriculum for Excellence	✓	Leading in Forest School Education in Central Scotland. Supporting Forest Schools and Forest Kindergardens through encouraging sensitive use of Public woodlands.
(3.5) 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	✓	Working with other Council departments such as Roads, Planning and Flooding to incorporate Biodiversity action.
Targets/key steps from Chapter	Contribution	Justification

4 (Wildlife, habitats and protected places) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"	to key step?	
(4.1) Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits	✓	This is mainly achieved through our 9 Local Nature Reserves.
(4.3) Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to combat fragmentation and restore key habitats	✓	This is mainly achieved through protection of our Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).
(4.5) Involve many more people than at present in this work and improve understanding of the poorly known elements of nature	✓	This is mainly achieved through interpretation, events, and community contacts at our 9 Local Nature Reserves.
Targets/key steps from Chapter 5 (Land and freshwater management) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"	Contribution to key step?	Justification
(5.1) 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	✓	Biodiversity and SINCs are recognised in the current and forthcoming Local Plan. There is policy and guidance in place to protect these areas.
(5.2) 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	X	Out with our control
(5.3) Support 'High Nature Value' farming and forestry	✓	Through our WIAT programme.
(5.4) Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland's protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water	✓	Water Environment Fund project at Stane Gardens to re naturalise the water body.

bodies		Contribution to management of SINCs, and SACs, and protection of these through the Planning system.
(5.5) 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	✓	Water Environment Fund project at Stane Gardens, and survey work in progress for another Water Environment Fund Project at the Garrell Burn by Dumbreck, Kilsyth in partnership with Flooding Colleagues.
(5.6) Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change	✓	WIAT projects 5 Bog restoration projects
(5.7) Provide clear advice to land and water managers on best practice	✓	Biodiversity supplementary Planning guidance provided to Planners, and developers. Guidance and training provided to other departments in management practices, and awareness of biodiversity priority species.
Targets/key steps from Chapter 6 (Marine and coastal) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity"	Contribution to key step?	Justification
(6.4) Achieve good environmental status for Scottish seas	✓	Not a priority in this area. Although protection of freshwater is taken forward through anti pollution methods, and re naturalisation projects will contribute to this.

