

APPENDIX 1



BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT

Dundee City Council

SUMMARY

Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004), all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. This report gives a summary of the work Dundee City Council and its partners have carried out in the furtherance of this duty.

Introduction

Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004), all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011), further requires public bodies in Scotland to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions which they have taken to meet this biodiversity duty. The next report will be due in 2018.

1.0 Background

Dundee City Council has five direct service areas (Chief Executive's, Corporate, Neighbourhood, City Development, Children and Families). Twenty nine elected members oversee these through various service committees. The delivery of services by Leisure and Culture Dundee and Dundee and Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership are overseen by boards, on which Dundee City Council is represented.

The Dundee City Council area covers 60 square kilometres and is, geographically, the smallest local authority area in Scotland with a population of approximately 148,000. Twenty nine percent of Dundee's population lives within the most deprived areas of Scotland (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Dundee City Council's boundary closely follows the City, resulting in small amount of agricultural hinterland to the north, west and east which is contained within the Council area. The City is bounded by the Tay, to the south. Despite the absence of rural areas, Dundee has a significant amount of greenspace, which is important for people and wildlife.

Dundee's urban area has a rich and varied natural heritage. It is a City with an enviable waterfront location that stretches 16.5km along the Tay Estuary from Riverside Nature Park in the west to Broughty Ferry in the east. The water quality of the Tay Estuary is one of the best in Europe for a major estuary and support biodiversity and habitats which have been recognised internationally and offered protection through a number of natural heritage designations including SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and SSSI. The City is host to 35 locally important nature conservation sites and 3 LNRs which are significant for environmental education. Wildlife corridors on Riverside Drive and The Dighty promote habitat continuity and support biodiversity conservation.

Trees and woodlands provide a unique living legacy, reflecting the evolution of the City over the centuries. Dundee boasts its own unique form of tree, the Camperdown Elm, which is now widely grown around the world. The City has a high proportion of open spaces and parks per head of population which occupy approximately 28% of the urban areas. Dundee's parks and open spaces are an important asset and make a valuable contribution to the quality of life in the city. Many are multifunctional and provide opportunities for active and passive recreation, an attractive and sustainable urban environment and a space for nature.

Dundee City Council was one of the founding members of Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and integral to the production of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The Council also chaired the Urban Sub Group for over 10 years. However, in 2011 the Council withdrew from the Partnership. Until 2016 Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan continued to cover Dundee, a new Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan was launched in August which excludes Dundee.

A Dundee Biodiversity Duty Action Plan has been drafted and will be presented to Elected Members for consideration. If agreed, this document will provide the basis for future rounds of biodiversity duty reporting.

2.0 Mainstreaming

In addition to the draft Biodiversity Duty Action plan, the Local Development Plan includes policies that protect Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS), as well as Local Nature Reserves and Nationally and Internationally important sites. Policies also aim to protect and enhance green corridors which pass through the City, as well as protecting greenspace. Action for biodiversity also supports the draft strategic development plan, Tayplan, in particular the strategic green network (Policy 8) and safeguarding natural assets (Policy 9).

Green Network Guidance has been produced for developers which builds on the policies above. Biodiversity is embedded in the guidance as a key development principle and offers opportunities to enhance the natural heritage of Dundee.

The natural heritage is referenced in Dundee’s single outcome agreement which sets an intermediate outcome of ‘Dundee has an attractive and sustainable natural environment’.

3.0 Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation

3.1 Strategic Plans / Site Designations

<p>Local Development Plan</p>	<p>National and International Nature Conservation Designations The Local Development Plan contains policy direction which protects nationally and internationally important biodiversity sites from development. Dundee has several nationally and internationally important natural heritage designations that focus on the Tay Estuary as it relates to the Council’s administrative boundary. Any development proposal that is likely to have a significant effect on, and directly connected with, the conservation management of the Natura Site must include a Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the implications on the conservation objectives of the designations. Only in exceptional circumstances will development which has a significant impact on these designations, either alone or in combination with other sites or projects, be supported.</p> <p>Local Nature Conservation Designations Dundee has both statutory and non-statutory locally important nature conservation sites and are protected from significant effects of development. The Local Nature Reserves at Trottick Ponds, Broughty Ferry and the Inner Tay Estuary are statutory designations which are complemented by a network of Locally Important Nature Conservation sites (LINCs). LINCs are locally important green spaces for nature conservation designated because of the scale, diversity or kind of habitat which they support. They also represent a significant resource for environmental education. LINCs at the Dighty, Fithie and Murroes Burns host important local aquatic and other nature conservation interest. The full list of LINCs is contained are listed below. The Dighty environs and north side of Riverside Drive</p>	<p>2020 (ref)</p> <p>4.1 5.4</p>
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continue to be identified as Wildlife Corridors to promote habitat continuity and support biodiversity conservation. Other fragmented areas in the City have the potential to develop into cohesive Wildlife Corridors. (Figure 9 on page 51 of the current Local Development Plan shows site locations, http://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/CD_LDP_written_statement_Dec13.pdf)

Site Name:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Anton Drive | 17 East Dock Street,/Broughty Ferry Road |
| 2 Ardler Ponds | 18 Fithie Burn (and Wildlife Corridor) |
| 3 Baldragon Wood | 19 Lochee Road |
| 4 Balgay Hill | 20 Longhaugh Quarry |
| 5 Balmuir | 21 Middleton Woods |
| 6 Barrack Road | 22 Murroes Burn (and Wildlife Corridor) |
| 7 Broughty Ferry Sand Dunes | 23 Pitkerro House Woods |
| 8 Camperdown Country Park | 24 Reres Hill |
| 9 Clatto Country Park | 25 Riverside Nature Park (and Wildlife Corridor) |
| 10 Den O Mains | 26 Stannergate |
| 11 Denhead of Gray | 27 Swallow Roundabout Wetland |
| 12 Dighty Burn (and Wildlife Corridor) | 28 Tarzan’s Island |
| 13 Downfield Golf Course | 29 Technology Park |
| 14 Drumgeith Meadow Wetland | 30 Templeton Woods |
| 15 Drumsturdy Wetland | 31 The Law |
| 16 Dundee Road West | 32 The Miley |

Local Nature Reserves:

- Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve
- Inner Tay Estuary Local Nature Reserve
- Trottick Ponds Local Nature Reserve

Strategic Forest Plan	The Strategic Forest Plan was approved in 2015 and has aims for woodland biodiversity, such as management of woodland glades and creation of more wildflower edges.	5.3
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Dundee Green Network Guidance	Dundee Green Network non-statutory Planning Guidance produced in 2015. National Planning Framework and National Planning Policy aims to significantly enhance green infrastructure particularly in and around cities and towns. The Dundee guidance seeks to identify key networks of green infrastructure in the City and opportunities to enhance them. Guidance encourages developers to consider green infrastructure elements as an integral part of the design process. Guidance incorporates opportunities for biodiversity and was developed in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage. Guidance is seen as an exemplar of good practice at a national level.	3.2
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3.2 Biodiversity Sites / Species Actions

Red Squirrel Conservation	<p>Dundee is an important urban stronghold for red squirrels with sightings throughout the city, including Broughty Ferry, Caird Park, along the Dighty burn, Balgay Park, Camperdown Country Park, Templeton Woods, Clatto Country Park and the Riverside area. Grey Squirrel control has allowed expansion of Red Squirrels in Dundee. They are now seen in areas where they had long been absent.</p> <p>The Council was the main partner in launching the Dundee Red Squirrel project around 15 years ago, which has developed into the national Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.</p>	<p>2020 (ref)</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>5.4</p>
Invasive Species	<p>The Council are working with various groups throughout the city to tackle the issue of invasive species. A coordinated approach is taken in the control of Giant Hogweed working with private land owners and on council owned land through intensive herbicide treatment. Japanese knotweed has been tackled in limited locations including by the 'Friends of the Miley' local group. The Council is in receipt of funding from the Scottish Rural Development Payments for grey squirrel control, which conserves Dundee's population of Red Squirrels.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with local groups to encourage knowledge sharing and increased awareness of the distribution of non-native invasive species and their effect on biodiversity</p>	<p>5.1</p> <p>3.2</p>
Introduction of Yellow Rattle	<p>The plant, Yellow Rattle, is a semi-parasitic species which reduces the vigour of grass. It has been planted in several sites in Dundee and once established should reduce the frequency of grass cutting whilst providing a suitable habitat for wildflower species to establish.</p>	<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>
Management of wildflower meadows	<p>Dundee has a number of perennial meadows which are managed to maintain and increase their biodiversity interest. The largest meadows are found at Riverside Nature Park (which are also important for ground nesting birds). A roadside verge at Stannergate has at least 500 Northern March Orchids growing in this damp meadow.</p>	<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>
Dundee Law	<p>The Council secured Heritage Lottery Funding for improvements to Dundee Law and there is a focus on biodiversity improvements as part of this project. A dedicated part time officer encourages public involvement on the Law in events such as biodiversity surveys, help with biodiversity improvements, bumblebee surveys, Big Garden Bird Watch.</p>	<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>
The Miley	<p>This important wildlife corridor following an old railway line enables biodiversity to move through the city. Sparrowhawks use the Miley to hunt and in turn make their way onto the Law and Balgay Hill. The Scottish Wildlife Trust manage this resource as an Urban Wildlife Reserve for people and biodiversity.</p>	<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>

Riverside Nature Park	Opened in 2011, this 32 hectare park is increasingly important for wildlife, particularly birds and has 2 bird hides. Approximately 150 species of birds have been recorded at the site since it opened. It has large perennial meadows and is important for ground nesting birds, such as the sky lark. It borders Invergowrie Bay which is internationally important for wading birds. The park attracts a wide variety of visitors and has a very active Friends of Riverside Nature Park group, who have been successful in attracting funding for improvements to the Park.	3.1 3.2
Creation of annual wildflower meadows	The number of annual wildflower meadows on roadside verges and roundabouts has increased delivering multiple benefits to Dundee, including biodiversity, reduced maintenance burden and increased visual amenity. Both native and non-native species are planted providing food sources for pollinators.	3.1
Bioblitz events	BioBlitz events involve the public in surveying the species present in various greenspaces in the city. The Countryside Ranger Service usually organise at least one BioBlitz annually but local 'Friends of' groups often organise these events too. The events are important for recording the presence of species and observing any changes.	4.5
Beach Management Group	Broughty Ferry Beach is part of an internationally and nationally designated Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is also a well-used open space throughout the year. A partnership between the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), SNH, Forth Ports and various the Council service areas, including Neighbourhood Services and City Development. The group focusses on the Broughty Ferry area, including management of the sand dunes. SEPA also assess water quality at Scottish beaches. Broughty Ferry achieved excellent water quality in 2017.	4.1

3.3 Local community involvement

Dundee Countryside Ranger Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the period 2011 to 2016, an estimated average of 3500 hours per year of volunteer time has been donated to biodiversity tasks, 1000s of trees have been planted and hundreds of bird/bat boxes built. Branching Out – enabling adults who use mental health services gain a John Muir Award and learn conservation skills Working with schools including a citizen science camera trapping wildlife project Events such as Fungal Forays, bat walks, Seashore Festival, dolphin spotting boat trips. 	2020 (ref) 3.1 3.3 3.4 4.5
Family Fresh Air Club	This ongoing partnership project with the Countryside Ranger Service and Scottish Natural Heritage targets families in the Lochee area and engages people with greenspaces and thus biodiversity. Activities range from planting activities to bird watching but also includes activities not specifically related to biodiversity, such as family walks.	3.3

Greenbuds	Greenbuds is a Dundee Association for Mental Health initiative that tries to improve mental health by spending time outdoors. The Council's Greenspace Officer regularly works with Greenbuds on tasks such as tree and hedgerow planting and wildlife surveys. Greenbuds also work with Root and Branch (an adult learning group) to improve Middleton Woods for biodiversity, through tasks such as coppicing and control of invasive species, as well as surveying work.	3.3
Friends of Parks Groups	There are a number of 'Friends of' groups throughout the city who work in partnership with the Council. The groups often help to improve the surrounding environment for biodiversity or they help enthuse people about biodiversity. Friends of Riverside Nature Park, Baxter Park, Barnhill Rock Garden, Balgay Park, Dudhope Park, Western Cemetery, The Law, Magdalen Green	3.1 4.5
Dundee Urban Orchards (DUO)	DUO have worked with the Council to plant 20 orchards throughout Dundee which are made up of native, heritage species which in turn will encourage important pollinator species. They were planted in schools, community centre grounds, and public open spaces. The project engages different groups and ages in tree planting and biodiversity.	3.1 3.2
Partnership working	The Council collaborates and works in partnership with a number of groups on various projects, including tree planting with the Friends of Riverside Nature Park; work with the local Scottish Wildlife Trust group at the Miley to clean up and conserve the site; work with the Dundee Conservation Volunteers to improve habitat and undertake various conservation tasks. This engages different groups and ages in habitat conservation and biodiversity. These groups are very active and achieve a great deal for biodiversity. They instigate the projects themselves and approach the Council for support when required. Dundee City Council also works with its Community Planning partners. For instance NHS Tayside are promoting a Green Exercise Partnership with the Council and Scottish Natural Heritage. A mapping exercise is currently being carried out which will inform the creation of the partnership. The importance of natural heritage is recognised as a key component. The Council is working with Scottish Natural Heritage in a partnership project to promote learning in local greenspaces, concentrating in areas of deprivation and community regeneration.	3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 4.1 4.5

3.4 Campaigns / Events

Dundee Flower and Food Festival	In partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, Dundee City Council (Trees, Woodlands in Greenspaces project) delivers the Woodlands4Yew marquee, which aims to promote woodlands but it also hosts a wide range of organisations that enthuse the public about biodiversity.	2020 (ref) 4.5
National Campaigns	Keep Scotland Beautiful has numerous initiatives that aim to enhance the environment:	

	<p>It's Your Neighbourhood is non-competitive and includes community groups where they are working to improve the environment. This can include community gardens and volunteer conservation groups working in greenspaces (such as Dundee Miley Group), all of which can help improve the environment for biodiversity.</p> <p>The Green Flag Award scheme is a benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces. Biodiversity is a key element for assessment and actions for biodiversity are included in management plans. There are 4 Green Flags in Dundee: Templeton Woods; Trottick Ponds Local Nature Reserve; Baxter Park, and; Barnhill Rock Garden. It is hoped that the Law achieves a Green Flag in 2017. Twenty other parks and open spaces are internally assessed using Green Flag criteria.</p> <p>Beautiful Scotland is competitive and it includes community groups that seek to improve and enhance the local environment. Bonnie Dundee and Broughty ferry in Bloom make up Dundee's entry. Winners can progress to Britain in Bloom. Both entries achieved Silver Gilt in 2016.</p> <p>The Beach Award scheme is a benchmark management standard for beaches in Scotland. It supports various environmentally friendly campaigns and encourages communities to look after the beach environment. The Council includes part of the Inner Tay Estuary, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR), so it is essential to protect the rich biodiversity, making these initiatives important.</p> <p>Clean Up Scotland aims to help local groups and organisations to clean up litter – this is beneficial for the environment and biodiversity. Many groups in Dundee litter pick through this campaign, including the TWIG project.</p>	<p>3.1 4.5</p>
<p>Take Pride in Your City campaign</p>	<p>The Dundee Take Pride in Your City campaign, launched in May 2015, is an environmental improvement campaign looking to change public behaviour and attitudes towards litter, dog fouling, fly-tipping, discarded chewing gum and graffiti. It aims to encourage local people to take personal and shared responsibility for their local environment. The campaign has been extended for another 4 years and aims to encourage behavioural change, increase public involvement and to make Dundee a cleaner place to live, work and visit. Cleaning up litter helps to prevent litter-related injuries to wildlife and prevents litter entering our oceans, helping biodiversity locally and further afield.</p>	<p>4.5</p>

3.5 Other

<p>Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT)</p>	<p>Funding applications submitted to Forestry Commission Scotland Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) programme for the creation of four woodland management plans covering the major woodlands in the city. These plans are essential before funding for specific tasks can be applied to. This will allow for appropriate management of the woodlands to further biodiversity.</p> <p>In previous rounds of WIAT Dundee has successfully attracted approximately £250k for a variety of sites throughout Dundee for woodland habitat and access improvements</p>	<p>2020 (ref) 3.2 5.3</p>
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DCC Community Regeneration Fund	Examples of initiatives the fund has supported are, Friends of Baxter Park to produce a tree leaflet to help with the education aspect of biodiversity and providing funding to help improve footpaths, landscaping and habitat for wildlife at Dundee Law.	3.1 4.5
Management of gulley pot waste	Sustainable management of gulley pot waste using reed bed system. Establishment of reed beds will also promote biodiversity by attracting birds, amphibians and invertebrates. The water quality can be tested by recording the presence/absence of specific species.	

4.0 Challenges and opportunities

4.1 *Biodiversity Information* - Since the early 1990's Dundee has been fortunate to have a network Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites, which have been protected through the Local Development Plan. In 2000 a city wide survey of these sites confirmed their importance. Although this survey data now acts as a general guide, it would benefit from updating. It is anticipated that a citywide LINC's survey will be carried out in 2018, subject to agreement by elected members.

4.2 In addition, Tayside as a whole does not have formal biological recording centre (unlike Fife and Aberdeenshire), placing increased importance on this updated information. Information, from public participation such as Bioblitz events, is occasionally added to national information networks such as the NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Gateway, but there is a challenge to collate and analyse this information.

4.3 *Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan* – Although a draft Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan was produced in 2014, it has not been placed before elected members at committee for consideration. As the new Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan excludes Dundee there is an opportunity to revisit the draft Biodiversity Duty Action Plan and revise its contents to take account of changes to the Council and wider biodiversity strategy and policy context. The Plan will also set the context for further Biodiversity Duty reporting rounds. The plan will be informed by the results of the survey above.

4.4 To develop the plan an inter-service steering group will be formed, which will also consider enhancing existing, and new opportunities for, partnership working. The opportunities for managing biodiversity information will also be explored.

5.0 Contribution to targets from 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity

5.1 The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy includes the 2004 publication 'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands' and the '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity' which was published by the Scottish Government in 2013. The 2020 Challenge document acts as a supplement, to take account of international (Aichi targets), EU and UK agreements and strategies for biodiversity. Guidance for biodiversity duty reporting, produced by Scottish Natural Heritage, recommends that progress under key steps towards the targets is noted by Local Authorities. The recommended key steps from appropriate Chapters of the document are noted below, with a reference key steps highlighted in the tables throughout this document. By its nature as an urban authority, Dundee City Council will vary in its contribution to the key steps.

Key Step

(reference to Key Step in 2020 Challenge)

Chapter 1: Healthy Ecosystems

- (1.1) Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced the greatest degradation.
- (1.2) Use assessments of ecosystem health at a catchment level to determine what needs to be done.
- (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
- (1.4) Establish plans and decisions about land use based on an understanding of ecosystems. Take full account of land use impacts on the ecosystem services that underpin social, economic and environmental health.

Chapter 3: Biodiversity, health and quality of life

- (3.1) Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups.
- (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.
- (3.3) Build on good practice being developed by the National Health Service and others to help encourage greenspace, green exercise and social prescribing initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing through connecting people with nature
- (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.
- (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.

Chapter 4: Wildlife, habitats and protected species

- (4.1) Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits.
- (4.3) Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to combat fragmentation and restore key habitats.
- (4.5) Involve many more people than at present this work (i.e. work relating to wildlife, habitats and protected places) and improve our understanding of the poorly known elements of nature.

Chapter 5: Land freshwater management

- (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.
- (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.
- (5.3) Support 'High Nature Value' farming and forestry
- (5.4) Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland's protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water bodies.
- (5.5) Ensure that biodiversity an ecosystem objectives are fully integrated into flood risk management plans, and restore wetland habitats and woodlands to provide sustainable flood management
- (5.6) Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change.
- (5.7) Provide clear advice to land and water managers

Chapter 6: Marine and coastal

(6.4) Achieve good environmental status for Scottish seas