



# Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024

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# Background

- First LBAP published 2006
- 20 Habitat and Species Action Plans
- 140+ actions
  
- Steering Group formed in 2017
- Midlothian Council, SNH, Scottish Wildlife Trust, TWIC, Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB, SEPA, Scottish Water, Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
  
- Approved by Planning Committee 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Six priorities – 23 actions



# Priorities

- Pollinators
- Homes for Wildlife
- Rivers, Streams and Ponds
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- People and Nature
- Protected Sites and Species



# Pollinators



- Manage council maintained greenspaces to improve the quantity and quality of pollinator habitats
- Require planting schemes in new development to include a wide variety of nectar rich planting
- Create a Midlothian B-Line as part of national network



# Homes for Wildlife

- Run workshops on the construction, installation, maintenance and monitoring of homes for wildlife in gardens and greenspaces
- Introduce requirements for swift and bat boxes in new developments
- Promote the creation and management of wildlife homes and routes as part of wider biodiversity schemes in new development
- Provide information on biodiversity in gardens and greenspaces to residents



# Rivers, Streams and Ponds

- Increase the number of managed ponds and wetlands in Midlothian
- Promote creation of SuDS ponds and rain gardens
- Promote removal/modification of fish barriers



# Invasive Non-Native Species

- Promote the “Check Clean Dry” technique
- Develop a plan for the eradication of INNS along Midlothian’s watercourses
- Develop a strategy for the control of INNS along the route of the Borders Railway



# People and Nature

- Promote urban woodland management through the WIAT initiative
- Support public access to and engagement with urban woodland
- Explore the potential for a Midlothian Urban Forest
- Promote the creation, protection and enhancement of hedges
- Ensure planting on off-road active travel routes supports biodiversity
- Promote participation in national citizen science projects
- Promote involvement in local wildlife surveys
- Run workshops to encourage biological recording in Midlothian



# Protected Sites and Species

- Develop a programme for the production of Management Briefs for Local Biodiversity Sites
- Prepare strategies for the protection and support of local priority species (juniper, hedgehog, common toad and large heath butterfly)





# Implementation

- Action need wide variety of stakeholders to work in partnership to deliver them
- LBAP includes a delivery programme which identifies lead partners, delivery partners and supporting bodies
- Monitoring will be carried out annually
- LBAP focuses on a limited number of priorities but this does not reflect or minimise the importance of other biodiversity matters in Midlothian.