

REPORT TO: CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE –
18 AUGUST 2025

REPORT ON: DUNDEE'S BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 220-2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present an update on the progress made on the implementation of Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan, reporting on actions progressed during 2024/25 and on the review of the Biodiversity Action Plan in line with updated national policy and guidance.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the committee notes the achievements and progress of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article VII of the minute of the Neighbourhood Services Committee of 13th January 2020, which approved the Biodiversity Action Plan (report [14-2020](#)). This report is the fifth annual update presented to committee. All have noted the progress made on the implementation of Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 4.2 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on public bodies 'to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.' The publication of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Dundee in 2020 sets out how Dundee City Council fulfils this duty and how it works in partnership with other local organisations to achieve the plan's vision of 'Working together to protect, enhance and raise awareness of biodiversity in Dundee for the benefit of all'.
- 4.3 As with other Scottish local authorities, Dundee City Council reports on its biodiversity duty to the Scottish Government every three years. The next report is due on the 1st January 2027, with committee approval sought before its submission. It is anticipated that the format of the report will be influenced by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill which is currently progressing through the Scottish Parliament. However, it is currently unclear what amendments will be made to the reporting format.
- 4.4 The Dundee Biodiversity Action Plan raises awareness of the wildlife (flora and fauna) of Dundee in a local, national and international context. This plan highlights the contribution and influence of Dundee's biodiversity on the quality of life and economic opportunities of everyone who lives in the city. The plan focuses action on important urban ecosystems, habitats and species and ensures prioritisation of resources at a local level. It sets out clear objectives with an associated action plan, and measures to monitor delivery.
- 4.5 Over the past year, Council officers have taken forward a variety of actions which support and enhance biodiversity across the city. Dundee City Council has previously benefited from a direct allocation of Nature Restoration Funding (NRF) from the Scottish Government, which has played a significant role in delivering the Biodiversity Action Plan. However, this funding was not available for the 2024/2025 period, which has impacted

on project implementation. Fortunately, NRF has been allocated to the Council for 2025/26. Proposals for the capital allocation of this funding will be brought forward to committee in a separate report.

4.6 Notable biodiversity achievements during 2024/25 include:

- In addition to £750,000 distributed to successful Dundee Climate Fund projects between 2022/23 and 2023/24, over £100,000 was allocated to 6 projects in 2024/25. Of these, 3 specifically benefit the city's biodiversity, namely the Campy Growers, Creative Gardens and Dawson Park Community Garden (Scottish Association for Mental Health);
- Biodiversity profiles have been developed for all Dundee City Council wards and distributed to all elected members;
- A [GIS StoryMap](#) including the biodiversity profile information has been produced;
- Trees for Cities funding enabled the planting of 2,200 native trees in Templeton Woods and 20 native standard trees in Baxter Park;
- Enhancements at Stobsmuir Ponds, which included installation of vegetation rafts;
- Revitalised planting schemes implemented to support biodiversity and climate resilience at the V&A;
- New planters at Lochee, sheltered housing in Dryburgh and along Princes Street which incorporate planting for biodiversity;
- Previously seeded biodiversity grassland areas along Lochee Road and the Esplanade in Broughty Ferry have successfully flowered, creating visually striking displays while also providing valuable habitat for pollinators;
- Wildlife monitoring reports have confirmed the presence of pine martens, badgers, and beavers within the city, demonstrating the effectiveness of Dundee's developing Nature Network;
- Last year all seven Green Flag sites were assessed, and all retained their Green Flag status. Broughty Ferry Beach was successful in achieving the Keep Scotland Beautiful Beach Award and retaining an excellent standard of bathing water quality, as measured by SEPA, and;
- Resurfacing of Templeton Woods car park, improving visitor access to this important biodiversity site.

Further information on action plan progress is contained in Appendix 1.

- 4.7 The Council identified significant funding to successfully manage Ash Dieback on council owned land across the city. Over 3000 ash trees are mapped on a tree management system and a robust re-survey and management system is in place with a focus on trees in high-risk areas. A procurement framework for Ash Dieback is in place with approved contractors removing high risk diseased trees during 2024/25.
- 4.8 In the August 2024 Biodiversity Action Plan update report, it was agreed that the Plan would be reviewed to reflect recent changes in relevant legislation and guidance. Work on this review commenced but progress was temporarily paused due to the potential award of substantial funding through the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Nature Towns and Cities programme. A successful grant application would have supported a significant initiative which engaged local people in the identification of Dundee's Nature Network leading to a robust and renewed Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 4.9 Despite the formation of a strong relationship between delivery partners; Dundee City Council, RSPB and Eden Project Scotland, with the support of wider partner organisations; Scottish Water, The University of Dundee, The University of Abertay and NHS Tayside, officers were informed at the beginning of July 2025 that the application had been unsuccessful

4.10 The Biodiversity Action Plan review will now proceed as originally proposed and will be presented to committee in 2026.

4.11 Further details on the above and progress on all Biodiversity Action Plan actions are detailed in Appendix 1.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been subject to the screening tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

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21 July 2025



Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan

Progress Report 2024/25

Since 2021, Dundee City Council has been fortunate to receive annual funding from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund. This funding has been instrumental in delivering many of the actions outlined in the Biodiversity Action Plan. Although the fund was not available in 2024/25, it has been reinstated for 2025/26, enabling the progression of previously impacted projects during the current financial year.

Council officers continue to actively pursue additional funding streams as they become available. In December 2024, an application was submitted to the Future Woodlands Scotland Urban Forestry Challenge Fund. This proposal, developed in partnership with the University of Dundee and a specialist company - Treeconomics, aimed to conduct an i-Tree survey across the city. The survey would serve as a catalyst for public engagement and provide essential data to inform the development of a new Urban Forest Masterplan. Although the application progressed to the second stage, it was unfortunately unsuccessful. However, the feedback received was positive, and the funders have encouraged a revised submission. Project partners are working on a new application for the current year.

In April 2025, officers submitted a stage 2 application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Nature Towns and Cities fund, in collaboration with RSPB and Eden Project Scotland. This application aimed to support the creation of a multi-agency team to deliver city-wide community engagement activities in the identification of Dundee's Nature Network, the city's Biodiversity Action Plan review and a citywide Water Resilience Strategy. Unfortunately, on 8th July 2025, officers were informed that this application had been unsuccessful. Therefore, the review of the Biodiversity Action will proceed as originally planned. However, the relationships developed between partners during the preparation of this proposal will be maintained and are expected to support future project development and delivery.

Dundee City Council's capital funding has supported a range of improvements to local greenspaces. Notable projects include the enhancement of planter beds at the V&A, where gaps were filled and seasonal interest increased through the introduction of diverse planting. This has added colour, texture, and biodiversity to an area dominated by hard landscaping. At a sheltered housing complex in Dryburgh, flower beds were redesigned using a more naturalistic herbaceous planting style, improving biodiversity and climate resilience while reducing maintenance requirements. Additional improvements include the installation of new planters featuring trees and biodiversity-focused planting along Lochee High Street. Furthermore, an overgrown area on Princes Street was revitalised through the planting of new trees, shrubs, and the creation of a wildflower meadow, transforming the space into a more attractive and ecologically valuable environment.

Biodiversity profiles were created for Dundee City Council's 8 wards and distributed to all elected members. These documents highlight the existing biodiversity value of each ward and give recent notable examples of biodiversity improvement initiatives. The information from the profiles is contained in a GIS StoryMap which is available via Dundee City Council's [website](#).

The following tables show the specific progress made by Dundee City Council for each action in the Biodiversity Action Plan in 2024/25.

Woodland

Actions	Progress 2024/25
To update Dundee's Tree and Urban Forestry Policy	As previously reported, it is proposed to integrate this with the Strategic Forest Plan to produce a comprehensive Urban Forest Masterplan for the city. This work formed part of a recent funding application to Future Woodlands Scotland. Although the application was unsuccessful, discussions have since taken place with Future Woodlands Scotland to review the feedback received. Work is ongoing to prepare a revised application for submission later this year. If successful, this would enable the development of an Urban Forest Masterplan aligned with the timescales for the draft Local Development Plan Review.
To monitor the health of trees, in particular the species which are potentially at threat from new diseases.	Dundee City Council continues to assess and manage the threat to ash trees in the city from Ash Dieback disease. A new tree management system has been implemented for ash trees and a procurement framework has facilitated the appointment of contractors to carry out ongoing tree management work and annual surveys.
Continue to apply for funding to control grey squirrels	Potential funding streams continue to be explored to deliver this action.
Record, monitor and protect bat populations and known roosts	Officers continue to provide advice on bats in general and assess bat surveys provided as supplementary information in the planning process. When carrying out new projects which may affect bats, Dundee City Council ensures it follows legislation and undertakes appropriate surveys and applies for licences when required.
Investigate the possibility of an iTree project to assess the forestry canopy cover in Dundee and use this to set new targets	Dundee City Council collaborated with partners at specialist company - Treeconomics and the University of Dundee to submit a funding application to the new Future Woodlands Scotland scheme. The proposal included the delivery of an iTree survey, a programme of public engagement, and the development of a new Urban Forest Masterplan. Although the application was unsuccessful, the partners have reviewed the feedback provided and are actively working towards submitting a revised application in 2025.
Apply for funding to extend the current woodland area and connect smaller compartments in line with the Strategic Forest Plan	A successful 'Trees for Cities' funding bid of £8,219 resulted in the planting 2200 small native trees with volunteers in areas of woodland that had been damaged in recent storms. This will maintain the health of the woodland by increasing canopy cover and the diversity of the species and ages of trees in these areas. Additionally, the funding enabled the planting of 20 larger native trees in Baxter Park with local schools and members of the public.

To monitor the impact of new development on woodland, seeking to retain and protect as much tree cover as possible, especially in conservation areas and areas with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).	For the year 24/25, tree advice had been provided for 39 planning applications, 12 discharge of conditions and 7 pre-application enquiries. Of these, 4 involved TPOs, 2 were on or near Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS) and 10 were in Conservation Areas.
Maintain and manage paths and access within woodland	Several paths impacted by storm damage in woodlands across the city have been cleared to maintain safe access. The car park at Templeton woods was re-surfaced to improve access to visitors and several foot bridges within the woods have been replaced by the Countryside Ranger Service working with local Volunteers.

Wetlands

Actions	Progress 2024/25
To investigate management regimes for SUDS ponds to ensure their potential for biodiversity is realised	Work continues through the Water Resilient Dundee Partnership with Scottish Water to research methods of good practice for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) management, particularly in parks and greenspaces.
Identify all rivers and ponds managed by the council including SUDS and record this on a Geographical Information System (GIS) layer. Ensure this information is updated as development occurs	This resource continues to be developed and maintained by council staff with input from partners such as Scottish Water.
Continue to develop new ponds and wetland at suitable sites	A feasibility study for the Dighty Regeneration project was led by City Development (208-2024). The project aims to improve the health of the river, improving biodiversity and natural habitats through creating new wetlands, planted areas and secondary channels to alleviate flooding
Ensure appropriate access is maintained along rivers and around ponds to protect both wildlife and the safety of the public	The Dighty Regeneration project will be working with communities to include active travel routes in the area and provide safe access to the water where people can visit to view wildlife and other recreational activities. Ongoing giant hogweed control also supports safe access to Dundee's ponds and rivers.
Support communities to develop plans for their ponds/wetlands so actions can be developed at grass roots level	The feasibility study for the Dighty Regeneration project has included working closely with the communities that border the Dighty and hopes to regenerate the catchment and create a place where communities use and explore the natural environment.

Marine and Coastal

Actions	Progress 2024/25
To continue to manage the sand dune section of coastal defences at Broughty Ferry in the most natural way possible	The Council continues to progress the removal of self-seeding non-native plants and tree species growing in the dunes and are monitoring this regularly. A review of beach grass growth will be undertaken at the end of the growing period and additional planting of grass will be provided where required. This grass helps to stabilise the dunes and provides habitat for native coastal species.
Continue to keep beaches free of litter and reduce the amount of plastic by organising regular beach cleans	Community action to tackle litter is encouraged and supported via the Council's Take Pride in Your City Campaign. In 2024/25, a total of 77 litter picks were registered with the Council and Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), taking place at locations across Dundee including the beach and parks. It is estimated that 1,377 participants took place in these 77 litter picks, over an estimated 1,426 volunteer hours.
Continue to encourage establishment of coastal plant species e.g. kidney vetch and sea pea at appropriate coastal locations	The Broughty Ferry and Monifieth Active Travel project is now complete, including the creation of new coastal wildflower meadows. The wildflowers areas are beginning to establish and the display of poppies in 2024 was much admired.
Monitor summer beach cleaning methods to ensure no damage to the structure of the beach	The beach continues to be managed throughout the summer as per an agreement with Nature Scot which came into effect in 2016. This management balances the need for high levels of cleanliness and hygiene on the award-winning beach with the need to maintain the current habitats.
Continue to achieve Scotland's Beach Award for Broughty Ferry Beach	The Award was retained in 2024 and 2025. Feedback from the assessor in 2024 noted many positives with regards to the recent investment in the area and a reduction in graffiti and litter.
Continue to achieve 'Excellent' EU Bathing Water Quality at Broughty Ferry Beach	The Designated Bathing Water at Broughty Ferry retained an Excellent classification for water quality in 2024, sampling is carried out by SEPA during the Scottish Bathing Season which runs from 1 June to 15 September.

Grassland

Actions	Progress 2024/25
Reduce the use of herbicide in management practices	The council continuously reviews its herbicide usage with the aim to reduce overall use and to consider suitable alternatives which support biodiversity in Dundee. Additional street sweeping has been carried out again in 2024. This is effective in removing the detritus that builds up which allows weeds to colonise. The overall volume of herbicide has reduced by 45% in the last 5 years, with a reduction of 62% since 18/19. Further detail is provided in Appendix 2.
Review grassland management across the city. Increase in the amount of grass managed to improve biodiversity	In 24/25 the council maintained around 49 ha of naturalised grassland, 10 ha of biodiversity grassland and 3.3 ha of native coastal grassland at Broughty Ferry. Taken together and in terms of size this equates to approximately 90 full size football pitches.

Expand and protect a population of the endangered plant greater yellow rattle at Riverside Nature Park	Greater yellow rattle continues to thrive and expand in the area where it has been planted by the Friends of Riverside Nature Park.
Continue to maintain and expand areas of native perennial meadow	In 24/25, approximately 3.4 ha of native perennial wildflower meadows are managed by the council and 3.3 ha of native meadows were managed in partnership with Eden Project Scotland Taken together and in terms of size this equates to approximately 10 full size football pitches.
Continue to maintain and expand annual flower areas throughout the city	In 24/25 approximately 1 ha (approximately 1.4 full size football pitches) of annual meadows are managed by the Council.
Continue to maintain and increase the diversity of bulb panels in the city	Dundee City Council continues to maintain numerous bulb panels across the city and continues to look for opportunities to diversify these.
To continue to restrict access to dogs off leads at Riverside Nature Park during skylark nesting season	Signs were again placed in Riverside Nature Park during the breeding season in 2024 to remind people to keep to paths and help protect skylark nests. Volunteers from the Friends of Riverside Nature Park, the Access Officer and the Countryside Rangers were all on site periodically to reinforce this message and to speak to park users. The number of breeding pairs of skylarks has decreased to around 12 last year, the reason for this is unclear. The dogs on lead messaging still appears to be effective within the park but as these are migratory birds there could be issues on their migration routes which affecting the number of birds returning.

Urban Green Network

Actions	Progress 2024/245
Continue to promote and support the 'Take Pride in Your City' campaign	The 'Take Pride' campaign is regularly promoted and public involvement encouraged via DCC media channels, branded signage and graphics, newsletters and local campaigns. National campaigns which tie into the Take Pride actions have also been promoted, such as the annual Spring Clean. Topics have included how to report an issue, promoting responsible behaviour, highlighting positive action, and encouraging participation in local and national environmental activities. The SMART action plan was revised by the Steering Group and approved by the Climate, Environment & Biodiversity Committee (Report No. 317-2024) in November 2024 to take the campaign forward for 2024-26, this encompasses over 80 actions under the five strategic themes of: Local Environmental Quality, Recycling, City Centre and Businesses, Communications and Environmental Compliance, with a refreshed focus on local people and businesses taking pride in their local communities.
Promote the incorporation of swift and bat boxes, both integral and external, into buildings and encourage people to report sightings	Promotion of bat and swift boxes continues to be undertaken through feedback provided on planning applications.
Review the management of habitats within older cemeteries to increase their biodiversity value	It is planned to undertake a formal review of habitat management in older cemeteries. However, opportunities to adapt management methods to be both efficient and beneficial for biodiversity will be implemented where possible.

Review the management of council-maintained hedges across the city	Dundee City Council continues to manage a variety of hedges across the city. An informal survey of these hedges has been undertaken to establish ownership and required maintenance. The information will be used to prioritise improvements when funding becomes available.
Review the management and storage of green waste in Dundee's parks to reduce fuel costs, provide a resource and prevent damage to biodiversity	Ways in which to reduce the amount of green waste in Dundee city parks continues to be explored. This includes reducing the number of leaves collected in some areas and ensuring that leaves are spread as mulch where appropriate and a project to explore recycling of green waste in cemeteries has been initiated.
To find innovative ways to incorporate green infrastructure into new projects across the city. For example, bat and swift boxes, green roofs, rain gardens and establishment of appropriate habitats along cycle and roadways.	As part of the City Development led St Mary's Drainage Strategy, work took place on a community engagement project in partnership with The University of Abertay and Scottish Water. Engagement activities have provided the community with knowledge of practical interventions for blue-green urban spaces, using parks and gardens to create a sustainable water cycle and spaces for people and nature.
Promote community growing and identify suitable sites for new projects	Dundee City Council continues to support 26 community gardens and 550 allotment plots across the city in line with the Dundee Food Growing Strategy. A refreshed strategy is being progressed this year.
Maintain current cemeteries for both biodiversity and visitors in an empathetic manner	A formal review of habitat management in cemeteries is planned. However, opportunities to adapt management methods to be both efficient and beneficial for biodiversity will be implemented where possible.
Ensure that council managed ornamental flower and shrub beds are appropriately managed for biodiversity- including planting more native, wildlife friendly species and ensuring that cover is maintained for breeding and roosting birds	Several projects have taken place across the city to ensure that areas of planting are climate resilient and biodiversity friendly. These include new planting at the V&A, Dryburgh Sheltered Housing, Lochee High Street and along Princes Street.
Maintain Green Flag status for current parks and look to increase sites with Green Flag	All 7 Sites maintained their Green Flag status in 2024; applications have been submitted once again for 2025 with a view to retaining this status for all 7 sites.
Continue to evaluate all Council parks internally using Green Flag judging criteria	Although this did not take place in 2024, resourcing issues have been resolved, and the evaluations will now recommence.
Continue to support local Friends of groups to improve and manage biodiversity within their parks	Council officers regularly attend meetings of the groups where possible, and each group has a named contact within the Environment service.

Planning and Development

Actions	Progress 24/25
Continue to protect and extend designated sites within and adjacent to Dundee, review of the current Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (LINCS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) based on the 2018 Biodiversity Survey	LINCS review requires updated ecological information to progress. Information based on new guidance from Nature Scot will be included in the forthcoming Local Development Plan review. Riverside Nature Park was formally re-designated as a Local Nature Reserve in May 2024 after a review of the boundary of the Inner Tay Estuary Local Nature Reserve.
Update all Local Nature Reserve management plans	Plans for all three Local Nature Reserves are updated annually in January.
To review any planning applications which have an impact on the biodiversity or geodiversity of Dundee seeking to reduce the number of negative impacts	For the year 24-25 biodiversity advice had been provided for 39 planning applications, 12 discharge of conditions and 7 pre-application enquiries. Of these, 4 involved TPOs, 2 were on or near LINCS and 10 were in Conservation Areas.
Ensure that Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) are upheld and that new orders are granted where necessary	No new TPOs have been created, although one order is currently progressing. Three complaints have been received regarding unauthorised tree felling; all three cases have been closed.
Agree appropriate mitigation measures to put in place where development leads to a loss of biodiversity	Dundee City Council continues to follow and highlight the 'Developing with Nature Guidance' produced by Nature Scot. Officers continue to engage with Nature Scot through the Biodiversity Officers Forum on developing a Biodiversity Net Gain Metric and Urban Greening factors.
To monitor progress on introducing biodiversity net gain to new developments across the UK and research how this might be implemented in Dundee	Nature Scot are reviewing the implementation of a Biodiversity Net Gain Metric, like that already employed in England. Dundee City Council will feed into this consultation as appropriate and any ongoing work in this area.
All new plans and strategies should show a link to biodiversity. When older plans and strategies are updated, efforts should be made to introduce or enhance links to biodiversity	The Sustainable Transport Delivery Plan 2024 acknowledges the importance of including projects that deliver multiple benefits such as increasing biodiversity, reduced flood risk and improved placemaking.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

Actions	Progress 2024/25
To promote the recording and mapping of INNS within Dundee	Members of the public have continued to report giant hogweed when it becomes a health concern. Officers continued to map Giant Hogweed for annual control with a new mobile GIS mapping system now available. Locations not managed by DCC were investigated by DCC Environmental Health Officers, with records shared internally to update any maps.
Work with private landowners to increase the area of control and prevent re-colonisation	Environmental Health Officers continue to ask private landowners to control Giant Hogweed on their property with mixed success.
Encourage awareness of INNS and where our statutory duties lie in regard to them	Environment staff continue to look for ways in which to raise awareness of this issue with staff and have sought advice from the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) for assistance with training material.
Raise awareness of possible new invasive species through regular updates of species threatening Scotland	No new invasive species to report.
To carry out an effective programme of eradication of INNS	Dundee City Council carry out a programme of Giant Hogweed removal across the city, but the main area of infestation is along the Dighty Burn corridor. Areas are assessed twice a year, once prior to spraying and again after spraying to identify areas which require further treatment.

Communication and Awareness raising

Actions	Progress 2024/25
The Environment Department continues to work with communities to promote and enhance biodiversity	Environment Service officers continue to engage with communities to encourage, support and facilitate activities to promote and enhance biodiversity. For example, working in partnership with Dundee's Beautiful Scotland, It's Your Neighbourhood, and other community growing and Friends groups to promote biodiversity to the wider public and support their efforts to encourage biodiversity at their own projects and through their activities.
Develop relationships with schools in terms of Environmental education and involvement	The Countryside Ranger Service have engaged with around 389 children across 26 schools in the last year.
Work with volunteers, including those with physical and mental health issues in biodiversity projects across Dundee	The Countryside Rangers facilitated around 1358 hours of volunteering in 24/25. Volunteers assisted with various practical conservation tasks such as tree planting, litter picking, making bird and bat boxes and survey work. There was a wide range of people who volunteered their time including children, retired people, corporate groups, people with mental health issues and recent refugees.

Have an annual programme of events that is widely promoted and well attended	The Countryside Ranger Service carried out 45 events for members of the public in the last year, including tree planting, marine watching, and family activities.
Collate information and feedback from the public regarding biodiversity	Feedback from the public comes to the council through a number of avenues such as through local councillors, direct emails, community groups and through the complaints process. Although not collated in a central area, trends are identified and incorporated into future projects as required.

Recording

Actions	Progress 2024/25
Explore the establishment of a Regional Hub for biological records in partnership with a number of organisations	Ways of working with The Northeast Biological Records Centre have been explored. However, there are financial implications associated with this and currently there is not an identified budget for these additional costs.
Engage people in monitoring and surveying of nature across Dundee, creating a volunteer base which is enthusiastic and knowledgeable	The Countryside Rangers and Community Environment Officer support several volunteers to conduct bumblebee and butterfly transects across the city. Dundee took part in the City Nature Challenge in 2024. This challenge is an international event, motivating people around the world to find and record wildlife in their cities. Dundee is one of three Scottish Cities participating.

Geodiversity (protecting important geological features i.e. rock / landforms)

Actions	Progress 2024/25
To survey and assess the condition of the current geodiversity sites in Dundee, making recommendations on any remedial action required	Council officers continue to seek resources to enable this work to be carried out.
To survey any potential new geodiversity sites.	Council officers continue to seek resources to enable this work to be carried out.
To ensure that geodiversity is taken into consideration when new planning application are considered	No applications have been received which adversely impact on Dundee's Local Geodiversity sites.

Looking Forward

Biodiversity Action Plan / Dundee's Nature Network

During 2026 a refreshed Biodiversity Action Plan will be presented to committee which identifies the city's Nature Network. In addition to recognising the most up to date local, national and international biodiversity guidance and legislation, the plan will seek to encompass relevant actions and commitments by organisations and communities. It will be subject to multi-level consultation.

Nature Restoration Fund (NRF)

Dundee City Council has been received a direct award from the Scottish Government through the NRF for 2025/26 amounting to £125,000 capital funding and £59,000 revenue. A raft of proposed projects which support the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan are being developed which will be reported to committee in the near future.

Despite the unsuccessful Nature Towns and Cities application, the close partnership formed whilst drafting the application between Environment service officers and local representatives from RSPB and Eden will continue. Officers are currently exploring how Dundee's 2025/26 Nature Restoration Fund can be utilised to support this partnership. A committee report will be brought forward giving further details of these proposed projects and seeking approval for implementation.

Ash Dieback Plan

Work will continue to manage the effects of Ash Dieback disease within the city. This will include ongoing surveys of ash trees to monitor their condition and selected removal of diseased and dangerous trees.

St Mary's Drainage Strategy

The City Development led strategy provides an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with others and showcase what can be achieved by retrofitting blue-green infrastructure into an existing landscape, alongside reducing the flood risk and enabling future development. It provides an ideal opportunity to create imaginative, multifunctional, multi-beneficial, and nature-based solutions that improve drainage, recreation, biodiversity, nature, active travel, community identity, and health and well-being. With the overall concept design now agreed this project will proceed to the next stages by procuring a contractor to complete the detailed design and bring forward a planning application. Community engagement in this project will continue throughout this process.

Dighty Restoration Project

This City Development led project aims to improve the health of the river, improving biodiversity and natural habitats through creating new wetlands, planted areas and secondary channels to alleviate flooding. Working with the communities that border the Dighty, the project hopes to regenerate the catchment and create a place where communities use and explore the natural environment. A feasibility study has just been completed with funding from the Water Environment Fund and funding has been secured through SEPA to take this project through the design and concept stage in the next year.

Challenges

The challenges faced in the delivery of this plan remain unchanged. Dundee City Council continues to carefully balance limited resources to maintain high quality services. Recognising the Council's limited staff capacity dedicated to furthering its biodiversity duty, careful planning and continuing collaboration between Council services and external partner organisations is required to ensure the best use of staff time and resources moving forward and to ensure that local, national and international obligations and targets can be met.

Officers will continue to investigate and apply to appropriate funding streams, ensuring that all projects fit with current plans and strategies to ensure an overall benefit for the city and the wider environment with a focus on partnership working. Collaborative planning will be essential to allow Council officers to submit applications quickly and successfully and will ensure that sufficient resources are available to carry out the work on the ground. Dundee City Council will continue to work on ways in which to deliver appropriate training to staff, seeking advice from external organisations where appropriate.

The use of herbicides in Dundee

Herbicides have been traditionally used to control grass and weed growth both in the built and greenspace environment.

Through regulation, the variety of herbicides available for use has gradually declined over time but the range of tasks which it is required for has not, particularly in the built environment. Dundee City Council controls weed growth in hard landscaping / streetscape in areas such as pavements / paving, drainage channels, lamp post / road sign bases, gratings, wall bases, and many other situations where weeds can grow. Without weed control, detritus can quickly build up and cause issues such as potential trip hazards and exacerbate flooding.

Herbicides are used in greenspace environments, such as DCC housing areas, to control excess growth at grass / path and road edges, along fenced areas and to control weed growth in newly planted tree / shrub areas. Herbicide is also used to spot treat pernicious weeds in grass and planted areas. More recently, herbicide has been used to treat non-native invasive species such as Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Control of these species is necessary to protect Dundee's biodiversity. Giant Hogweed also is a public health risk, especially adjacent to paths and publicly accessible spaces.

However, since taking action to reduce the amount of herbicide applied to the city's greenspaces, their use in parks is now kept to a minimum by only spot treating hardstanding and areas where vegetation may have health and safety implications e.g. steps. In addition to this, at the suggestion of, and in partnership with local people, Dundee City Council no longer uses pesticides in two areas surrounding housing.

The City Council regularly monitors herbicide application use and application. The aim is to reduce use through the increased sustainable management and design of streetscape and greenspace environments.

Table 1. Herbicide use by Dundee City Council over the last 5 years

Product	Litres/year				
	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Round Up Provantage	2150	1010	950	1040	1172
Pistol	0	0	5	5	0
Total Litres	2150	1010	955	1045	1172

The table above summarises Dundee City Council's overall use of herbicides since 2020/21. It is noted that there has been a slight increase in the last 2 years. This is mainly due to the weather conditions, which were favourable to greater weed growth. However, there has been a reduction of around 45% in the last 5 years with an overall reduction of 62% since 2018/19.

Whilst this represents significant progress in reduced herbicide volumes, the use of glyphosate remains under continuous review with the aim to further reduce the reliance on this herbicide and to consider the introduction of alternative weed control options, where possible.