



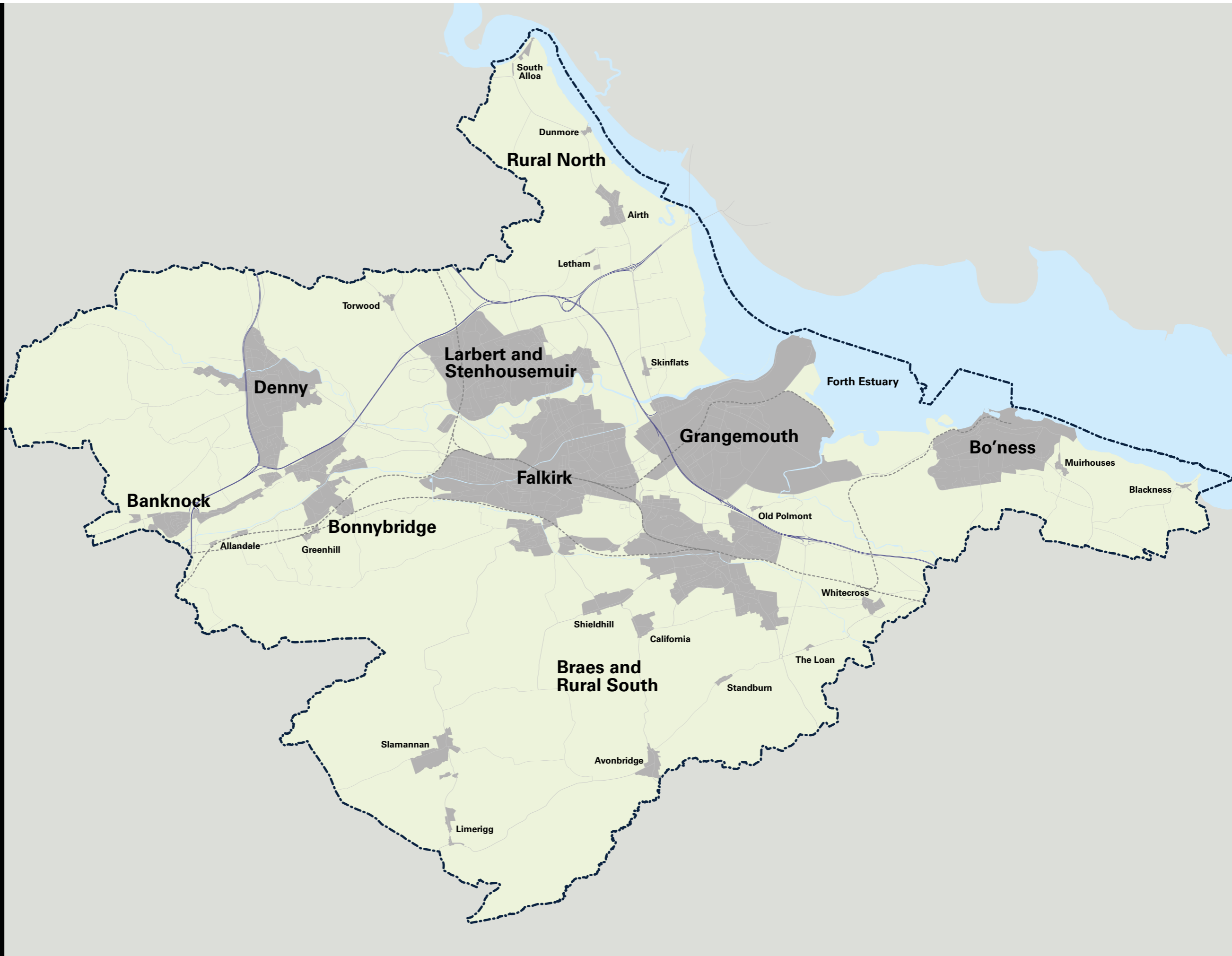
second nature

CONTENTS

Our wildlife!	4
Our habitats	5
Our plants and animals	6
Why is our wildlife important?	7
Threats to our wildlife	8
Who looks after our wildlife?	9
What do we want to achieve?	10
What do we need to do?	11
What can you do?	12

ACTION PLANS

Estuary	16
Farmland and grassland	20
Heath and bog	24
Water and wetlands	28
Woodland	32
Urban	36
Bean goose	40
Connecting people and wildlife	44
Invasive non-native species	48
Project summary tables	52
Priority habitats list	65
Priority species list	66



our wildlife



© David Jones

By 'wildlife' we mean all living things - plants, animals, micro-organisms, habitats, and wild places. You might sometimes hear this called 'biodiversity'.

The Falkirk Council area is home to a rich variety of wildlife.

It has a fantastic array of habitats ranging from estuary to peat bog; from parks and gardens to ancient woodland.

Our many different habitats support thousands of different types of plants and animals, some of them nationally important or rare.

We also have some really special natural places where wildlife can thrive. Over one hundred local sites are protected because of their special importance for wildlife.

There are many accessible sites where you can discover and enjoy our fascinating local wildlife.

our Habitats

This area has a wonderful variety of different habitats. This includes 24 types of habitat which are UK priorities for conservation action.

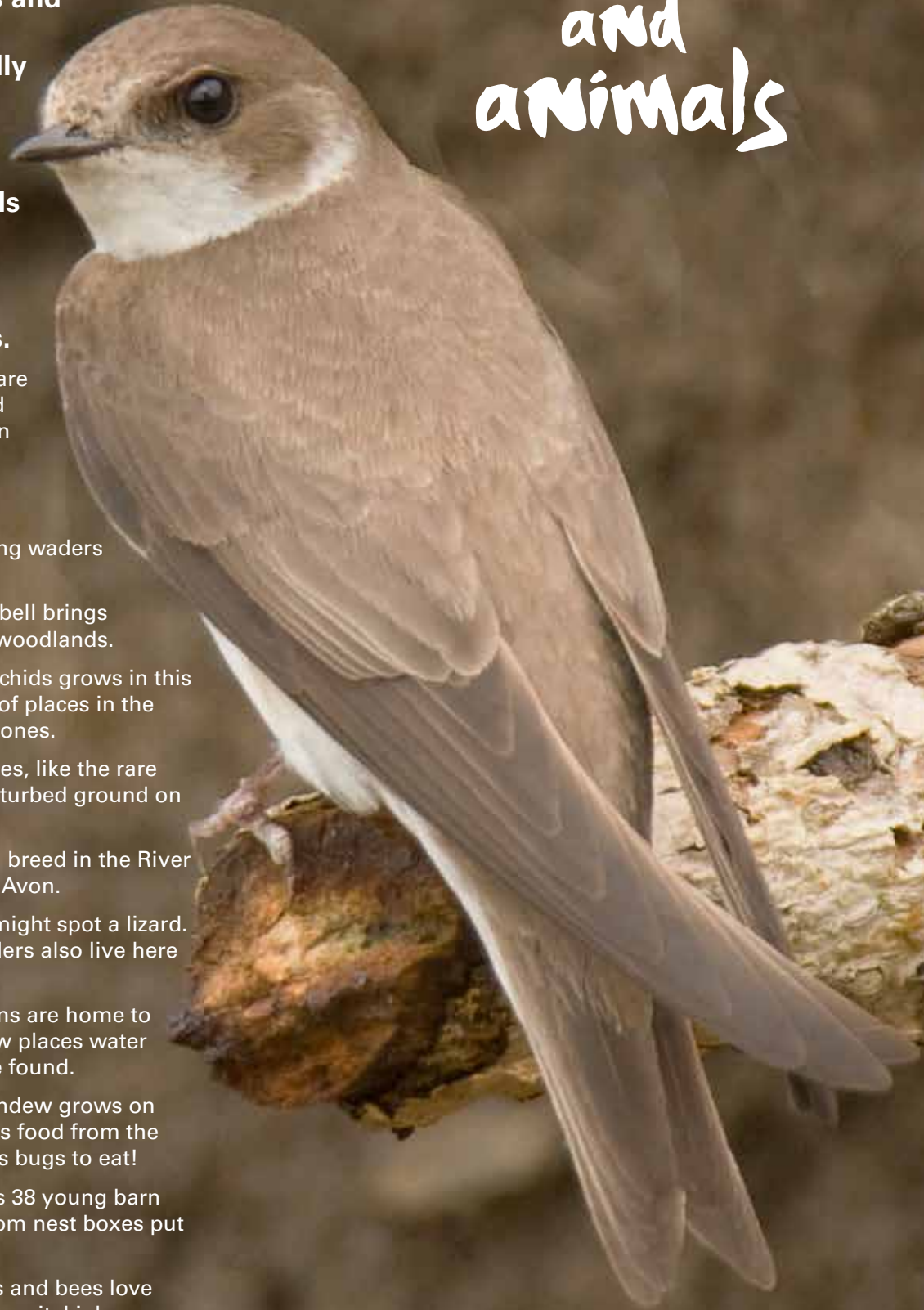
- There are over 580km of rivers and burns locally. They are great places for wildlife & people!
- Woodlands, ancient and new, cover about 33 km² of this area. Why not get out and visit one?
- We have many ponds, pools and lochs. They are home to a huge number of plants & animals!
- Nature is great at recolonising derelict industrial sites. These sites can be amazing havens for wildlife.
- The Forth & Clyde canal and the Union canal are wonderful wildlife corridors.
- Several new meadows have been created recently. Their wildflowers and grasses are perfect for pollinating insects.
- Farmland covers much of this area. Features like hedgerows, trees, pools & field margins can be great for wildlife.
- The Forth Estuary stretches for 48 kilometres. It includes mudflats, saltmarsh and rare saltwater lagoons.
- Raised bogs take thousands of years to form and are nationally rare. We have many raised bogs in this area.
- Our parks and gardens cover a huge area. They are a home to wildlife right on our doorsteps.
- About 20% of our area is urban. Greenspaces in towns and cities provide vital refuges for wildlife.



our plants and animals

This area is home to many fascinating plants and animals. Some of them are nationally important or threatened. At least 45 of our plants and animals are UK priorities for conservation. A further 19 are Scottish priorities.

- Great crested newts are a European protected species. They thrive in several local ponds.
- Every year the Forth Estuary is home to thousands of wintering waders and wildfowl.
- The much loved bluebell brings spring colour to our woodlands.
- A unique group of orchids grows in this area. Only a handful of places in the country have similar ones.
- Specialist invertebrates, like the rare Hobo spider, love disturbed ground on old industrial sites.
- Salmon now live and breed in the River Carron and the River Avon.
- If you are lucky you might spot a lizard. Slow worms and adders also live here but are rarely seen.
- Our rivers and streams are home to otter families. In a few places water voles can also still be found.
- The round-leaved sundew grows on bogs. It doesn't get its food from the soil. Instead it catches bugs to eat!
- Over the last 10 years 38 young barn owls have fledged from nest boxes put up in this area.
- Insects like hoverflies and bees love wild flowers. They do a vital job pollinating crops.



A family of three is riding bicycles through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, there is a dense forest of green trees under a blue sky with some clouds. The scene is bright and sunny.


Why our wildlife is important?

Wildlife plays a crucial role in our lives. A healthy and diverse natural environment is important.

- It is good for our physical and mental health.
- It creates pleasant places where we can live, work, play and grow.
- It provides us with many vital resources including food, textiles, timber, fuel, and medicines.
- It is estimated to be worth about £17.2 billion to the Scottish economy!
- It does an amazing job filtering our water, cleaning our air, storing flood waters, and soaking up carbon dioxide.
- It has a really important place in our culture, art and national identity.

Plus, our wildlife has intrinsic value; it is important in its own right. It's amazing, beautiful, awe inspiring and pulsing with life!

These benefits are not just for now. We need to make sure that future generations can enjoy them too.



The last century has seen dramatic declines in the number and health of many of our wild plants, animals and habitats. Human activities are placing ever-increasing demands on the natural environment.

Major threats to our wildlife include:

Fragmentation

Our remaining natural areas are becoming smaller and more isolated.

Land use

Much of our land is developed or intensively managed, often making it less attractive for wildlife.

Invasive non-native species

Invasive plants and animals that have been introduced to an area by people can cause big problems for our native wildlife.

Pollution

Pollution can weaken or kill our wild plants and animals, and damage the habitats where they live.

Our connection to nature

Society is becoming less connected to nature. Fewer people are experiencing first-hand the wildlife around them.

Climate change

Our plants and animals have to cope with a changing climate. Some may benefit but others will struggle to adapt.

THREATS TO OUR WILDLIFE

Who looks after our wildlife?

We have a shared responsibility to look after our local wildlife for the good of current and future generations.

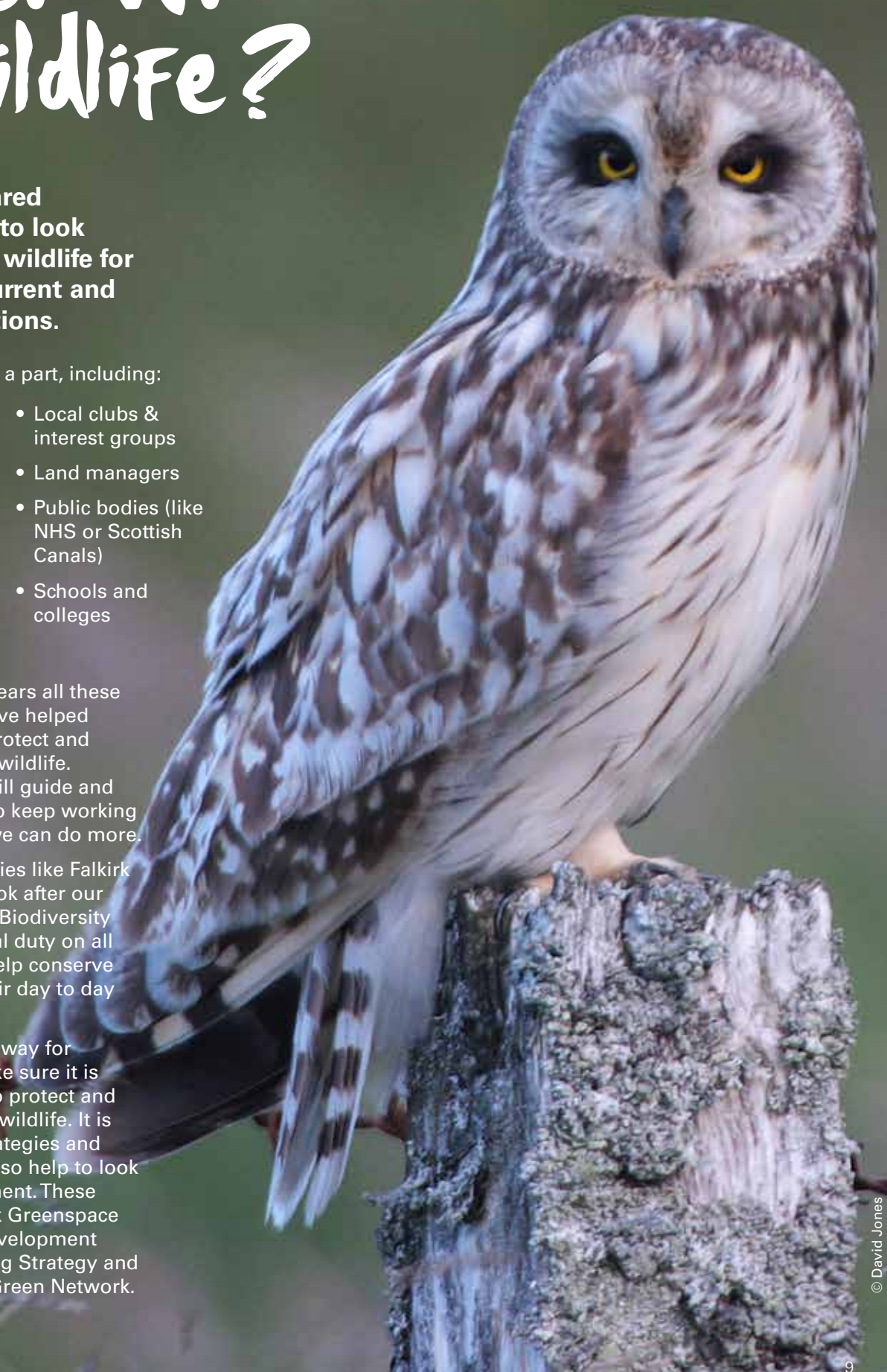
Everyone can play a part, including:

- Individuals
- Communities
- Falkirk Council
- Environmental organisations
- Landowners
- Wildlife experts
- Businesses
- Local clubs & interest groups
- Land managers
- Public bodies (like NHS or Scottish Canals)
- Schools and colleges

Over the past 17 years all these sorts of groups have helped to take action to protect and improve our local wildlife. This action plan will guide and encourage us all to keep working together, so that we can do more.

By law, public bodies like Falkirk Council have to look after our local wildlife. The 'Biodiversity Duty' places a legal duty on all public bodies to help conserve wildlife during their day to day work.

This plan is a vital way for the Council to make sure it is fulfilling its duty to protect and enhance our local wildlife. It is linked to other strategies and initiatives which also help to look after our environment. These include the: Falkirk Greenspace Strategy, Local Development Plan, Food Growing Strategy and Central Scotland Green Network.



WHAT do we want To achieve?

By 2040 ...

Respecting, enjoying and looking after our wildlife is second nature to everyone.

So that:

- We all consider our impact on wildlife and look for opportunities to help wildlife as part of every job, project or activity we do.
- We have a rich variety of local wildlife which is healthy, robust and thriving.
- Our natural habitats are home to the full range of plants and animals we would expect to live there.
- Our natural habitats connect up to form an extensive habitat network for wildlife to live in and move through.
- We, and future generations, are able to enjoy and benefit from the many vital services and resources our local wildlife can deliver.
- Local organisations, groups and individuals are encouraged and supported to look after and improve their local wildlife.

This plan helps to focus our action where it is most needed. It aims to ensure that we use our time, money and enthusiasm to get the best results for local wildlife. It will also make sure that we concentrate on helping the wildlife that needs action most urgently.

We have already identified 20 local priority habitats and 102 local priority species. These are the habitats and species that we should focus on. Lists of these habitats and species can be found on pages 65 and 66.

The Scottish Biodiversity Route Map 2020 identifies six big steps to improve the state of nature in Scotland. This action plan contributes to a number of these including:

- Ecosystem restoration
- Quality greenspace for health and education benefits
- Conserving wildlife in Scotland to secure the future of priority habitats and species;
- Sustainable management of land and freshwater
- Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems

The Convention on Biological Diversity set 20 global targets, known as the Aichi Targets in October 2010, to be met by 2020. This action plan contributes to a number of these international targets, including:

- Awareness increased
- Biodiversity values integrated
- Sustainable consumption & production

- Habitat loss halved or reduced
- Pollution reduced
- Invasive species prevented and controlled
- Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems reduced
- Protected areas increased and improved
- Ecosystems & services safeguarded
- Ecosystems restored & resilience enhanced
- Knowledge improved, shared and applied

WHAT do we need To do?



The following action plans detail projects which will benefit our local wildlife. They focus especially on work to help the habitats, plants and animals which we know are local priorities for action.

There are action plans covering the following themes:

- Estuary
- Farmland and grassland
- Heath and bog
- Water and wetland
- Woodland
- Urban
- Bean geese
- Connecting people and wildlife
- Invasive non-native species

The projects will be done by all sorts of different organisations, often working together. The action plans list some of the groups most likely to help get the work done. However, other groups and individuals are actively encouraged to join in.

Lots of other local projects are already happening to help wildlife. Other new projects (not included in these plans) may also happen. That's great! We will try to support and encourage any projects which help local wildlife.

This plan needs to be able to respond to new opportunities and challenges. Projects may be altered if needed and new projects might come forward. The action plans include some 'aspirational projects'. These are projects that it would be good to do if the resources and opportunities arise.

It is important that we check that these projects are being done and are benefiting our local wildlife. We will:

- Check annually that the projects in the action plans are being done.
- Encourage local wildlife recording, to help us measure how our plants, animals and habitats are doing.
- Review and update the action plans when necessary.

WHAT can you do?

Everyone can help look after our local wildlife.

If you want to help us deliver some of the projects in the action plans please do get in touch.

There are also lots of other things you can do. Here are some ideas:

- Create areas for wildlife in your garden
- Help us record local wildlife
- Develop a space for wildlife in your local community, school or workplace
- Get involved in a local conservation group like the Falkirk Wildlife Volunteers Group
- Enjoy and look after your local green space.
- Get out and about to explore our local wildlife, and let us know what you find.

For more information about this plan or help to take action for local wildlife contact:

The Biodiversity Officer
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk
FK2 7YZ

E-mail: biodiversity@falkirk.gov.uk

Tel: 01324 504950

www.falkirk.gov.uk

For inspiration, advice and how to get involved:

Wildlife gardening and making a home for nature

Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre,
Grangemouth
www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/

Local wildlife and wild places to explore

Facebook - [falkirkexplored](https://www.facebook.com/falkirkexplored)

Wildlife walks & activities

Falkirk Council Outdoor Rangers
rangers@falkirk.gov.uk
Facebook - [falkirkexplored](https://www.facebook.com/falkirkexplored)

Falkirk Community Trust:
www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org
Facebook - [FalkirkParks](https://www.facebook.com/FalkirkParks)

Wildlife volunteering

Falkirk Wildlife Volunteer Group
lesley.sweeney@falkirk.gov.uk

Falkirk Community Trust:
www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org
Facebook - [FalkirkParks](https://www.facebook.com/FalkirkParks)

Wildlife spotting and recording

The Wildlife Information Centre
www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk

Plantlife Scotland - Flora Guardians
www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland

Plantlife Scotland Great British Wildflower Hunt
www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt

RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch
www.rspb.org.uk

Invertebrates

www.buglife.org.uk

www.butterfly-conservation.org

Amphibians and reptiles

www.froglife.org

Birds

www.rspb.org.uk

action plans



estuary

The Forth Estuary is one of the major estuaries of the British coastline. It stretches for approximately 48km from just above Stirling to the Forth Road Bridge. Estuary habitats include saltmarsh, saltwater lagoons, and mudflats. They support a vast range of different plants and animals, many of them uniquely adapted to estuary life.

The Forth Estuary is home to thousands of waders and wildfowl. In winter there are internationally and nationally important flocks of birds such as pink-footed geese, knot, dunlins, and shelducks. The Forth Estuary is a designated Special Protection Area because of these wintering birds. The millions of invertebrates found in the estuary mud provide food for birds as well as for other aquatic animals.

The estuary provides nursery grounds for fish and is home to marine mammals like seals and porpoises.

The estuary experiences a lot of human activity. As well as high levels of industrial activity there is also a lot of fishing and recreational use. These human pressures can have a significant impact on the ecological health of the estuary.

The conservation of our estuaries is further complicated by the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. It is important that our estuary wildlife is able to adapt to these changes.

Estuary habitats provide many ecosystem services, like absorbing flood waters. The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative recently completed about 50 projects around the Forth.

A study suggests that these projects have the potential to deliver ecosystem services with a potential economic value of over £11.2 million.



Priority estuary species, habitats and sites

Priority Species

Birds

Black-tailed godwit
Common Tern
Dunlin
Golden plover
Great crested grebe
Greylag goose
Knot
Pink-footed goose
Pintail
Red-breasted megalanser
Redshank
Shelduck
Teal

Fish

Atlantic salmon
European eel
River lamprey
Sea trout
Sparling
Twaite shad

Priority Habitats

Estuary
Intertidal mudflats
Saline lagoons
Saltmarsh

Important Sites

Skinflats Reserve
Bothkennar (aka Skinflats)
Kinneil Kerse
Kinneil Foreshore
Blackness Bay

What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to protect and improve the wildlife of the Forth Estuary. These include:

- Enhancement projects at Kinneil Foreshore, Bothkennar and Kinneil lagoon.
- Several other Inner Forth Landscape Initiative projects.
- A detailed bird survey and assessment of disturbance factors on the Forth Estuary from Dunmore to Blackness.
- Enhancement and management work at RSPB's Skinflats Reserve.
- Ongoing legal protection of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area.
- Beach cleans by community and school groups.

What we need to do next

1 Agree and implement a long term management plan for Kinneil Lagoons.

2 Ensure restoration of Kinneil Landfill includes wildlife benefits.

3 Undertake further green network enhancement & management around the harbour area at Bo'ness and Grangepans (linking to Bridgeness and Kinneil Foreshore).

4 Deliver environmental enhancements as part of the Grangemouth flood prevention scheme, potentially including compensatory habitat for SPA species.

5 Produce and implement a management plan for Bothkennar Pools Site of Special Scientific Interest.

6 Do at least one beach clean / litter pick per year.

7 Deliver appropriate management and enhancement of the island and shoreline at Kinneil Foreshore Local Nature Reserve.

8 Monitor the use of the tern rafts at Bothkennar, doing maintenance as necessary and assessing the need for additional rafts if the original ones are used.

9 Take opportunities to raise awareness of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area amongst local communities, landowners and businesses; highlighting its positive benefits as well as the protection it has.

10 Promote responsible recreation and dog walking along the foreshore, to minimise disturbance to the SPA bird species.

11 Ensure bird data gathered for the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme is made available for use by others.

12 Support the development and implementation of the Inner Forth Futures Project.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

1 Promote biological recording at important estuary sites.

2 Monitor invasive species in estuarine habitats and take action to control them.

3 Promote monitoring of nurdles (and other plastics) along the shoreline, with associated awareness raising campaigns and litter picks.

4 Reduce the use of disposable/ one-use plastics within Falkirk Council and other partner organisations, to help combat marine pollution by plastics.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

Falkirk Council

Forth Estuary Forum

Friends of Kinneil (Kinneil Foreshore Management Group)

Inner Forth Futures Partnership

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Scottish Natural Heritage

Volunteer biological recorders

...but other groups and individuals can also help.

Farmland and grassland

This area's countryside is dominated by farmland. Grassland and farm crops cover over 17,000 hectares. That is about 61% of the whole Falkirk Council area. Farming has a big impact on how the landscape looks and the wildlife it supports.

Farms often include features such as crops, set-aside, grassland, hedgerows, trees, dykes, ditches and field margins. They may also have areas of natural habitat like heath, rough grassland, woodland and wetland. All these can be good for wildlife, if managed appropriately. They provide food, shelter and breeding areas as well as corridors to help wildlife to move around the countryside. This is especially important where intensive farming makes the cropped area of fields less hospitable. Farm wetlands can also have major benefits for flood alleviation.

Our agricultural landscape is, to a large extent, a man-made environment. Continued management is essential to maintain many of the features and habitats that are valuable to wildlife. Agri-environment payment schemes have a big influence on how we deliver wildlife conservation on farmland.

This area also has 950 hectares of amenity grassland and further small pockets of unimproved or semi-improved grassland in urban areas. These include a number of recently created wildflower meadows.

Pollinating insects are critical to our food and farming industries, as well as our natural environment. In Scotland the value of pollinators for agricultural and horticultural crops is around £43million each year.



Priority farmland and grassland species, habitats and sites

Priority Species

Mammals	Invertebrates
Brown hare	Common blue butterfly
Birds	Swordgrass moth
Barn owl	Plants
Bean goose	Annual knawel
Curlew	Field scabious
Grasshopper warbler	Greater butterfly orchid
Grey partridge	Harebell
Kestrel	Lesser butterfly orchid
Lapwing	Linnet
Linnet	Skylark
Skylark	Snipe
Snipe	Swallow
Swallow	Tree sparrow
Tree sparrow	Yellowhammer
Yellowhammer	Common blue butterfly
	Swordgrass moth
	Annual knawel
	Field scabious
	Greater butterfly orchid
	Harebell
	Lesser butterfly orchid
	Linnet
	Skylark
	Snipe
	Ox-eye daisy
	Purple rampion
	Smooth cat's ear
	Whorled caraway

What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to protect and improve our farmland and grassland wildlife. These include:

- A barn owl nest box project
- An integrated habitat network study
- Management and enhancement of grassland at 8 Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves
- A "Save the Wee Bees" campaign
- Meadow creation and management at 10 sites
- 'Pollinator Parks' and 'John Muir Pollinator Way' projects
- A tree sparrow nest box and feeding project

What we need to do next

- 1 Continue the Barn owl nest box project - relocating unused boxes and doing habitat enhancement at box sites.
- 2 Review Falkirk Council's open-space maintenance regimes. Work with Falkirk Council to establish a range of grass cutting options (including some of increased benefit to wildlife) - supported by appropriate machinery, training and awareness raising.
- 3 Carry out appropriate grassland management at all council owned Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Wildlife Sites.
- 4 Continue the Falkirk pollinator project (creating or enhancing several pollinator parks, John Muir pollinator way sites, or other sites for pollinators annually).
- 5 Promote the creation of pollinator habitat through awareness raising and training activities associated with the pollinator project.

- 6 Tree sparrow project - work to restore the number of tree sparrows using the Bo'mains site, including nest box cleaning and habitat improvement.
- 7 Kestrel nest box project - erect kestrel nest boxes alongside existing roost boxes and monitor their use.
- 8 Management and monitoring of the butterfly orchid site and meadow at Muiravonside Country Park.
- 9 A hedgerow project - establishing species-rich native hedges where they can provide habitat corridors between existing sites of value for wildlife.
- 10 Continue the enhancement of Policy Bing, Lionthorn to deliver benefits for wildlife and local people.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

- 1 Farm ponds & wetlands project -creating a network of farmland ponds and wetlands.
- 2 A pilot project to safeguard and enhance wildlife road verges, including provision of advice on road verge management to benefit wildlife.
- 3 Monitor, influence and promote agri-environment schemes where possible.
- 4 Identify previously recorded Whorled caraway, Annual knawel, Purple rampion-fumitory and Moonwort sites and survey to see if the plants are still present.
- 5 Promote work on golf courses to benefit wildlife.
- 6 Review the condition of non-council owned grassland SINCs and Wildlife Sites and promote beneficial management where possible.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

- Buglife
 - Callendar Estates
 - Central Scotland Green Network Trust
 - Falkirk Community Trust
 - Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group
 - Falkirk Council
 - Individual farmers/landowners
 - Scotland's Rural College
 - Inner Forth Futures Partnership
 - Scottish Wildlife Trust
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- ...but other groups and individuals can also help.

Priority Habitats

- Arable
- Neutral grassland
- Lowland dry acidic grassland
- Boundary features

Important Sites

The low lying carse-land in the northeast and east and the Avon valley are the main arable farming areas. Farmland to the west and south is dominated by grassland. Meadow sites include: Bonnyfield nature park, Grangepans, Kinneil Foreshore, Camelon public park, Policy bing

Heath and bog

Heaths

In Scotland we most commonly associate heath with vast stretches of upland heather moorland. However other types of heath, supporting slightly different groups of plants, occur in lowland or coastal areas.

Heaths are home to many different animals. These include birds such as the meadow pipit, twite, and merlin, and moorland invertebrates like the large heath butterfly.

Heath in the Falkirk area tends to occur in relatively small pockets. These areas are important remnants and may still support valuable heathland species. Changing landuse and poor management of heaths continues to be a threat.

Bogs

Bogs can basically be divided into two types: blanket bogs and lowland raised bogs. Although intermediate bogs can show characteristics of both.

Locally our most important bogs are raised and intermediate bogs. Raised bogs have a characteristic dome of peat which forms over thousands of years. They do a remarkable job absorbing greenhouse gases, filtering and slowing the release of water, alleviating flooding and supporting a distinctive range of plants and animals. Scotland's peatlands are estimated to store ten times more carbon than all of the UK's trees. If that was released (by the bogs being damaged) it would equate to more than 140 years of Scotland's carbon dioxide emissions.

Raised bogs are very vulnerable to drainage, over grazing, tree growth and peat removal. Across the UK over 95% of our raised bogs have been seriously damaged or destroyed. Many of our remaining peatlands could take hundreds of years to fully recover from past damage.



Priority heath and bog species, habitats and sites

Priority Species

Birds

- Black grouse
- Curlew
- Grasshopper warbler
- Hen harrier
- Merlin
- Short-eared owl
- Snipe
- Twite

Reptiles

- Adder
- Common lizard
- Slow worm

Invertebrates

- Green hairstreak
- Large heath

Plants

- Round-leaved sundew
- Liverwort (*Lepidozia pearsonii*).

Priority Habitats

- Heath
- Lowland raised and intermediate bog

Important Sites

- Barleyside
- Black Loch Moss SSSI and SAC
- Darnrig Moss SSSI
- Howierig Muir SSSI
- Newcraig Moss
- Easter Greenrig
- Grangeneuk
- Garbethill Muir
- Salterhill Moss
- Shippytrouty

What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to protect and improve our heath and bog wildlife. These include:

- A survey for the large heath butterfly (which also identified Small pearl-bordered fritillaries and Green hairstreaks).
- Management of Darnrig Moss SSSI and Howierig Muir SSSI
- Start of the Falkirk Bog Restoration Project
- Review of bog and heath Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- Vegetation, protected species and peat depth surveys on many of our raised bogs.
- Development of planning policies to protect carbon rich soils such as peat.

What we need to do next

- 1 Falkirk Bog Restoration Project - implement practical restoration on at least 10 sites.
- 2 Encourage or put in place appropriate management of Wildlife Sites and SINCs that support heath habitat.
- 3 Provide advice to landowners of heath and bog sites (covering both habitat and species management).
- 4 Undertake a Large Heath butterfly survey at suitable sites.
- 5 Quantify current peat use by Falkirk Council and, if necessary, work to stop the purchase of peat or products made/grown using peat.
- 6 Maintain the protection of peat habitats through the planning process.
- 7 Survey or resurvey known or possible small pearl-bordered fritillary sites.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

- 1 Monitor the use of Letham moss and Gardrum Moss to identify opportunities for restoration and enhancement if possible.
- 2 Carry out reptile surveys at appropriate bog and heath sites, and identify any actions needed to protect or benefit reptiles.
- 3 Explore potential for enhancement at Dunmore Moss by trying to make contact with the landowner.
- 4 Extend the action to cease peat use to other partner organisations, as appropriate.
- 5 Establish the historical location(s) of *Lepidozia pearsonii* and survey to determine if it is still present.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

- Buglife
 - Butterfly Conservation
 - Callendar Estates
 - Central Scotland Green Network Trust
 - Falkirk Council
 - Froglife
 - Landowners
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Scottish Wildlife Trust
- ...but other groups and individuals can also help.

water and wetland

Water and wetland habitats include:

- rivers and streams
- natural and man-made pools and lochs
- reservoirs
- canals
- ditches and drainage channels
- fens, marshes, flushes and swamps.

The Falkirk area includes over 580km of running water. These rivers, burns and ditches are home to lots of wildlife. They also form valuable wildlife corridors, linking other fragmented habitats.

The Falkirk Council area has many ponds, pools, lochs, and reservoirs. These support numerous aquatic species as well as providing feeding and roosting sites for other animals.

Two canals cross the Falkirk area, the Forth & Clyde Canal and the Union Canal. Canals are valuable wildlife areas. They also bring a little bit of countryside into the heart of built up and industrial areas.

Fens, marshes, swamps and flushes are important wetland habitats. They often occur in or next to other habitats such as bogs, marshy grassland, wet heath, or even woodland. They are vital for plants and animals that are especially adapted to wet conditions.

Water and wetlands are vulnerable to human activities because of their relatively small size. They receive most of their water from the land around them, so are sensitive to surrounding land use. Although pollution is a major factor in the health of wetlands, other factors like channel engineering and invasive species also have an impact.



Priority water and wetland species, habitats and sites

Priority Species

Mammals	Atlantic salmon
Otter	Brook lamprey
Water vole	European eel
Birds	River lamprey
Dipper	Sea/brown trout
Kingfisher	Invertebrates
Reed bunting	Mud snail (<i>omphiscola glabra</i>)
Sand martin	Plants
Sedge warbler	Bennett's pondweed
Teal	Grass of Parnassus
Water rail	Ivy-leaved water crowfoot
Fish & amphibians	Pillwort
Common frog	Ragged robin
Common toad	Tufted loosestrife
Great crested newt	
Palmate newt	
Smooth newt	

Priority Habitats

Fen, marsh and swamp
Standing open water
Canals
Rivers and streams

Important Sites

Carron Dams SSSI
Black Loch
Loch Ellrig
St Helen's Loch
Forth & Clyde Canal
Union Canal
River Carron
River Avon
Castlerankine Burn
Avon Burn
Bonny Water
Little Denny Burn
Red Burn
Bonny Burn

What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to protect and improve our water and wetland wildlife. These include:

- Communities Along The Carron Association projects on the River Carron.
- Surveys for water voles at several key sites.
- Surveys for aquatic invertebrates (including mud snails).
- Pond creation and enhancement for Great crested newts.
- Installation of a fish pass and fish counter at Fankerton Weir.
- Work to enhance the upper reaches of the River Avon.
- Installation of dipper boxes on the Bonny Water.
- Habitat enhancement and management at Carron Dams Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve.
- Riverfly Identification workshops
- Work to control invasive, non-native species along our rivers.

What we need to do next

- 1 Carry out a 'health check' survey of the River Carron, identifying further conservation and enhancement projects for the river.
- 2 Develop a project to engage local people in mapping, surveying, creating, enhancing and looking after ponds for wildlife.
- 3 Enhance the Culloch Burn at the Rumlie, Slamannan.
- 4 Deliver environmental enhancements as part of the Grangemouth flood prevention scheme.
- 5 Undertake the Upper Avon Enhancement Project to enhance the upper reaches of the River Avon - aiming to improve its current 'bad' classification.
- 6 Protect and monitor known great crested newt sites.
- 7 Identify sites for pond creation and enhancement to link existing great crested newt sites. Create at least one new pond.
- 8 Enhance the Carron Lade, creating areas of open water.
- 9 Continue habitat management and community engagement at Carron Dams Local Nature Reserve.

10 Deliver a Mud Snail Project (focused on the known site in the Falkirk area) to protect the site, create suitable habitat nearby, breed & release mud snails, and raise awareness of the species.

11 Survey areas of suitable water vole habitat close to known or suspected water vole sites. Assess the need for habitat enhancement and mink control where water voles are found.

12 Continue the 'Fish in the Classroom' project.

13 Create and maintain a sand martin bank at Avonglen Quarry and encourage maintenance of the nest sites at Avondale.

14 Ensure the creation of new riparian parkland in association with development at Banknock South, Gilston & Cauldhame Farm.

15 Encourage river restoration and opportunities to open up culverted watercourses through the Development Management process.

16 Promote well designed SUDs features in new developments to benefit wildlife.

Note: actions relating to invasive non-native species that affect water and wetland sites are included in the Invasive, non-native species action plan.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

1 Riparian tree planting project (identify opportunities for riparian tree planting and implement tree planting projects).

2 Explore natural flood management opportunities.

3 Identify any particularly poor quality burns (especially within the urban area) and develop enhancement projects.

4 Develop a project to de-channelise the Culloch Burn through Slamannan, delivering channel enhancement and natural flood management benefits.

5 Do a de-culverting project, should an appropriate opportunity arise. Use this as a demonstration site to promote other local de-culverting projects.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

Angling Clubs

Buglife

Communities Along The Carron Association

Falkirk Council

Central Scotland Green Network Trust

Froglife

Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group

Scottish Canals

River Avon Federation

Scottish Natural Heritage

Forth Rivers Trust

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Slamannan Anglers Protective Association

Housebuilders

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

...but other groups and individuals can also help.

woodland

Within the Falkirk area there are over 1100 hectares of broad-leaved woodland. Over 800 hectares of this is semi-natural, in other words the sort of woodland that naturally occurs within Scotland. Much of this semi-natural woodland is over 150 years old.

This area has around 1500 hectares of conifer plantation, planted mainly for timber production. Other areas of woodland, often more recently planted, include farm woods, amenity woodlands, community woodlands, policy woodlands associated with large estates, and shelter belts or landscaping. Areas of scrub also provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Woodland is important for many of our plants and animals. The mature trees, dead wood and woodland floor are home to hundreds of different invertebrates, as well as more familiar woodland plants, birds and mammals. We tend to associate most woodland wildlife with broadleaved woods. However, conifer woods can also support many species, particularly if they are managed with wildlife in mind. In fact some species, like the red squirrel, particularly favour conifer woods.

The amount of broadleaved and conifer woodland in the Falkirk area has remained relatively stable over recent years. There remains a need to protect our ancient and semi-natural woodlands. There are also opportunities to improve the value of our woodlands for wildlife. This can be achieved by appropriate management and enhancement, and by connecting woodlands to create habitat networks. The Forestry and Woodland Strategy for this area includes a target for delivering 850 hectares of new woodland between 2015 and 2055.



Priority woodland species, habitats and sites

Priority Species

Mammals

Badger
Brown long-eared bat
Pine Marten
Soprano pipit

Birds

Bullfinch
Cuckoo
Green woodpecker
Redpoll
Song thrush
Spotted flycatcher
Tree pipit
Wood warbler
Woodcock

Invertebrates

Small pearl-bordered fritillary

Plants

Wych elm
Hay-scented buckler fern
Bluebell
Plagiochilia spinulosa (liverwort)

Priority Habitats

Broadleaved and mixed woodland
Lowland wood pastures and parkland

Important Sites

Carron Glen SSSI
Avon Gorge SSSI
20 Wildlife Sites
11 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to protect and improve our woodland wildlife. These include:

- New woodland creation.
- Management of Scottish Wildlife Trust woodland reserves at Carron Glen and Wallacebank Woods.
- Use of woods by schools as outdoor classrooms.
- A Phase I survey and Integrated Habitat Network study
- Enhancement of Polmont woods and other woodland Wildlife Sites.
- Enhancement of Larbert Hospital wood and its use as an outdoor classroom.
- Production of a Forestry and Woodland Strategy
- Appointment of an officer to look at management of the Council's woodlands.
- Designation of several additional woodland Wildlife Sites.

What we need to do next

1 Enhance existing woodlands to improve their value for wildlife - focusing on council owned woodlands, community woodlands and Wildlife Sites.

2 A pine marten project - surveying and monitoring populations, engaging with landowners and providing suitable habitat and den areas.

3 Provide guidance to owners of woodland Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, about enhancing woodlands for wildlife.

4 Produce a long term plan for the Council's woodland estate, ensuring that the programme of management and woodland expansion includes measures to benefit wildlife.

5 Plant native bluebells at a minimum of 10 suitable woodland locations (ensuring that no Spanish or hybrid bluebells are also present).

6 Survey or resurvey known or possible small pearl-bordered fritillary sites.

7 Use the integrated habitat network study to identify key areas for woodland management and expansion.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

1 Veteran trees project: Identification of our most valued veteran trees. Followed by wildlife surveys of the trees and planting of 'veteran trees of the future' nearby.

2 Try to identify the historical location(s) of plagiochilia spinulosa and hay-scented buckler fern and survey to see if they are still present.

3 Carry out bat box schemes at at least 5 suitable sites (including provision of materials and support for community groups to make and erect boxes).

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

Butterfly Conservation
Callendar Estates
Central Scotland Green Network Trust
Forestry Commission Scotland
Falkirk Community Trust
Falkirk Council
Landowners
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Wildlife Trust

...but other groups and individuals can also help.

urban

The urban area is where people and nature meet most often. A surprising variety of plants and animals have adapted to urban life. Many different habitats can also survive in urban areas and some actually need disturbed, post-industrial sites.

About 16% of the Falkirk Council area is buildings and gardens. As well as small remnants of semi-natural habitat like woodlands, the built landscape has some uniquely urban habitats. These include man-made structures, parks, churchyards and cemeteries, gardens, allotments, and waste ground.

Urban habitats are especially valuable where they form a network of open areas or wildlife corridors. These networks allow animals and plant seeds to move from site to site. Rivers and streams and their banks are especially important urban wildlife corridors.

Urban wildlife refuges can be particularly important for plants and animals whose natural countryside habitat is being lost or damaged. Some plants and animals are perfectly adapted to urban habitats. The helleborine orchids at Almond Bing depend on the old spoil heaps, a remnant of industrial activity.

Urban areas offer great opportunities for people to experience and enjoy wildlife. This can have significant emotional and physical health benefits. A recent study in Scotland suggested that urban parks and greenspaces provide us with health benefits worth around £40.5 million.

People have an enormous impact on our urban environment. This impact does not have to be negative; we are in an ideal position to improve our gardens, parks and other urban areas to benefit wildlife.



Priority urban species, habitats and sites

What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to protect and improve our urban wildlife. These include:

- Making 'Pollinator Parks' with new meadows and other planting.
- Managing our unique helleborine orchid population.
- Managing Local Nature Reserves at Bonnyfield, Carron Dams and Kinneil Foreshore.
- Publishing Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- Protecting our locally designated Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- Protecting and improving our most important brownfield sites.
- Creating two green roofs in the Grangemouth area.
- Planting nectar-rich flowers on some roundabouts.
- Identifying semi-natural areas in the Open Space Strategy.
- Creating wildlife gardens and orchards in schools.

What we need to do next

1 Help schools to enhance their orchards and growing spaces for wildlife.

2 Promote wildlife enhancements at community growing sites.

3 Assess wildlife enhancement opportunities at council managed cemeteries and graveyards - implement a wildlife project at at least one site.

4 Continue to manage and enhance all brownfield Wildlife Sites and Garibaldi Bing.

5 Create and maintain a sand martin bank at Avonglen Quarry and encourage maintenance of the nest sites at Avondale.

6 Develop a project to promote wildlife gardening (making links to community growing, school gardens and existing wildlife gardening campaigns).

7 Monitor the helleborine orchids at Almond Bing and undertake management if required.

8 Create new 'Pollinator Parks' and 'John Muir Pollinator Way' sites, aiming to do at least two sites per year.

9 Continue to support the local management groups for the 3 Local Nature Reserves and promote enhancement projects at each site.

10 Promote appropriate management of urban Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Ensure all council owned sites are under appropriate management.

11 Provide appropriate training to planners and other council staff as required

12 Create a new semi natural area in Zetland Park and provide new semi natural parkland in Whitecross to meet deficiencies identified within the Open Space Strategy.

13 Promote high quality design and maintenance of openspace secured through development, to benefit wildlife. Including maximising native plant diversity in new planting schemes.

14 Renew and update relevant Local Development Plan policies and supplementary guidance to protect and benefit wildlife.

15 Prepare supplementary guidance on Green Infrastructure, promoting careful design and location to benefit wildlife.

Note: actions in several other action plans are also relevant to the urban area e.g. de-culverting water courses or pond projects.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

1 Develop a House sparrow nest box project

2 Do a pilot project to manage road verges, roundabouts etc. to benefit wildlife.

3 Improve greenspace in housing association and council housing areas to benefit wildlife.

4 Provide a section in Council building maintenance manuals covering wildlife opportunities and protection.

5 Assess the potential for green roofs on council buildings as buildings come up for maintenance review.

6 Develop a Rain Gardens project.

7 Do surveys for swifts in known or suspected nesting areas and promote public reporting of sightings.

8 Promote work on golf courses to benefit wildlife.

9 Do bat box schemes at at least 5 suitable sites (including provision of materials and support for community groups to make and erect boxes).

Note: aspirational action on wildlife road verges in the Farmland and Grassland action plan is also relevant to the urban area.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

Buglife

Central Scotland Green Network Trust

Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre

Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group

Falkirk Council

Forth Environment Link

LNR management groups

Plantlife Scotland

Scottish Wildlife Trust

The Conservation Volunteers Scotland

...but other groups and individuals can also help.

Priority Species

Mammals

Brown long-eared bat
Soprano pipistrelle bat
Hedgehog

Birds

Bullfinch
Green woodpecker
House sparrow
Kestrel
Sand martin
Song thrush
Starling
Swallow
Swift

Amphibians

Common frog
Common toad

Invertebrates

Common blue butterfly

Plants

Bluebell
Dune helleborine
Field scabious
Harebell
Ox-eye daisy
Wych elm
Young's helleborine

Priority Habitats

Gardens
Urban greenspace
Urban wildlife corridors
Open mosaic habitat on previously developed ground (including bings). (Also known as Brownfield habitat)

Important Sites

Almond Bing
Bonnyfield Nature Park
Bridgeness shipbreakers
Carron Dams Local Nature Reserve
Jupiter urban wildlife centre

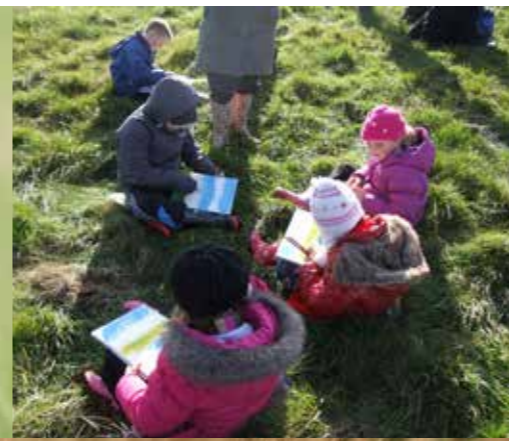
bean goose

Conservation of the local bean goose flock is being actively progressed by a Bean Goose Action Group. This group covers the Falkirk and North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan areas. The group has produced and is implementing a species action plan for bean geese. The full action plan is currently available to download at www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk. The following is a brief summary.

The Slamannan Plateau lies just east of Cumbernauld, in the headwaters of the River Avon. The area includes two small lochs and their surrounding peatlands and associated areas of rough and improved grassland. These habitats support over-wintering roosting and feeding Taiga bean geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*).

Bean geese over-winter on the Slamannan Plateau between late September and late February, with peak flock counts ranging between 214 and 267 birds over the last 5 years. The Slamannan Plateau bean goose flock now represents over half of the over-wintering bean goose population within Britain. It is therefore of national and international importance.





What we have already done

Over the last ten years, considerable work has been done to protect our wintering bean geese. This includes:

- The Bean Goose Action Group, founded in the early 1990's, coordinates action to conserve the wintering flock of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau.
- Designation of the Slamannan Plateau SSSI and SPA to protect the bean geese.
- Voluntary bean goose fieldworkers monitor the wintering bean goose flock annually.
- SNH has developed and promoted a Natural Care Scheme to encourage management of parts of the bean goose study area to benefit the bean goose flock. The management scheme is now under review.

- 18 geese have been fitted with GPS tracking devices and a further 22 have been ringed.
- A bean goose newsletter has been produced
- The bean goose website has been developed and holds a lot of information about the geese.
- The Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance and Planning applications are assessed for their potential impact on the bean goose flock.

What we need to do next

The full Bean Goose Action Plan includes many actions and can be viewed on the North Lanarkshire Council website. The main forthcoming actions include:

- 1 Continue the annual monitoring of the bean goose flock, including roost counts.
- 2 Continue the project to track the local and migratory movement of individual geese via GPS tagging.
- 3 Protect the bean goose flock from damaging development through the planning process.
- 4 Ensure that provision and promotion of countryside access does not cause disturbance to the bean goose flock.
- 5 Take opportunities to enhance bean goose habitat as part of raised bog restoration projects taking place on the Slamannan plateau.

6 Review the bean goose management scheme and promote a revised or new scheme as soon as possible.

7 Finalise a research and monitoring plan to prioritise research and monitoring needs and opportunities.

8 Highlight the work of the Bean Goose Action Group to similar groups and statutory nature conservation agencies within the bean goose range.

9 Develop contacts with universities, research units and other organisations/individuals with an interest in bean geese.

10 Develop an education programme with local primary schools.

11 Maintain, develop and manage the bean goose website.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

1 Influence forthcoming agri-environment schemes to try to ensure that they deliver beneficial outcomes for the bean goose flock and support landowners with fields used by the bean geese.

2 Secure funding for a research trip to the bean goose breeding grounds by one or more of the monitoring officer(s).

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

- Bean Goose Action Group
 - Falkirk Council
 - Forestry Commission
 - Landowners
 - North Lanarkshire Council
 - Royal Society of the Protection of Birds
 - Scotland's Rural College
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Volunteers
 - Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
- ...but other groups and individuals can also help.

CONNECTING people and wildlife



We want everyone to respect, enjoy and help look after our local wildlife. This will only happen if people understand how their lives are linked to wildlife and are encouraged to take action to conserve it.

Getting out and about to enjoy and look after local wildlife can have really positive benefits for those people who get involved. Many studies demonstrate the links between access to greenspace or outdoor activities and people's physical and mental wellbeing.

Education and awareness raising is fundamental to successful long term conservation of our local wildlife. This plan aims to increase awareness and understanding of our wildlife. It will encourage people to participate in wildlife conservation. It will also provide opportunities and support to help local groups and individuals to get involved.



What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to raise awareness and understanding of wildlife. Others have encouraged and supported people to get involved in wildlife conservation. These include:

- Organised wildlife walks, talks and activities
- Nature trails leaflet and other publications promoting the outdoors
- A regular 'Life' newsletter
- Wildlife recording events and training
- Schools projects such as the 'Where have you Bean Geese?' education programme
- Art and interpretation projects, including creation of metal entrance features at Carron Dams

- Ranger service events and activities
- Various campaigns and education projects from a range of organisations working locally
- Fish in the Classroom projects
- The work of the Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre in Grangemouth
- Schools orchards and wildlife gardens
- Specialist training sessions, for example for the Council's Development Services staff
- Webpages and facebook pages such as Fakirkexplored.

What we need to do next

- 1 Hold a Biodiversity Partnership event annually.
- 2 Help schools to enhance their orchards and growing spaces for wildlife.
- 3 Maps & Apps project - use interactive mapping, social media and apps to help people discover local wildlife and wild places and to get involved with biological recording and volunteering.
- 4 Continue the 'Fish in the classroom' programme
- 5 Develop the Wildlife Camera Trap project to enable more groups to get involved in camera trapping in additional areas.
- 6 Encourage biological recording and citizen science - promote one public recording initiative per year, with appropriate training and publicity. (Linked to other projects such as garden wildlife, ponds, swifts, bluebells etc.) .
- 7 Wildlife gardening promotion (with links to community growing)

- 8 Produce the 'Life' Newsletter annually
- 9 Support the Falkirk Wildlife Volunteer Group to provide volunteering opportunities and help deliver wildlife projects.
- 10 Pollinator patch project - to encourage people to plant for pollinators.
- 11 Support re-establishment of the Buglife volunteer group for suitable sites.
- 12 Use the Falkirkexplored Facebook page to promote local wildlife and opportunities to get involved.
- 13 Provide training and awareness raising on wildlife issues to Council members and staff as required.
- 14 Promote relevant environmental education resources to schools and other local groups (e.g. the RSPB's Forth estuary resource boxes).
- 15 Develop an online volunteering hub to help people find local opportunities for environmental volunteering.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

- 1 Promote outdoor/wild play and discovery, signposting a number of key wild play sites or opportunities and holding several wild play/discovery events. (Potentially focused along the John Muir Way.)
- 2 Develop a network of Outdoor Learning Sites around the Council area.
- 3 'Summer of...' project: Promoting a different habitat or group of species each summer.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

- Angling clubs
 - Buglife
 - Communities Along The Carron Association
 - Central Scotland Green Network Trust
 - Falkirk Council
 - Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group
 - Froglife
 - John Muir Trust
 - Forth Rivers Trust
 - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 - Scottish Wildlife Trust
 - The Conservation Volunteers (Scotland)
 - The Wildlife Information Centre
- ...but other groups and individuals can also help.

invasive non-native species



Non-native species are those which would not naturally occur in this country. They have been introduced here, either accidentally or on purpose. There are many non-native species in the UK, but only a small proportion are invasive.

An invasive animal or plant has the ability to spread, causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health or the way we live. Invasive non-native species are estimated to cost Britain over £1.7 billion a year.

There are at least 18 invasive non-native species known or expected to occur in this area. Invasive non-native species which are currently causing particular problems locally include:

Japanese knotweed

Giant Hogweed

Himalayan Balsam

Rhododendron

Sea Buckthorn

Mink

Others may spread to the area or become more of a problem in the future.



What we have already done

Over the last ten years, many projects have helped to combat the impact of invasive, non-native species on our local wildlife. These include:

- Treating Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed along our river systems and on council owned ground.
- Establishing the Falkirk Invasive Species Forum to coordinate treatment of invasive, non-native species and undertake education, training and awareness raising.
- A project to control mink on the River Avon.
- Himalayan balsam removal by volunteers at several sites.
- A leaflet to help people identify Japanese knotweed.
- Rhododendron control at several sites.
- Sea buckthorn control at Kinneil Foreshore.

What we need to do next

- 1 Continue Japanese Knotweed (and giant hogweed) control programmes on the river systems.
- 2 Treat Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on Council owned land.
- 3 Continue control of sea buckthorn at Bo'ness.
- 4 Encourage the treatment of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed on privately owned land.
- 5 Assess the scale of Himalayan balsam and Rhododendron Ponticum growth in Wildlife sites and SINC's (focusing initially on council owned sites). Identify sites where control of these species would be feasible.
- 6 Continue mink monitoring and control on the River Avon.
- 7 Provide and update information about invasive non-native species on the Council website.

- 8 Identify the most likely new invasive non-native species that might spread to this area. Highlight these to those people best placed to spot and report their presence quickly.
- 9 Promote national awareness campaigns such as 'plant wise' and 'check, clean, dry'.
- 10 Encourage reporting of invasive non-native species by volunteer path wardens and other volunteer groups.
- 11 Promote the control of invasive non-native species which currently occur in relatively few locations but which have a high risk of becoming widespread and more costly to control in the future.
- 12 Do a pilot project to control Himalayan Balsam on one tributary or small burn.

What we should do if we get a chance

As well as the above projects, it would be beneficial to do the following projects if resources become available.

- 1 Contact other relevant landowners (Scottish Water, Network Rail, Amey etc...) to encourage control of invasive non-native species.
- 2 Undertake control of Himalayan Balsam at several sites.
- 3 Undertake control of Rhododendron Ponticum at several sites.
- 4 Gradually replace the Sea Buckthorn along the foreshore at Bo'ness with more suitable species.

Who can help?

The following groups are likely to be important in getting these projects done:

- Communities Along The Carron Association
 - Falkirk Community Trust
 - Falkirk Council
 - Falkirk Invasive Species Forum
 - Friends of Kinneil (Kinneil Foreshore Management Group)
 - Larbert and Stenhousemuir Angling Club
 - River Avon Federation
 - Forth Rivers Trust
 - Slamannan Angling and Protective Association
- ...but other groups and individuals can also help.

Project summary Tables

Estuary Action Plan

Project 1

Agree and implement a long term management plan for Kinneil Lagoons.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Saline lagoons	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council, RSPB, SNH

Project 2

Ensure restoration of Kinneil Landfill includes wildlife benefits.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council, RSPB, Buglife

Project 3

Undertake further green network enhancement & management around the harbour area at Bo'ness and Grangepans (linking to Bridgeness and Kinneil Foreshore).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, mudflats	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council, Friends of Kinneil (foreshore group)

Project 4

Deliver environmental enhancements as part of the Grangemouth flood prevention scheme, potentially including compensatory habitat for SPA species.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, saltmarsh, mudflats	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council, SEPA, SNH

Project 5

Produce and implement a management plan for Bothkennar Pools Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Saline lagoons, saltmarsh	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council, RSPB, SNH

Project 6

Do at least one beach clean / litter pick per year.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary	Estuarine birds, mammals and fish	Falkirk Council

Project 7

Deliver appropriate management and enhancement of the island and shoreline at Kinneil Foreshore Local Nature Reserve.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary	Estuarine birds	Friends of Kinneil (foreshore group), Falkirk Council

Project 8

Monitor the use of the tern rafts at Bothkennar, doing maintenance as necessary and assessing the need for additional rafts if the original ones are used.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Saline lagoons	Common tern (and other estuarine birds)	Falkirk Council, RSPB, TCV

Project 9

Take opportunities to raise awareness of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area amongst local communities, landowners and businesses; highlighting its positive benefits as well as the protection it has.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, saline lagoon, saltmarsh, mudflat	Estuarine birds, fish and mammals	SNH, Falkirk Council, RSPB

Project 10

Promote responsible recreation and dog walking along the foreshore, to minimise disturbance to the SPA bird species.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council

Project 11

Ensure bird data gathered for the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme is made available for use by others.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, Saltmarsh, Mudflats, Saline lagoons	Estuarine birds	Falkirk Council

Project 12

Support the development and implementation of the Inner Forth Futures Project.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, Saltmarsh, Mudflats, Saline lagoons	All estuarine species	RSPB, Falkirk Council, CSGNT, Buglife, SNH.

Farmland and Grassland Action Plan

Project 1

Continue the Barn owl nest box project - relocating unused boxes and doing habitat enhancement at box sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Barn owl	Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group

Project 2

Review Falkirk Council's open-space maintenance regimes. Work with Falkirk Council to establish a range of grass cutting options (including some of increased benefit to wildlife) - supported by appropriate machinery, training and awareness raising.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow), urban greenspace	Pollinating insects, urban wildlife species	Falkirk Council

Project 3

Do appropriate grassland management at all council owned Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Wildlife Sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow), lowland acidic grassland	Pollinating insects, grassland species	Falkirk Council

Project 4

Continue the Falkirk pollinator project (creating or enhancing several pollinator parks, John Muir pollinator way sites, or other sites for pollinators annually).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow)	Pollinating insects	Buglife, Central Scotland Green network Trust, Falkirk Council

Project 5

Promote the creation of pollinator habitat through awareness raising and training activities associated with the pollinator project.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow), gardens, urban greenspace	Pollinating insects	Buglife, Falkirk Council, CSGNT

Project 6

Tree sparrow project - work to restore the number of tree sparrows using the Bo'mains site, including nest box cleaning and habitat improvement.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow), boundary features	Tree sparrows	Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group, SWT

Project 7

Kestrel nest box project - erect kestrel nest boxes alongside existing roost boxes and monitor their use.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Kestrel	Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group

Project 8

Management and monitoring of the butterfly orchid site and meadow at Muiravonside Country Park.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland, meadow	Butterfly orchid	Falkirk Community Trust

Project 9

A hedgerow project - establishing species-rich native hedges where they can provide habitat corridors between existing sites of value for wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Boundary features (species-rich hedgerow)	bats, hedgerow birds, hedgerow plants	Falkirk Council

Project 10

Continue the enhancement of Policy Bing, Lionthorn to deliver benefits for wildlife and local people.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow), urban greenspace	Pollinating insects, kestrel, bats, passerine birds, oxeye daisy.	Falkirk Council, CSGNT, Buglife

Heath and Bog Action Plan

Project 1

Falkirk Bog Restoration Project - implement practical restoration on at least 10 sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Raised bogs	All bog species	Falkirk Bog Restoration Project Partnership members, Buglife, Forestry Commission

Project 2

Encourage or put in place appropriate management of Wildlife Sites and SINC's that support heath habitat.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Lowland heath	All heath species	Falkirk Council

Project 3

Provide advice to landowners of heath and bog sites (covering both habitat and species management).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Lowland heath, bog	All heath & bog species	Falkirk Council, Buglife, Froglife, Butterfly Conservation

Project 4

Undertake a Large Heath butterfly survey at suitable sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Large heath butterfly	Butterfly Conservation, TWIC, Buglife, Falkirk Council

Project 5

Quantify current peat use by Falkirk Council and, if necessary, work to stop the purchase of peat or products made/grown using peat.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Raised bog	Large heath butterfly, sundew, bog species	Falkirk Council

Project 6

Ensure the protection of peat habitats through the planning process.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Raised bog	bog species	Falkirk Council

Project 7

Survey or resurvey known or possible small pearl-bordered fritillary sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Small pearl-bordered fritillary	Butterfly Conservation, TWIC, Buglife, Falkirk Council

Water and Wetland Action Plan

Project 1

Do a 'health check' survey of the River Carron, identifying further conservation and enhancement projects for the river.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers & streams	All river species	Communities Along the Carron, Forth Rivers Trust, Falkirk Council, Angling club

Project 2

Develop a project to engage local people in mapping, surveying creating, enhancing and looking after ponds for wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Standing open water (ponds)	Amphibians	Falkirk Council, Froglife

Project 3

Enhance the Culloch Burn at the Rumlie, Slamannan.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Salmon, sea trout, eel, lamprey	CSGNT, Falkirk Council, Forth Rivers Trust

Project 4

Deliver environmental enhancements as part of the Grangemouth flood prevention scheme.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams		Falkirk Council

Project 5

Undertake the Upper Avon Enhancement Project to enhance the upper reaches of the River Avon - aiming to improve its current 'bad' classification.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Salmon, sea trout, eel, lamprey	Forth Rivers Trust, River Avon Federation, Slamannan Angling & Protective Association, SEPA

Project 6

Protect and monitor known great crested newt sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Standing open water (ponds)	Great crested newt	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Falkirk Conservation Volunteers Group, Froglife, Echoes Ecology

Project 7

Identify sites for pond creation and enhancement to link existing great crested newt sites. Create at least one new pond.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Standing open water (ponds)	Great crested newt, amphibians	Falkirk Council

Project 8

Enhance the Carron Lade, creating areas of open water.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Standing open water, urban wildlife corridors	Amphibians, wetland species	Falkirk Council, CATCA

Project 9

Continue habitat management and community engagement at Carron Dams Local Nature Reserve.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Fen, marsh and swamp, standing open water, brownfield habitat	Amphibians, wetland species	Carron Dams Management Group, SWT, Falkirk Council, SNH

Project 10

Deliver a Mud Snail Project (focused on the known site in the Falkirk area) to protect the site, create suitable habitat nearby, breed & release mud snails, and raise awareness of the species.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Standing open water	Mud snail	Buglife, Landowner

Project 11

Survey areas of suitable water vole habitat close to known or suspected water vole sites. Assess the need for habitat enhancement and mink control where water voles are found.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Water vole	Falkirk Council, River Avon Federation, SAPA

Project 12

Continue the 'Fish in the Classroom' project

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Salmon, sea trout	Forth Rivers Trust, SAPA, River Avon Federation, CATCA

Project 13

Create and maintain a sand martin bank at Avonglen Quarry and encourage maintenance of the nest sites at Avondale.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, open mosaic habitat	Sand martin	Falkirk Council

Project 14

Ensure the creation of new riparian parkland in association with development at Banknock South, Gilston & Cauldhame Farm.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams, urban greenspace		Falkirk Council, house builders

Project 15

Encourage river restoration and opportunities to open up culverted watercourses through the Development Management process.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Aquatic species	Falkirk Council

Project 16

Promote well designed SUDs features in new developments to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Aquatic invertebrates, amphibians and plants	Falkirk Council, SEPA

Woodland Action Plan

Project 1

Enhance existing woodlands to improve their value for wildlife - focusing on council owned woodlands, community woodlands and Wildlife Sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	All woodland species	Falkirk Council, CSGNT, Community woodland groups, Plantlife

Project 2

A pine marten project - surveying and monitoring populations, engaging with landowners and providing suitable habitat and den areas.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	Pine marten	Falkirk Council, SWT, landowners, camera trapping volunteers

Project 3

Provide guidance to owners of woodland Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, about enhancing woodlands for wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	All woodland species	Falkirk Council, CSGNT

Project 4

Produce a long term plan for the Council's woodland estate, ensuring that the programme of management and woodland expansion includes measures to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	All woodland species	Falkirk Council, CSGNT, Forestry Commission

Project 5

Plant native bluebells at a minimum of 10 suitable woodland locations (ensuring that no Spanish or hybrid bluebells are also present).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	Bluebell	Falkirk Council, community woodland groups, CSGNT

Project 6

Survey or resurvey known or possible small pearl-bordered fritillary sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland, heath and bog	Small pearl-bordered fritillary	Butterfly conservation, TWIC, Falkirk Council, CSGNT

Project 7

Use the integrated habitat network study to identify key areas for woodland management and expansion.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	Woodland species	Falkirk Council, CSGNT, Forestry Commission

Urban Action Plan

Project 1

Help schools to enhance their orchards and growing spaces for wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, gardens	Garden wildlife species	Falkirk Council, Forth Environment Link, CSGNT

Project 2

Promote wildlife enhancements at community growing sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, gardens	Garden wildlife species	Falkirk Council, Forth Environment Link, CSGNT

Project 3

Assess wildlife enhancement opportunities at council managed cemeteries and graveyards - implement a wildlife project at at least one site.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council

Project 4

Continue to manage and enhance all brownfield Wildlife Sites and Garibaldi Bing.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land	Brownfield species, invertebrates	Buglife, Falkirk Council

Project 5

Create and maintain a sand martin bank at Avonglen Quarry and encourage maintenance of the nest sites at Avondale.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, open mosaic habitat	Sand martin	Falkirk Council

Project 6

Develop a project to promote wildlife gardening (making links to community growing, school gardens and existing wildlife gardening campaigns).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Gardens, urban greenspace	Garden wildlife species	Jupiter Centre (SWT), Forth Environment Link, Falkirk Council, CSGNT

Project 7

Monitor the helleborine orchids at Almond Bing and undertake management if required.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Broadleaved and mixed woodland, open mosaic habitat	Helleborine orchids	Falkirk Council, Plantlife

Project 8

Create new 'Pollinator Parks' and 'John Muir Pollinator Way' sites, aiming to do at least two sites per year.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, meadow	Pollinating insects	Falkirk Council, Buglife, CSGNT

Project 9

Continue to support the local management groups for the 3 Local Nature Reserves and promote enhancement projects at each site.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council

Project 10

Promote appropriate management of urban Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Ensure all council owned sites are under appropriate management.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, urban wildlife corridors		Falkirk Council

Project 11

Provide appropriate training to planners and other council staff as required

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All		Falkirk Council

Project 12

Create a new semi natural area in Zetland Park and provide new semi natural parkland in Whitecross to meet deficiencies identified within the Open Space Strategy.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council, Friends of Zetland Park, Froglife

Project 13

Promote high quality design and maintenance of openspace secured through development, to benefit wildlife. Including maximising native plant diversity in new planting schemes.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council, Plantlife Scotland

Project 14

Renew and update relevant Local Development Plan policies and supplementary guidance to protect and benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All habitats	All species	Falkirk Council

Project 15

Prepare supplementary guidance on Green Infrastructure, promoting careful design and location to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council

Bean Goose Action Plan

Project 1

Continue the annual monitoring of the bean goose flock, including roost counts.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 2

Continue the project to track the local and migratory movement of individual geese via GPS tagging.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 3

Protect the bean goose flock from damaging development through the planning process.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 4

Ensure that provision and promotion of countryside access does not cause disturbance to the bean goose flock.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 5

Take opportunities to enhance bean goose habitat as part of raised bog restoration projects taking place on the Slamannan plateau.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Heath and bog	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 6

Review the Bean Goose management scheme and promote a revised or new scheme as soon as possible.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 7

Produce a research and monitoring plan to prioritise research and monitoring needs and opportunities.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 8

Highlight the work of the Bean Goose Action Group to similar groups and statutory nature conservation agencies within the Bean Goose range.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 9

Develop contacts with universities, research units and other organisations/individuals with an interest in bean geese.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 10

Develop an education programme with local primary schools.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 11

Maintain, develop and manage the bean goose website.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean Goose	Bean Goose Action Group

Connecting People & Wildlife Action Plan

Project 1

Hold a Biodiversity Partnership event annually.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council

Project 2

Help schools to enhance their orchards and growing spaces for wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, gardens	Garden wildlife species	Falkirk Council, Forth Environment Link, CSGNT

Project 3

Maps & Apps project - use interactive mapping, social media and apps to help people discover local wildlife and wild places and to get involved with biological recording and volunteering.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council

Project 4

Continue the 'Fish in the classroom' programme

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Salmon, sea trout, lamprey, eel	Forth Rivers Trust, SAPA, River Avon Federation, CATCA

Project 5

Develop the Wildlife Camera Trap project to enable more groups to get involved in camera trapping in additional areas.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council, camera trapping volunteers, TWIC

Project 6

Encourage biological recording and citizen science - promote one public recording initiative per year, with appropriate training and publicity. (Linked to other projects such as garden wildlife, ponds, swifts, bluebells etc.) .

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	TWIC, Falkirk Council

Project 7

Wildlife gardening promotion (with links to community growing)

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Gardens	Garden wildlife species	Jupiter centre (SWT, Falkirk Council, Forth Environment Link, CSGNT

Project 8

Produce the 'Life' Newsletter annually

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council

Project 9

Support the Falkirk Wildlife Volunteer Group to provide volunteering opportunities and help deliver wildlife projects.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council, FWVG

Project 10

Pollinator patch project - to encourage people to plant for pollinators.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland, urban greenspace	Pollinating insects	Buglife, Falkirk Council, CSGNT, Jupiter centre (SWT)

Project 11

Support re-establishment of the buglife volunteers group.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland, open mosaic habitat	Invertebrates	Buglife

Project 12

Use the Falkirkexplored Facebook page to promote local wildlife and opportunities to get involved.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council

Project 13

Provide training and awareness raising on wildlife issues to Council members and staff as required.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council

Project 14

Promote relevant environmental education resources to schools and other local groups (e.g. the RSPB's Forth estuary resource boxes).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All habitats	All species	Falkirk Council, RSPB, CSGNT,

Project 15

Develop an online volunteering hub to help people find local opportunities for environmental volunteering.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council,

Invasive Non-native Species Action Plan

Project 1

Continue Japanese Knotweed (and giant hogweed) control programmes on the river systems.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Invasive species	Forth Rivers Trust, River Avon Federation, CATCA, Falkirk Council, Angling clubs

Project 2

Treat Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on Council owned land.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace	Invasive species	Falkirk Council

Project 3

Continue control of sea buckthorn at Bo'ness.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland (meadow), estuary	Invasive species	Falkirk Council, Friends of Kinneil (foreshore group)

Project 4

Encourage the treatment of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed on privately owned land.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum members

Project 5

Assess the scale of Himalayan balsam and Rhododendron Ponticum growth in Wildlife sites and SINC's (focusing initially on council owned sites). Identify sites where control of these species would be feasible.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, rivers and streams, woodland	Invasive species	Falkirk Council, Falkirk Invasive Species Forum members

Project 6

Continue mink monitoring and control on the River Avon.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Mink	River Avon Federation, Slamannan Angling and Protective Association, Forth Rivers Trust

Project 7

Provide and update information about invasive non-native species on the Council website.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk Council

Project 8

Identify the most likely new invasive non-native species that might spread to this area. Highlight these to those people best placed to spot and report their presence quickly.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum

Project 9

Promote national awareness campaigns such as 'plant wise' and 'check, clean, dry'.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum

Project 10

Encourage reporting of invasive non-native species by volunteer path wardens and other volunteer groups.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum

Project 11

Promote the control of invasive non-native species which currently occur in relatively few locations but which have a high risk of becoming widespread and more costly to control in the future.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk invasive species forum

Project 12

Do a pilot project to control Himalayan Balsam on one tributary or small burn.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Invasive species	Falkirk invasive species forum

** This section gives an indication of the organisation(s) likely to be involved in delivering each action. However it will be added to or altered during consultation and as the projects develop.*

aspirational project summary Tables

Estuary Action Plan

Project 1

Promote biological recording at important estuary sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, mudflats, saline lagoons, saltmarsh	Estuarine species	Falkirk Council, Inner Forth Futures

Project 2

Monitor invasive species in estuarine habitats and take action to control them.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, mudflats, saline lagoons, saltmarsh	Estuarine species	Falkirk Council, Forth Rivers Trust

Project 3

Promote monitoring of nurdles (and other plastics) along the shoreline, with associated awareness raising campaigns and litter picks.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary, mudflats, saltmarsh	Estuarine species	

Project 4

Reduce the use of disposable/one-use plastics within Falkirk Council and other partner organisations, to help combat marine pollution by plastics.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Estuary	Estuarine species	Falkirk Council

Farmland & Grassland Action Plan

Project 1

Farm ponds & wetlands project -creating a network of farmland ponds and wetlands.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Ponds (standing water)	Amphibians	

Project 2

A pilot project to safeguard and enhance wildlife road verges, including provision of advice on road verge management to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral Grassland, lowland acidic grassland, boundary features		Falkirk Council, Plantlife Scotland

Project 3

Monitor, influence and promote agri-environment schemes where possible.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Grassland, heath, bog, boundary features, standing water, fen, marsh and swamp, woodland		

Project 4

Identify previously recorded Whorled caraway, Annual knawel, Purple ramping-fumitory and Moonwort sites and survey to see if the plants are still present.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Whorled caraway, Annual knawel, Purple ramping fumitory, Moonwort	Plantlife Scotland

Project 5

Promote work on golf courses to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Grassland, boundary features, woodland, standing water, fen, marsh and swamp.		Falkirk Council

Project 6

Review the condition of non-council owned grassland SINCs and Wildlife Sites and promote beneficial management where possible.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland, Acidic lowland grassland.		Falkirk Council

Heath & Bog Action Plan

Project 1

Monitor the use of Letham moss and Gardrum Moss to identify opportunities for restoration and enhancement if possible.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Raised bog	Bog species	Falkirk Council

Project 2

Do reptile surveys at appropriate bog and heath sites, and identify any actions needed to protect or benefit reptiles.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Heath and bog	Reptiles (adder, slow worm and lizard)	Falkirk Council, Buglife

Project 3

Explore potential for enhancement at Dunmore Moss by trying to make contact with the landowner.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Raised bog	Bog species	Falkirk Council

Project 4

Extend the action to cease peat use to other partner organisations, as appropriate.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Raised bog	Bog species	

Project 5

Establish the historical location(s) of *Lepidozia pearsonii* and survey to determine if it is still present.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Heath and bog	<i>Lepidozia pearsonii</i>	Plantlife Scotland

Water & wetlands Action Plan

Project 1

Riparian tree planting project (identify opportunities for riparian tree planting and implement tree planting projects).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers & streams, woodland	Woodland and aquatic species	Falkirk Council, Forth Rivers Trust

Project 2

Explore natural flood management opportunities.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams, woodland	Woodland and aquatic species	Falkirk Council, Forth Rivers Trust

Project 3

Identify any particularly poor quality burns (especially within the urban area) and develop enhancement projects.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Aquatic species	Falkirk Council, SEPA

Project 4

Develop a project to de-channelise the Culloch Burn through Slamannan, delivering channel enhancement and natural flood management benefits.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	Salmon, sea trout	Falkirk Council, Forth Rivers Trust, SEPA

Project 5

Do a de-culverting project, should an appropriate opportunity arise. Use this as a demonstration site to promote other local de-culverting projects.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Rivers and streams	All river and stream species	Falkirk Council

Woodland Action Plan

Project 1

Veteran trees project: Identification of our most valued veteran trees. Followed by wildlife surveys of the trees and planting of 'veteran trees of the future' nearby.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Parkland, woodland		Falkirk Council

Project 2

Try to identify the historical location(s) of plagiocilia spinulosa and hay-scented buckler fern and survey to see if they are still present.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Woodland	Plagiocilia spinulosa, hayscented buckler fern	Plantlife Scotland

Project 3

Do bat box schemes at at least 5 suitable sites (including provision of materials and support for community groups to make and erect boxes).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bats	Falkirk Council

Urban Action Plan

Project 1

Develop a House sparrow nest box project

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace	House sparrow	Falkirk Council

Project 2

Do a pilot project to manage road verges, roundabouts etc. to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral Grassland, lowland acidic grassland, boundary features	Pollinating insects	Plantlife Scotland

Project 3

Improve greenspace in housing association and council housing areas to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council, CSGNT

Project 4

Provide a section in Council building maintenance manuals covering wildlife opportunities and protection.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council

Project 5

Assess the potential for green roofs on council buildings as buildings come up for maintenance review.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, grassland, Open mosaic habitat		Falkirk Council

Project 6

Develop a Rain Gardens project.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace, gardens		CSGNT

Project 7

Do surveys for swifts in known or suspected nesting areas and promote public reporting of sightings.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace	Swifts	

Project 8

Promote work on golf courses to benefit wildlife.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Grassland, boundary features, woodland, standing water, fen, marsh and swamp.		Falkirk Council

Project 9

Do bat box schemes at at least 5 suitable sites (including provision of materials and support for community groups to make and erect boxes).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bats	Falkirk Council

Bean Goose Plan

Project 1

Influence forthcoming agri-environment schemes to try to ensure that they deliver beneficial outcomes for the bean goose flock and support landowners with fields used by the bean geese.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland, heath and bogs	Bean geese	Bean Goose Action Group

Project 2

Secure funding for a research trip to the Bean Goose breeding grounds by one or more of the monitoring officer(s).

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Bean geese	Bean Goose Action Group

People & Wildlife Plan

Project 1

Promote outdoor/wild play and discovery, signposting a number of key wild play sites or opportunities and holding several wild play/discovery events. (Potentially focused along the John Muir Way.)

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council, CSGNT

Project 2

Develop a network of Outdoor Learning Sites around the Council area.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Urban greenspace		Falkirk Council

Project 3

'Summer of...' project: Promoting a different habitat or group of species each summer.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	All	Falkirk Council

Invasive Non-native Species Plan

Project 1

Contact other relevant landowners (Scottish Water, Network Rail, Amey etc...) to encourage control of invasive non-native species.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
All	Invasive species	Falkirk Invasive Species Forum

Project 2

Undertake control of Himalayan Balsam at several sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
	Invasive species	Falkirk Council, Forth Rivers Trust

Project 3

Undertake control of Rhododendron Ponticum at several sites.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Woodland	Invasive species	Falkirk Council

Project 4

Gradually replace the Sea Buckthorn along the foreshore at Bo'ness with more suitable species.

Target habitat(s)	Target species	Potential delivery partners*
Neutral grassland, meadow, estuary		Falkirk Council, TCV

** This section will give an indication of the organisation(s) likely to be involved in delivering each action. It will be added to as specific projects develop.*

priority Habitat list

Estuary

Local Priority Habitat	UK priority habitats included
Estuary	-
Mudflats	Intertidal mudflats
Saline Lagoons	Saline lagoons
Saltmarsh	Coastal saltmarsh

Farmland and Grassland

Local Priority Habitat	UK priority habitats included
Arable	Arable Field Margins
Boundary Features	Hedgerows
Lowland, dry, acidic grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
Neutral Grassland	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Heath and Bog

Local Priority Habitat	UK priority habitats included
Heath	Lowland Heathland
Lowland raised and intermediate bogs	Upland Heathland
	Lowland Raised Bog

Inland water and wetland

Local Priority Habitat	UK priority habitats included
Canals	-
Fen, marsh and swamp	Lowland Fens
	Reedbeds
	Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps
Rivers and Streams	Rivers
Standing open water	Eutrophic Standing Waters
	Ponds

Urban

Local Priority Habitat	UK priority habitats included
Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (including Bings)	Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land
Gardens	
Urban Greenspace	
Urban wildlife corridors	

Woodland

Local Priority Habitat	UK priority habitats included
Broadleaved and mixed woodland	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
	Upland Mixed Ashwoods
	Upland Oakwood
	Wet Woodland
Wood pasture and parkland	Wood-Pasture & Parkland



priority species list

This list shows the local priority species for the Falkirk area and the main Habitat Plan(s) they are associated with.

Mammals

Common name	Action Plan(s)	Species status*	
Badger	Woodland		S
Brown hare	Farmland & grassland	UK	S
Brown long-eared bat	Woodland / Urban	UK	S
European otter	Inland water & wetland	UK	S
Hedgehog	Urban / Woodland	UK	
Pine Marten	Woodland	UK	S
Soprano Pipistrelle bat	Woodland / Urban	UK	S
Water vole	Inland water & wetlands	UK	S

Birds

Common name	Action Plan(s)	Species status*	
Barn owl	Farmland & grassland		S
Bean goose	Farmland & grassland		S
Black grouse	Heath & bog	UK	S
Black-tailed godwit	Estuary	UK	S
Bullfinch	Woodland	UK	S
Common tern	Estuary		S
Cuckoo	Woodland	UK	
Curlew	Farmland & grassland	UK	S
Dipper	Inland water & wetland		
Dunlin	Estuary		S
Golden Plover	Estuary		S
Grasshopper warbler	Farmland & grassland / Heath & bog	UK	
Great crested grebe	Estuary		
Green woodpecker	Woodland		
Grey partridge	Farmland & grassland	UK	S
Greylag goose	Estuary		
Hen harrier	Heath & bog		S
House Sparrow	Urban	UK	

Kestrel	Urban / Farmland & grassland		S
Kingfisher	Inland water & wetland		S
Knot	Estuary		
Lapwing	Farmland & grassland	UK	S
Lesser redpoll	Woodland	UK	
Linnet	Farmland & grassland	UK	S
Merlin	Heath & bog		S
Pink-footed goose	Estuary		
Pintail	Estuary		
Red-breasted merganser	Estuary		
Redshank	Estuary		
Reed bunting	Inland water & wetland	UK	S
Sand martin	Urban / Inland water & wetland		
Sedge warbler	Inland water & wetland		
Shelduck	Estuary		
Short-eared owl	Heath & bog		S
Skylark	Farmland & grassland	UK	S
Snipe	Farmland & grassland / Heath & bog		
Song thrush	Urban / Woodland	UK	S
Spotted flycatcher	Woodland	UK	S
Starling	Urban / Woodland	UK	
Swallow	Farmland & grassland		
Swift	Urban		S
Teal	Estuary		
Tree pipit	Woodland	UK	
Tree sparrow	Farmland & grassland	UK	
Twite	Heath & bog	UK	
Water rail	Inland water & wetland		
Wood warbler	Woodland	UK	S
Woodcock	Woodland		S
Yellowhammer	Farmland & grassland	UK	

Amphibians, reptiles and fish

Common name	Action Plan(s)	Species status*		
Common frog	Inland water & wetland			
Common toad	Inland water & wetland	UK		
Great crested newt	Inland water & wetland	UK	S	
Palmate newt	Inland water & wetland			
Smooth newt	Inland water & wetland			
Adder	Heath & bog	UK		
Common Lizard	Heath & bog	UK		
Slow worm	Heath & bog	UK		
Atlantic salmon	Inland water & wetland	UK	S	
Brook lamprey	Inland water & wetland		S	
European Eel	Inland water & wetland	UK		
River lamprey	Inland water & wetland	UK	S	
Sea/Brown trout	Inland water & wetland	UK		
Sparling (smelt)	Estuary	UK	S	
Twaite shad	Estuary	UK	S	

Invertebrates

Common name	Action Plan(s)	Species status*		
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	Woodland	UK		
Green hairstreak butterfly	Heath & bog			
Large heath butterfly	Heath & bog	UK		
A Mud snail	Inland water & wetland	UK	S	
Common blue butterfly	Farmland & grassland			
Swordgrass moth	Farmland & grassland	UK	S	

Flowering Plants

Common name	Action Plan(s)	Species status*		
Annual Knawel	Farmland & grassland	UK	S	
Bennett's pondweed	Inland water & wetland			
Bluebell	Woodland		S	
Dune helleborine	Urban			
Field scabious	Farmland & grassland			I
Grass of Parnassus	Inland water & wetland			
Greater butterfly orchid	Farmland & grassland		S	
Harebell	Farmland & grassland		S	
Ivy-leaved water crowfoot	Inland water & wetland			
Lesser Butterfly Orchid	Farmland & grassland	UK	S	
Ox-eye daisy	Urban / Farmland & grassland			I
Purple rampion	Farmland & grassland	UK	S	
Ragged robin	Inland water & wetland			I
Round-leaved Sundew	Heath & bog			I
Smooth cats-ear	Farmland & grassland		S	
Tufted loosestrife	Inland water & wetland			
Whorled caraway	Farmland & grassland			
Wych elm	Woodland			
Young's helleborine	Urban			

Ferns and lower plants

Common name	Action Plan(s)	Species status*		
Hay scented buckler fern	Woodland			
A liverwort (Plagiochilia spinulosa)	Woodland			
Moonwort	Farmland & grassland			
Pillwort	Inland water & wetland		S	
A liverwort (Lepidozia pearsonii)	Heath & bog			

*Species status key
UK - UKBAP priority species
S - Species on the Scottish Biodiversity List

I - Indicator species (Used to help indicate the presence and/or ecological health of a specific priority habitat)



Falkirk Council