APPENDIX 2

Glasgow City Council

Biodiversity Duty Report

(2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/26)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in May 2019. A short-life Ecological Working Group, consisting of elected members, council officers and experts from environmental groups, agreed 25 recommendations which were incorporated into the Glasgow Climate Plan.

1.2 The key actions within the Climate Plan for biodiversity are Action 38 “Support new and further extensions to Local Nature Reserves in the city, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity” and Action 48 “The Council works with partner organisations, adjacent local authorities, the city’s academic institutions to fund accelerated implementation of the Glasgow LBAP, Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan and Pollinator Plan”.

1.3 The LBAP Delivery Plan addresses both these actions. Action 38 is addressed in Urban: Parks and Open Spaces Action 6 “Continue designation process of 22 approved Local Nature Reserves” and Action 5 “Create and enhance Green Connector sites city-wide”. These actions are supported by further actions on conservation volunteering, biological recording and habitat management many of which take place on Local Nature Reserves in the city.

1.4 For Climate Plan Action 48, the LBAP Partnership continues to collaborate to implement the LBAP and the Pollinator Plan, working with others, including adjacent local authorities, on projects to enhance biodiversity habitats and species including seeking wider funding and undertaking habitat management through the Nature Restoration Fund.

1.5 The Council is the lead organisation, and chair of, the Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan which involves 18 partner organisations in carrying out projects and actions to conserve and enhance the City’s biodiversity. www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity

1.6 The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (WANE Act) amends the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) and places an additional obligation on public bodies to report on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty every three years. The first report was submitted in January 2015. This is the fifth report.

1.7 The Scottish Government has set out an ambitious new strategy to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and reverse it with large-scale restoration by 2045. The new *Scottish Biodiversity Strategy* aims to deliver the transformational changes needed to protect and restore terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity in Scotland.

1.8 Glasgow City Council (GCC) carries out its Biodiversity Duty primarily through the implementation of the '*Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan*' and by helping achieve the national objectives and outcomes of the *Scottish Biodiversity Strategy* through local action. Key biodiversity responsibilities and project implementation are delivered through a range of staff including Natural Environment Officers and Countryside Rangers.

1.9 As required by the legislation, this report covers three years April 2023 to March 2026 (see Appendices).

1.10 Glasgow City Council has signed a concordat with the Central Scotland Green Network. The Council is a signatory to the Climate Change Declaration and the 2012 Scotland Geodiversity Charter.

2 Actions to enhance and protect biodiversity

2.1 This is a summary of key practical actions carried out for biodiversity. For more detail and a comprehensive list of actions, please see Appendices.

City-wide

The Glasgow Green Connectors project enhances the network of green spaces across the city through leaving grass long, planting wildflowers, hedgerows and trees to provide food and shelter and nesting opportunities for a wide variety of insects, small birds, mammals and amphibians in Glasgow.

Glasgow's nature network is being created by linking local nature reserves and local nature conservation sites via green connector areas. Nature Networks allow the movement of wildlife around the city.

Grasslands

- Grassland sites continue to be mapped showing pattern and area of cuts
- In 23/24 15 meadow sites across the city managed by contractor covering nearly 21 hectares
- In 25/26 the Conservation Volunteers monitored rare plants at Cathkin Braes: Mountain Pansy (14 plants found), Marsh Violet (25 plants found) and Burnet Saxifrage (27 plants found)

Wetlands

- The Seven Lochs Wetland Park continues, with projects being implemented, including wetland and grassland management
- Hogganfield Park Local Nature Reserve- implementation of first phase of habitat works with Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves including construction of dead hedge and habitat work on the island/creation of a bird nesting platform as part of the Wetland Ecosystems Project.
- Amphibian survey and monitoring was carried out at key wetlands across the city
- Two aquatic water vole surveys carried out each year at various sites across the city

Woodlands

- Resources have been focussed on woodland habitat creation and tree planting through street trees and green connector projects across the city for biodiversity and nature-based solutions for climate adaptation
- Cadder Woods proposed Local Nature Reserve project work is developing access to the native woodland for local community groups and enhancing the positive management of this habitat
- TCV volunteers have planted woodland ground flora in local nature reserves to enhance woodland habitats

3. Mainstreaming biodiversity

3.1 Actions for biodiversity and to address the declared Ecological Emergency are incorporated into the Glasgow Climate Plan

3.2 The Glasgow Open Space Strategy recognises the importance of biodiversity and includes sections on 'enhancing biodiversity' and 'connecting habitats'.

3.3 National Planning Framework 4 Policy 3 Policy Intent: To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks. Policy Outcomes: Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions.

3.4 Nature Networks have been mapped across Glasgow focussing on key habitats woodlands, grasslands and wetlands.

3.5 Biodiversity is considered carefully in the management of all Glasgow Parks and where appropriate, habitats and species are protected and enhanced as part of overall park management.

3.6 Biodiversity benefits are integrated into the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan through the delivery of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), green infrastructure and blue-green networks. http://www.mgsdp.org/

3.7 Climate Ready Clyde a City Region partnership programme includes biodiversity as a key part of its vision for a climate ready future.

4. Nature-based solutions, climate change and biodiversity

4.1 The Glasgow Climate Plan incorporates actions for biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

4.2 The delivery of the Glasgow Tree Plan will contribute to woodland ecosystem health and achieving the target of increasing tree canopy cover to 17.1%. Tree canopy cover is currently 16.1%. In 2024/25 18,953 trees were planted city-wide in Council-owned sites; and 1435 metres of hedgerow. Tree planting will contribute to urban cooling and flood alleviation as well as biodiversity enhancement and people's health and wellbeing.

4.3 Grassland management and pond naturalisation contribute to alleviating flooding in the city. Across the city's parks and greenspaces, large areas of grassland are left to grow long or receive an end of year cut and lift to maintain them as diverse grasslands with benefits to pollinators and other wildlife as well as contributing to reducing flooding risk. The pond naturalisation programme over the last 15 years has created soft vegetated edges to park ponds allowing excess water to store during periods of heavy rainfall as well as providing key habitats for waterfowl, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates.

5. Public Engagement and Workforce Development

5.1 The Local Biodiversity Action Plan involves the Council working with 17 other organisations to implement the aims and objectives of the Plan. Partners include NatureScot and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland along with other environmental and nature interest groups.

5.2 The Council's Biodiversity Officers attended National Biodiversity Network meetings in spring and autumn.

5.3 The Seven Lochs Wetland Park project is Scotland's largest urban nature park for people, nature and heritage. This ambitious project brings together 20 square metres of lochs, parks, nature reserves and woodlands. It is a partnership between the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, Glasgow City Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Conservation Volunteers and others.

5.4 In 24/25 GCC Countryside Rangers supported 40 community groups and interacted with almost 5000 people on biodiversity. They led 21 events with almost 500 participants and carried out 70 Curriculum for Excellence visits to 38 schools and almost 2000 pupils using 16 city parks.

5.5 The Council's Greenspace & Biodiversity Team supported volunteers from over 70 Friends of Parks community groups to enhance parks and greenspaces with 3540 volunteer hours carried out in 25/26.

5.6 The Butterfly Conservation Wild Spaces Project, funded by the National Lottery Fund and supported by Glasgow City Council, was launched at St Martha's Primary School, Springburn in February 2026. The project is about providing opportunities for currently underserved audiences to be able to access and enjoy butterflies and moths; and nature. The project will co-create Wild Spaces with communities so that each one is unique and specific to local needs and desires. https://butterfly-conservation.org/news-and-blog/butterfly-conservation-to-create-wild-spaces-across-glasgow

6. Research and Monitoring

6.1 Biological records are maintained and enhanced by Glasgow Life through the Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre. Data gathered from monitoring and surveys is regularly entered into the database and records are collated and sent to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

- As of March 2026, Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre holds 1,300,241 biological records in their database. 113,648 new biological records were added between April 2025 and March 2026
- Waterfowl monitoring (of over 30 species) is carried out annually at 15 water bodies as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
- Blue-green Algae monitoring is carried out annually at 43 water bodies city-wide
- Annual monitoring of key LBAP species is carried out including Bog Rosemary, Green Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Greater Butterfly Orchid and Toothwort
- Butterfly Transects are carried out annually at a variety of sites

- The survey of the Council's trees continues, with 60,965 trees now captured in the Ezytreev database

6.2 Funding from Scottish Government Planning Hub was secured for updated Spatial Habitat Modelling to assist with finalisation of water vole key sites and corridors as well as potential receptor sites mapping. The aim is to help protect water voles as well unlock sites for needed development.

6.3 A Research Associate in Ecology and Landscape Genetics was appointed at the University of Glasgow to update surveys/monitoring and carry out genetic work on water voles (GALLANT funded).

7. Biodiversity highlights and challenges

7.1 Mapping Nature Networks across the city has been a challenge and a highlight. The final approved Nature Network map will be visible on the City Development Plan (2) in 2028/29.

7.2 The GCC Green Connectors project (2022–2028) has created and enhanced meadow strips, hedgerows and tree planting across the city. In 2025/26, 54,200 wildflower plugs, over 500,000 daffodils and other bulbs, over 12,700 tree whips, 979 standard trees and 2,573 metres of hedgerow were planted city-wide.

7.3 The main challenge ahead, over the next few years, continues to be finding new ways to deliver biodiversity benefits for Glasgow within the current financial climate. This, to date, has been best achieved through fully engaging with all services and partner organisations to maximise the efficiency of project delivery, and this approach will continue.

Acronyms

BCS	Butterfly Conservation (Scotland)
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
GCC	Glasgow City Council
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Importance
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System