

Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2024



Renfrewshire
Council

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Images kindly provided by members of the
Renfrewshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Steering Group.

Introduction

This is the second Biodiversity Action Plan for Renfrewshire and replaces the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2022. The plan has been produced in partnership with a range of local biodiversity organisations and reflects a shared vision for enhanced biodiversity across Renfrewshire.

The plan sets out a positive and ambitious approach to biodiversity conservation and promotion. A continued commitment to partnership working and increased community involvement will be key if successful outcomes for biodiversity are to be achieved and delivered.



Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy 2045: Tackling the Climate Challenge

A key element of this plan is integration between the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan and Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy to 2045: Tackling the Climate Challenge.

This is to ensure that resources deployed locally are aligned to national priorities and thereby maximise opportunities for external funding support from national agencies. All of Renfrewshire's priority habitats are included on the current Scottish Biodiversity List and categorised in the top priority as "conservation action needed".

Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 continues to place emphasis on both an ecosystem approach and landscape scale operations to promote biodiversity with an aim of reversing biodiversity decline.

The Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan embraces these principles and provides a framework to support organisations involved in promoting biodiversity in Renfrewshire to deliver landscape scale projects where opportunities arise.

Renfrewshire's biodiversity baseline sits at a relatively modest level in comparison to many other parts of Scotland with biodiversity-rich habitats and ecosystems tending to be held within small, isolated and dispersed sites, especially in the lowlands, where intensive human activities have had a significant impact.

Key actions in the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan aim to safeguard and enhance these sites, improving links between them via nature networks, harnessing resources before embarking on more ambitious initiatives.

Biodiversity Conservation Approach in Renfrewshire

The Renfrewshire Biodiversity Partners' approach in this Action Plan is to conserve current biodiversity and capacity and where possible support enhancement. Over the period of the 2018-2022 Action Plan there were encouraging signs that a growing awareness of the importance of biodiversity in Renfrewshire is having a positive impact on the ground.

Biodiversity is now embedded in national policy frameworks and the policy documents of Biodiversity Partners, a key consideration in the delivery of actions and projects. Several community-led initiatives have also undertaken projects to enhance local environments in and around Renfrewshire's settlements.

The Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for opportunities to "join up" these pockets of activity into nature networks and to coordinate how they benefit biodiversity for the wider communities of Renfrewshire.

Policy Framework

A policy framework to support biodiversity is embedded at national, regional and local levels through Scotland's National Planning Framework, the Central Scotland Green Network and Local Development Plan.

The Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) adopts policies which safeguard and enhance biodiversity, placing a strong emphasis on nature recovery and restoration as part of a wider response to climate change.

NPF4 also retains the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) as a National Development. The CSGN seeks to achieve a fundamental transformation across 19 local authority areas in terms of environmental improvements, economic benefits and enriched quality of life.

The vision of the CSGN is to transform central Scotland into a place where the environment adds value to the economy, and where people's lives are enriched by the environment's quality. It seeks to restore nature at scale and act as an exemplar of green infrastructure in placemaking, provide multiple benefits for health, biodiversity and supporting adaptation to climate change.

As the Central Scotland Green Network is a National Development, it brings with it the possibility of additional resources for biodiversity projects. Its importance is reflected in this document in which habitat actions and broader landscape scale projects have been brought together under a Green Networks chapter.

The Green Networks chapter also reflects the importance of the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership which champions greenspace initiatives across eight local authority areas in the Glasgow City Region.

As well as adopting policies which safeguard and enhance biodiversity, the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan places a strong emphasis on developing and reinforcing local green networks as an integral part of its Place Strategy by identifying and mapping strategic green network opportunities.

Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero also has a strong focus on optimising biodiversity to enhance Renfrewshire's natural environment, particularly through the use of nature based solutions to help address the impacts of climate change, while connecting people and nature.

There is a growing appreciation of the role geodiversity plays in underpinning biodiversity conservation, supporting landscape-scale conservation and providing ecosystem services. Geodiversity itself is subject to degradation or loss and is therefore also the subject of conservation initiatives. This has been emphasised in Scotland's Geodiversity Charter, which was launched by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change in June 2012 and relaunched in November 2017. The Charter has over 50 signatories across organisations including local authorities, government agencies, industry and higher education.

Renfrewshire's Biodiversity Action Plan—Lessons Learned

One of the lessons learned from the Biodiversity Action Plan process in Renfrewshire is that the initiatives which made the greatest positive progress were those with local champions to take the required work forward and inspire others to become involved in conservation actions.

It is also recognised that health restrictions associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic had a significant impact upon biodiversity activities, particularly where this involved face to face educational and awareness raising work.

In view of this, the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2024 incorporates a series of species and actions within the “People Power” chapters, to support and grow local biodiversity expertise and enthusiasm.





Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan's Vision for 2045: Renfrewshire Renewed Naturally

By 2045 Renfrewshire will have a species-rich system of green and blue networks from the uplands of the Renfrewshire Heights to the tidal waters of the Clyde estuary. It will contain environments abundant in wildlife which make the area more resilient to the effects of climate change and benefit physical and mental health by providing opportunities to experience nature locally.

Delivering the 2045 Vision

Seven key principles will steer delivery of the vision for 2045. These are summarised under the headings below, recognising that some are interlinked.

1 Climate Change

Actions developed and delivered by the biodiversity partners will help Renfrewshire's characteristic habitats and species to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Actions in relation to the suite of designated sites (local and national) will aim to support improved connections and management, protecting species against climate change where possible, and allowing them to adapt through moving to new areas. Reflecting national policy guidance, the development of nature networks across Renfrewshire will be a key focus.

Geodiversity often responds dynamically to climate change, and these responses may affect the survival, extent or ground conditions of local ecosystems. Careful consideration of geodiversity may help in the identification of suitable corridors through which species might adapt and move.

The creation of habitats providing important ecosystem services, such as carbon storage or flood mitigation, will be supported (such as through Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) or by restoration in some cases, (such as Renfrewshire's peatland habitats). The maintenance of other intact habitats and their enhancement will also be supported. Native woodland and wetlands are particularly important for these purposes and their roles should be recognised through appropriate conservation management.

2 Landscape Scale Conservation (Ecosystem Approach)

There are a number of opportunities in Renfrewshire for organisations from all sectors to work together to improve the economy, environment and social opportunities across areas by focusing on biodiversity and geodiversity targets as the impetus for cohesive action. This could include the Renfrewshire Heights or within some of the river valleys in which a catchment wide approach could reap dividends for all sectors.

These clusters sometimes follow watercourses or line the steeper slopes of hill ridges. Adopting the principle of better linkages between these sites, in line with Nature Network aims, should reduce habitat fragmentation and allow key species to distribute to other areas.



3 Designated Sites

An examination of the spatial distribution of designated sites in Renfrewshire shows that there are already clusters or linear series of sites which have been recognised as being of at least local significance for biodiversity.

The Biodiversity partners aim to safeguard and expand these designated sites, supporting the formation of nodes within more connected nature networks, thereby helping to enhance local habitats and species.

Some designated sites also have geodiversity value, so improved recording of both elements of the local ecosystem will be encouraged, along with evaluation of the significance of inter-relationships between the rock, soil substrate and biodiversity.

4 Invasive Non Native Species

It is important that biodiversity partners continue to contribute to research regarding Invasive Non-Native Species and participate in coordinated control action where appropriate, including liaison with organisations in neighbouring areas and in regional and national forums. In addition, where opportunities arise, individual Invasive Non-Native Species will be tackled as part of the implementation of comprehensive

habitat management plans for individual sites. Vigilance and biosecurity will be required when any management activities are planned or implemented on any sites with biodiversity importance, especially watercourses.

5 People and Partnership

Experiencing nature brings tangible benefits for health and mental well-being. Therefore, a diverse biodiversity should play a fundamental role in the wellbeing of communities and the health of the economy throughout Renfrewshire. People and communities will be encouraged to become more involved in maintaining local biodiversity, contributing directly through voluntary conservation activities like ground works, recording species groups and monitoring sites.

6 Education

Supporting the People and Partnership principle, opportunities will be pursued to continue to invest in local programmes to raise public awareness of Renfrewshire's biodiversity and its relevance to our communities. Information about biodiversity will be readily available on a variety of platforms so that it is accessible to children, families, students, researchers, land managers, consultants and developers.

7 Knowledge

Biodiversity partners will consider and progress opportunities to improve the collection, storage, processing and dissemination of scientific information about Renfrewshire's biodiversity. This knowledge flow is needed to ensure appropriate development, land management and conservation action - including the identification of situations in which more research is required before decisions can be made.

The Better Biodiversity Data Project for Scotland provides an important opportunity to support knowledge generation and sharing which aligns with the aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Opportunities will be taken to liaise with the National Biodiversity Network Trust to ensure that Renfrewshire's biodiversity is fully recognised and that mechanisms for addressing data gaps in innovative ways are explored.



Action plans

The People Power Priority

Continuing to increase the involvement of people is essential for the future conservation of Renfrewshire's biodiversity. Some of the more notable successes arising from previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans were the result of efforts by community groups and local specialists working to conserve and promote biodiversity interests. Therefore many of the actions within Renfrewshire's Biodiversity Action Plan seek to encourage and support the engagement of more specialists and enthusiastic community groups to drive the plan forward and enable actions to be delivered.

This Biodiversity Action Plan places people at the forefront of actions, designed to assist delivery of the Scottish Government vision for tackling the biodiversity emergency. The following actions are designed to stimulate and sustain increased involvement by people in conserving Renfrewshire's biodiversity resources.

The chapter is divided into two parts, the first covering general or area-wide initiatives and the second highlighting those biodiversity rich sites which have onsite staff or other people who can provide very practical and hands-on experiences.



People Power: Communication and Engagement

Actions identified in the following table promote biodiversity and provide a framework for engaging people more effectively in biodiversity work. As part of this, it is recognised that people's interest in biodiversity conservation issues is more generally linked to individual species than the broader concept of habitats.

Therefore a range of actions are designed to conserve individual species, where it is clear that people power will generate positive outcomes across broader habitat areas.

People Power: Communication and Engagement Action plan

Action No.	Benefits and/or beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PP01	Communication and engagement	Evaluate role of Local Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group in taking forward biodiversity initiatives in Renfrewshire.	LBAPSG	High
PP02	Communication and engagement	Develop Paisley Museum public programming, as part of the Paisley Museum Reimagined project, to raise awareness of biodiversity and conservation initiatives.	OneRen / Paisley Museum	High
PP03	Communication and engagement	Support local biodiversity groups and enthusiasts to undertake wildlife surveys in publicly accessible sites in Renfrewshire's towns and villages to highlight the potential importance of urban areas for biodiversity and to engage local communities.	LBAPSG	Medium
PP04	Communication and engagement	Support volunteers monitoring Renfrewshire's plants (particularly those species shown in Appendix 2) and to develop conservation initiatives to prevent decline of plant species.	Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland	High
PP05	Communication and engagement	Encourage volunteers to monitor Renfrewshire's birds (as shown in Appendix 3), and to develop conservation initiatives which aim to reverse decline of bird species.	Scottish Ornithologists Club (SOC) Clyde Branch	High
PP06	Communication and engagement	Establishment of a Clyde Branch Discussion Group to coordinate local inputs, bring together current recorders, experienced bird watchers and beginners for peer-to-peer education. Set up and manage a mentoring system to help inexperienced bird watchers gain species identification skills.	SOC Clyde Branch	High
PP07	Communication and engagement	Continuation of volunteers monitoring Renfrewshire's butterflies and drafting conservation proposals where required. Priority species will include Green Hairstreak, Purple Hairstreak, Common Blue, Small Copper, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Large Heath and Small Heath.	Butterfly Conservation Scotland	High

People Power: Communication and Engagement Action plan (continued)

Action No.	Benefits and/or beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PP08	Communication and engagement	Continue to deliver the “Clyde in the Classroom” and “Flying Fish” projects, taking school children out in the field to visit and study their local river or burn and introducing school pupils to the life cycle of the native Brown Trout and its conservation needs.	Clyde River Foundation	High
PP09	Communication and engagement	Working alongside local partners like the Yearnstane Project and the Friends of Clyde Muirshiel, use native tree planting and woodland conservation projects to increase the numbers of people actively engaged in practical biodiversity projects in Renfrewshire.	Eadha Enterprises	High
PP10	Communication and engagement	Support volunteers monitoring Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park’s biodiversity resources and to draft, develop and implement proposals for conservation initiatives which aim to reverse declines at a landscape scale.	Friends of Clyde Muirshiel	High
PP11	Communication and engagement	Use various surveys and channels to identify and map places where Swifts nest in Renfrewshire. Investigate opportunities for Swift conservation projects in Renfrewshire, in line with SNH’s 2017 Swift Best Practice Advice Note and the Concern for Swifts (Scotland) website.	Concern for Swifts	High
PP12	Communication and engagement	Monitor birds through ringing and deliver events to the public, a schools’ programme and involve students with research through universities.	Clyde Ringing Group	High
PP13	Communication and engagement	Continue to offer biodiversity audits and biodiversity enhancements to Renfrewshire schools.	Starling Learning	Medium

People Power: Communication and Engagement Action plan (continued)

Action No.	Benefits and/or beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PP14	Communication and engagement	Encourage and support volunteers monitoring plants, butterflies, birds, amphibians and other wildlife in collaboration with other organisations. Promote conservation activities and events through meetings, website and social media and encourage participation.	Paisley Natural History Society	High
PP15	Communication and engagement	Promote conservation gardening activities and events through meetings, shows and other public events to encourage participation by individual gardeners.	Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club,	High
PP16	Communication and engagement	Organise face-to-face and online training and networking opportunities based around national biodiversity conservation priorities, providing advice to local organisations on national funding schemes such the Nature Restoration Fund.	NatureScot	High
PP17	Communication and engagement	Provide low cost, nesting, roosting and habitat boxes, plus planters and other garden structures for community greenspace projects.	Renfrewshire Wildlife	High
PP18	Communication and engagement	Guide local support for the Better Biodiversity Data Project to develop the first steps in a strategic approach to the collection, collation and sharing of biological data across Scotland.	National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust	Medium
PP19	Communication and engagement	Implementation of the Swift and Barn Owl artificial nest box projects in Lochwinnoch.	Lochwinnoch Force for Nature	High



People Power: Managed Sites

There are a number of sites in Renfrewshire which are managed predominantly or partially for biodiversity conservation. These provide opportunities to communicate with local people and encourage them to become involved directly in conserving Renfrewshire's biodiversity. These opportunities are highlighted in the following table.

People Power: Managed Sites Action Plan

Action No.	Benefits and/or beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Potential
PP20	Managed site users	Continue to support local community organisations playing an active role in biodiversity conservation, for example in their funding bids for projects which support the Biodiversity Action Plan.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PP21	Managed site users	Continue to encourage the formation and activities of Friends groups covering Renfrewshire's parks, local nature reserves and other publicly managed greenspaces and support their efforts to enhance biodiversity.	Renfrewshire Council	Medium
PP22	Managed site users	Provide facilities and services at Gleniffer Braes Country Park and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park to encourage local community engagement in biodiversity conservation, including continuing to deploy staff to supervise groups of volunteers carrying out biodiversity conservation work in priority habitats.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PP23	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Provide facilities and services at Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve to encourage local community engagement in biodiversity conservation, including continuing to deploy staff to supervise groups of volunteers carrying out biodiversity conservation work in priority habitats.	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	High
PP24	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Ensure people have access to Glen Moss Wildlife Reserve to engage with biodiversity, including, where resources allow, supporting volunteers to carry out monitoring, biodiversity conservation and access work on all habitats.	Scottish Wildlife Trust	High
PP25	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Continue to recruit, train and retain volunteer Wildlife Champions for the National Cycle Network through the Greener Greenways project.	Sustrans	High

People Power: Managed Sites Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Benefits and/ or beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Potential
PP26	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Provide facilities and services at Boden Boo, Erskine, Johnstone Woods, Windyhill, Howwood Community Woodland and Knockmountain, to encourage local community engagement in biodiversity conservation, including continuing to deploy staff to supervise groups of volunteers carrying out biodiversity conservation work in priority habitats.	Forestry & Land Scotland	High
PP27	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Provide facilities and services at Finlaystone Country Estate to encourage local community engagement in biodiversity conservation, including continuing to deploy staff to supervise groups of volunteers carrying out biodiversity conservation work in priority habitats.	Finlaystone Country Estate	Medium
PP28	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Continue to ensure Lesser Whitethroat research, habitat management and monitoring work can continue at Brownside Braes within Gleniffer Braes Country Park.	Paisley Natural History Society	High
PP29	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Communicate widely the biodiversity benefits, community capacity and health promotion gains associated with community growing.	Renfrewshire Council	Medium
PP30	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Support opportunities to increase the number of allotment and community growing sites/ plots in Renfrewshire and encourage the lease of appropriate sites to engaged communities, in line with the Community Empowerment Act and as a key step in the process of reconnecting people with nature.	Renfrewshire Council	Medium
PP31	Managed Biodiversity Site Users	Focus on Jenny's Well Local Nature Reserve for educational activities providing volunteering opportunities and generally improving access to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation.	Friends of Jenny's Well	High

Geodiversity

Biodiversity is fundamentally linked to underlying geological features. Geodiversity is a term abbreviated from geological diversity and encompasses rocks, minerals, fossils, soils, sediments, landforms and associated processes, all of which are the foundation for habitats, niches, and ultimately biodiversity.

Previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans have included a general description of the area's geodiversity resources and summarised how the geological framework had led to the formation of today's landscapes and their habitats.

It is recognised that there are links and opportunities for complementary actions which could benefit both geological and biological processes.

One key example of where biodiversity is closely linked with geodiversity is in soil, which comprises a mixture of components derived from both geological and biological processes.

The varying nature of this and other combinations between geology and biology has presented us with a diversity of landscapes, habitats, niches and species.



It is recognised that geodiversity conservation must be a key part of biodiversity conservation. There is therefore the need to have a better understanding of the geodiversity resources in Renfrewshire.

Renfrewshire's rolling hills and valleys have been extensively extracted for mineral resources in the past. Historic maps show quarries and other mineral excavations dotted across the landscape, but the current significance of surviving relicts has not been evaluated. They have the potential to become valuable resources for public education and interpretation.

Similarly, Renfrewshire's glacial history means that some watercourses flow through spectacular gorges as a result of natural excavation processes, where sequences of rock strata have been exposed. One of these sequences, the River Gryfe between Bridge of Weir and Crosslee, is of national importance.

In other places water has been held back by impermeable rocks and superficial deposits. The water has filled hollows formed during the last Ice Age, allowing the development of shallow lochs and deep layers of peat bearing distinctive blanket bog and raised bog habitats. These accumulations of dead organic matter represent both important geodiversity and biodiversity conservation resources.

A small number of actions in relation to geodiversity are set out below. These reflect resources available from partner organisations and highlight key actions which will support geodiversity conservation in Renfrewshire as an important element of this plan.

Geodiversity Action Plan

Action No.	Benefits and beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Priority
GD1	Geodiversity	Compile a schedule of locally important geodiversity sites in Renfrewshire, with summary descriptions produced for each location.	Strathclyde Geoconservation	High
GD2	Geodiversity	Review requirements for promoting geodiversity in Renfrewshire through publications (online and other media).	Strathclyde Geoconservation	High
GD3	Geodiversity	Devise programmes to recruit local volunteers to support geodiversity conservation.	Strathclyde Geoconservation	High

Green Networks

Integration of environmental issues with social considerations, economic regeneration and health in a coordinated manner is a key consideration in this Action Plan.

Generally, the Plan identifies actions supporting the development of Green Network principles, in which biodiversity and geodiversity are considered alongside access, active travel, healthy living, community growing, flood control, air quality, climate change adaptation and other quality of life issues. This holistic approach maximises the opportunities for action, diversifies delivery mechanisms and assists access to resources.

In particular, this integrated, multiple benefits approach reflects the 'Nature Network' principles which underpin Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy to 2045. The strategy identifies five key strategic actions:

1. Accelerate restoration and regeneration;
2. Expand and connect protected areas and improve their condition;
3. Support nature-friendly farming, fishing and forestry;
4. Recover and protect vulnerable and important species;
5. Generate the investment needed to support nature recovery.

The actions and initiatives being undertaken in Renfrewshire to align with the approach of the 2045 strategy are summarised in the following table.



Green Networks Action Plan

Action No.	Benefits and beneficiaries	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
NN01	Designated sites in Renfrewshire	Review the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation network across Renfrewshire, resurveying and reassessing sites as required and evaluating candidate sites suggested for addition to the schedule.	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN02	Designated sites in Renfrewshire	In relation to designated sites, ensure opportunities to maximise gains for biodiversity are identified, supported, and implemented as part of statutory functions, including the new requirements for Councils to define nature networks. At the same time, seek opportunities to integrate geodiversity, create new habitats, enhance habitats, and form nature networks linking areas rich in biodiversity.	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN03	Designated sites in Renfrewshire	Explore opportunities for managed realignment on the Inner Clyde SPA.	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Medium
NN04	Designated sites in Renfrewshire	Explore the effects of recreational disturbance on the Inner Clyde SPA and methods to reduce this.	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Medium
NN05	Designated sites in Renfrewshire	Enhance habitats to encourage the return of a breeding population of Hen Harriers in the Renfrewshire Heights SPA, including community engagement work and building stakeholder support.	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN06	Nature Network Enhancement	Develop a Green Network Strategy and Nature Network for Renfrewshire, to align with principles of NPF4 and Scottish Government's "Biodiversity Strategy to 2045".	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN07	Nature Network Enhancement	Develop and deliver the Greener Greenways Project in Renfrewshire, creating and enriching corridors for wildlife along the National Cycle Network, particularly creating priority habitats, e.g., ponds, lowland fens, wet woodland.	Sustrans	Medium

Green Networks Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Benefits and beneficiaries	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
NN08	Nature Network Enhancement	Assist the creation of community gardens, allotments and other food growing opportunities in support of community aspirations in various locations across Renfrewshire, whilst reinforcing nature networks in urban areas.	Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum	Medium
NN09	Nature Network Enhancement	Develop a Forestry & Woodland Strategy – reflecting the previous strategy for Glasgow & Clyde Valley area – in accordance with NPF4.	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN10	Nature Network Enhancement	Identify, promote, and carry out greening of sites in line with Renfrewshire Council’s Vacant & Derelict Land Strategy, in partnership with community organisations.	Renfrewshire Council	Medium
NN11	Nature Network Enhancement	Implement current and future phases of the “Biodiversity Areas” Project https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/86b7ab224cce402f8e3fa2434c0ac4	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN12	Nature Network Enhancement	Participate in the Clyde Climate Forest initiative, concentrating initially on the urban priority areas identified by CCF canopy analysis research – Foxbar and Ferguslie Park.	Renfrewshire Council	High
NN13	Nature Network Enhancement	Support the efforts of community organisations to create or enhance biodiversity rich habitats within existing publicly accessible greenspaces.	Renfrewshire Council	High

Green Networks Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Benefits and beneficiaries	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
NN14	Climate Change Resilience	Use climate change spatial analyses produced by Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and others to build a case for adaptation interventions which involve using new or enhanced natural habitat elements at specific localities and generally across Renfrewshire.	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership	Low
NN15	Climate Change Resilience	Review Biodiversity Action Plan, site management plans and other conservation strategies, plans and projects to ensure that: a) risks from adverse climate change have been identified, b) future changes in these pressures are assessed, c) that these are being explicitly addressed wherever possible incorporating adaptation measures, d) carbon capture within habitats is considered.	Renfrewshire Council	Low

Priority Habitats in Renfrewshire

In aiming to tailor the approach in Scotland’s Biodiversity Strategy 2045 to Renfrewshire, actions identified below have been aligned through focusing on habitats included on the Scottish Biodiversity List and prioritised as “Conservation Action Required”.

In future, the increased focus on Nature Networks may require closer alignment between priority habitats and more generalised nature network actions, as habitat fragmentation is a key concern for biodiversity conservation.

Priority Habitats Action Plan

Action No.	Site, topic or habitat type	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PH01	Habitats – Lowland Fens	Complete an inventory of lowland fen sites in Renfrewshire, including an assessment of their current conservation condition.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH02	Habitats–Lowland Fens	Ensure all good quality Lowland Fen sites are included within SINC.s.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH03	Habitats–Lowland Fens	Employ results of the Clyde Wetlands Project to extend and enhance network of Lowland Fen habitats in Renfrewshire.	GCVGNP	High
PH04	Habitats–Lowland Fens	Investigate opportunities for habitat enhancements at Paisley Moss LNR to control scrub invasion, drying out of the fen, etc.	Glasgow Airport	High
PH05	Habitats–Lowland Fens	Implementation of the Dargavel Burn SSSI Management Plan, in line with guidance from NatureScot.	Forestry & Land Scotland	High
PH06	Habitats–Lowland Fens	Implementation of the Glen Moss Management Plan, including measures to protect the lowland fen, such as controlling scrub and other actions as agreed through discussion with NatureScot.	Scottish Wildlife Trust	High
PH07	Habitats–Lowland Raised Bogs	Complete an inventory of lowland raised bog sites in Renfrewshire which are suitable for restoration projects through the Peatland Action Programme.	GCVGNP / NatureScot	High

Priority Habitats Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Site, topic or habitat type	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PH08	Habitats–Lowland Raised Bogs	Continue surveying for the presence of Large Heath butterflies on Lowland Raised Bog sites.	Butterfly Conservation Scotland	High
PH09	Habitats–Blanket Bogs	Explore opportunities to restore Sergeantlaw Moss (if landowners are supportive) through drain blocking and scrub control projects.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH10	Habitats–Blanket Bogs	Develop and present case for Barochan Moss to be restored as part of reclamation of ROF Bishopton and “community woodland park” attached to the new community of Dargavel.	BAE Systems	High
PH11	Habitats–Blanket Bogs	Implement the approved Muirshiel Country Park Woodland Management Plan 2016-2025, specifically the sections relating to the removal of invasive Sitka Spruce regeneration from deep peat areas.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH12	Habitats–Blanket Bogs	Implement the NatureScot Peatland Action recommended peat habitat restoration project at West Tandlemuir Farm.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH13	Habitats–Blanket Bogs	Continue developing (biodiversity focused) moorland restoration projects with appropriate partners for privately owned sections of the Renfrewshire Heights Special Protection Area.	GCVGNP / NatureScot	High
PH14	Habitats–Lowland Heathland	Continue restoration of juniper at the Cample Burn, Renfrewshire Heights.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH15	Habitats–Lowland Heathland	Complete an inventory of high-quality lowland heathland sites in Renfrewshire, ensuring best examples of lowland heathland are included within SINC.	Renfrewshire Council	High

Priority Habitats Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Site, topic or habitat type	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PH16	Habitats – Lowland Meadows	Ensure best examples of lowland meadow sites in Renfrewshire are included within SINCs.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH17	Habitats – Lowland Meadows	Devise strategy for affording protection and positive management for best examples of lowland meadow sites.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH18	Habitats–Lowland Meadows	Employ results of the Clyde Grasslands Project to extend and enhance network of high-quality Lowland Meadow habitats in Renfrewshire.	GCVGNP	High
PH19	Habitats–Lowland Meadows	Update inventory of Greater Butterfly Orchid locations in Renfrewshire, including appeal for information about the presence of the species, as a good indicator of quality grassland habitats and a Scottish Biodiversity List species categorised as “conservation action required”.	Renfrewshire Wildlife	High
PH20	Habitats–Lowland Meadows	Ensure that sites which are discovered to hold significant Greater Butterfly Orchids colonies during field surveys are covered by SINCs or afforded protection by other means.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH21	Habitats–Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Design, implementation and promotion of the grassland habitat sections of the Biodiversity Areas Project, as per specifications agreed with NatureScot and the Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund award.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH22	Habitats–Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Investigate the extent and quality of lowland dry acid grassland sites in Renfrewshire.	Renfrewshire Council	High

Priority Habitats Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Site, topic or habitat type	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PH23	Habitats–Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Ensure best examples of lowland dry acid grassland are included within SINCs.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH24	Habitats–Rivers	Support SEPA’s efforts to improve Candren Burn, Paisley to “Good” standard ecologically, via proposed Water Environment Fund project.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH25	Habitats–Rivers	Implementation of the Nature Restoration Fund supported “Restoring Renfrewshire’s Rivers” project to control INNS plants.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH26	Habitats–Ponds	Continue fish population and other aquatic surveys of river catchments in response to requests from anyone either undertaking or considering working in or alongside any of the Clyde catchment rivers.	Clyde River Foundation	High
PH27	Habitats–Ponds	Investigate compilation of a list of ponds of potential conservation interest in Renfrewshire, with a view towards future monitoring as resources permit.	Clyde Amphibians & Reptiles Group	Medium
PH28	Habitats–Ponds	Trial the use of planted artificial floating islands at RSPB Scotland’s Lochwin-noch Reserve..	Royal Society for the Protec-tion of Birds	High
PH29	Habitats–Ponds	Maintain and extend network of small ponds along the National Cycle Network.	Sustrans	High
PH30	Habitats–Ponds	Creation of a new pond at Jenny’s Well Local Nature Reserve to help the survival of breeding amphibians – in partnership with FrogLife.	Friends of Jenny’s Well	High

Priority Habitats Action Plan (continued)

Action No.	Site, topic or habitat type	Action/activity	Lead Partner	Priority
PH31	Habitats – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Produce FCS approved WIAT management plans for Renfrewshire Council owned Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland sites.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH32	Habitats–Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Implement the Renfrewshire Woods Land Management Plan 2016-2026 at Boden Boo, Johnstone Woods, Windyhill, Howwood Community Woodland and Knockmountain.	Forestry & Land Scotland	Medium
PH33	Habitats–Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Manage semi-natural self-sown and planted woodlands at Jenny's Well Local Nature Reserve in Paisley.	Friends of Jenny's Well	High
PH34	Habitats–Upland Birchwoods	Implement the approved Muirshiel Country Park Woodland Management Plan 2016-2025, particularly the sections for Orblis Hill and Monument Hill (will also benefit examples of Upland Oakwood and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland habitats).	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH35	Habitats – Upland Birchwood	Develop, deliver and promote tree planting activities in privately owned Upland Birchwood sites in Renfrewshire.	Yearnstane Project	High
PH36	Habitats–Upland Oakwood	Produce FCS approved management plan for Shaw Wood, Paisley, a Renfrewshire Council-owned Upland Oakwood site.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH37	Habitats–Wet Woodlands	Investigate linear section of Upland Oakwood lining the River Calder upstream of Lochwinnoch and devise management prescriptions for proposing to landowners.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH38	PH37	Develop, deliver, and promote tree planting activities in privately owned Upland Oakwood sites across Renfrewshire.	Yearnstane Project	High
PH39	PH37	Produce FCS approved WIAT management plan for a Council-owned Wet Woodland site in Renfrewshire.	Renfrewshire Council	High
PH40	PH37	Develop, deliver and promote tree planting activities in privately owned Wet Woodland sites across Renfrewshire.	Yearnstane Project	High

Invasive Non-Native species

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 recognises non-native species and wildlife diseases as one of five direct drivers of global biodiversity loss. In Renfrewshire the issues and challenges are most readily seen along its watercourses, where invasive non-native plant species like Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam can dominate some stretches of riverbank.

The presence of North American Mink in the same water systems has been one of the major contributory factors towards the loss of the Water Vole from Renfrewshire. The White Cart Water also has widespread populations of Bullhead and Gudgeon, both non-native fish which the Clyde River Foundation fears may be damaging trout and salmon breeding success through egg predation.

The requirement for ongoing active detection of Invasive Non-Native Species is illustrated by the tree disease, Ash Dieback Disease, which was first found in the UK only in 2012 but which saw confirmed infections in eastern and central Renfrewshire during 2016. It is now prevalent throughout the area and is causing significant issues for woodland managers.

Other invasive non-native species have been with us for much longer and cause concern for biodiversity conservation, for example *Rhododendron ponticum* and a variety of other imported trees and shrubs. These non-native species have adapted to Renfrewshire's wet climate and soils and now threaten a number of sites containing Lowland Raised Bog, Blanket Bog, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodlands, Upland Birchwood and Upland Oakwood habitats in particular.



Invasive Non-Native Species Action Plan

Action No.	Problems tackled	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Priority
INNS01	Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Rhododendron ponticum.	Development and delivery of the Nature Restoration Fund supported “Restoring Renfrewshire’s Rivers” project, monitoring and controlling five invasive plant species along five river valleys - including tracking locations, extents and population densities, making control inputs in publicly owned and managed greenspaces, sharing information about invasive non-native species identification and control.	Renfrewshire Council	High
INNS02	Giant Hogweed	Continuing Giant Hogweed control along the White Cart Water in Paisley town centre and elsewhere on Council land as required.	Renfrewshire Council	High
INNS03	Rhododendron ponticum	Continuing control of invasive non-native trees and shrubs at Muirshiel Country Park and Parkhill Woods, in line with the approved management plans.	Renfrewshire Council	High
INNS04	Rhododendron ponticum	Continuing control of invasive non-native trees and shrubs at Finlaystone Countryside Estate.	Finlaystone	High
INNS05	Rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam	Implement control measures for Rhododendron ponticum, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam at Johnstone Woods.	Forestry & Land Scotland	High
INNS06	Rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam	Implement control projects to remove Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam from Jenny’s Well Local Nature Reserve.	Friends of Jenny’s Well	
INNS07	Himalayan Balsam	Implement control measures for Himalayan Balsam in Howwood Community Woodland.	Forestry & Land Scotland	High

Monitoring and Review

Several performance reviews of previous Local Biodiversity Action Plans have been undertaken in recent years. These exercises revealed that monitoring and review were two areas which had presented some difficulty for the LBAP partners and that a reappraisal of the approach was needed.

The introduction of a Biodiversity Duty reporting regime for public bodies, to comply with the provisions of the Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 has placed a greater focus on monitoring and review since 2014. The emphasis of this process is however much more focussed on the policies and actions of the public bodies, rather than their impact on biodiversity resources on the ground.

At a national level, focus is being brought to the monitoring and evaluation of different habitats and species by the RSPB led State of Nature Partnership, which is producing State of Nature Reports every three years for the UK and its constituent nations, including Scotland.

The challenge for local biodiversity partners, particularly in view of diminishing resources, is to identify creative approaches to share data and the implications at the Renfrewshire level.

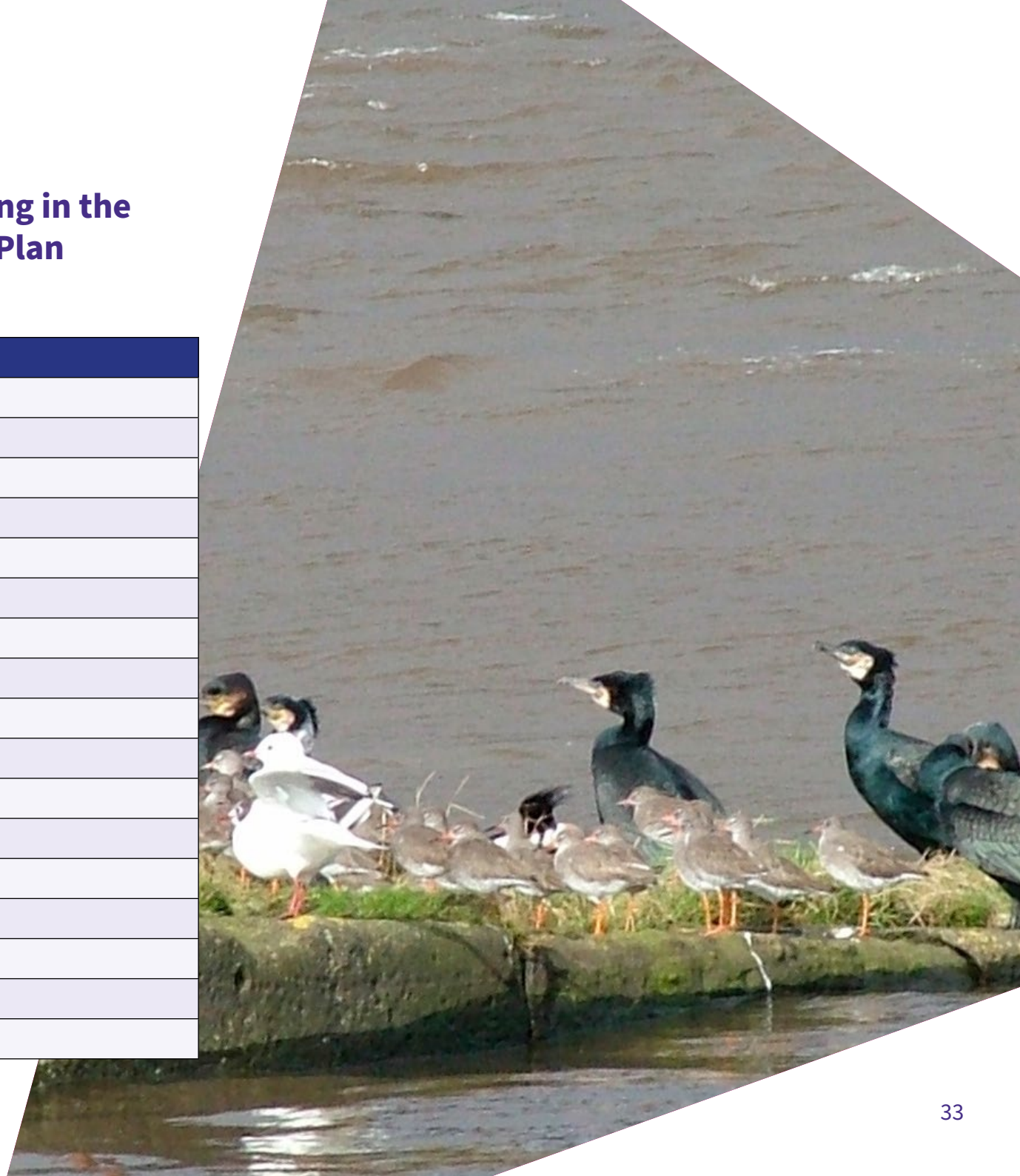


Monitoring and Review Action Plan

Action No.	Benefits and Beneficiaries	Action/Activity	Lead Partner	Priority
MR01	All Species	Participate in national species monitoring schemes as opportunities arise.	All	High
MR02	All Species	Production and online publication of public bodies' Biodiversity Duty Report, as required by the Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 on a three-year cycle.	Renfrewshire Council	High
MR03	Birds	Compilation and publication of the Clyde Bird Report as a guide to fluctuations in local bird populations.	Scottish Ornithologists' Club	High
MR04	Rivers	Continue collecting river quality data from ad hoc surveys (as commissioned and permitted) and encouraging local angling clubs to participate in river surveys.	Clyde River Foundation	High
MR05	All species and habitats	Collect, record in recommended formats, and submit biological records to the Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre, so that data can be uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network database and to other national recording schemes.	All	High
MR06	Various, as resources and expertise permit	Regular recording of flowers, birds and butterflies at Jenny's Well Local Nature Reserve.	Friends of Jenny's Well	High

Appendix 1: Organisations actively participating in the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2024

Organisation Name
BAE Systems
Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI)
Brediland Allotments Association
Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Clyde Amphibians & Reptiles Group
Clyde Ringing Group
Clyde River Foundation
Concern for Swifts
Darkwood Crew
Eadha Enterprises
Erskine Community Allotments Association
Finlaystone Country Estate
Friends of Clyde Muirshiel
Friends of Jenny's Well
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership
Glasgow Airport
Glasgow City Region Strategic Environment Partnership



Organisation Name

Grow in Glenburn

Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust

Lochwinnoch Force for Nature

Lochwinnoch Sustainable Community Garden

National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust

NatureScot

OneRen

Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club

Paisley Natural History Society

Paisley West End Allotments Group

Renfrew Association of Growers and Gardeners

Renfrewshire Council

Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum

Renfrewshire Wildlife

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (Clyde Branch)

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Starling Learning

Strathclyde Geoconservation

Sustrans Scotland

West End Growing Grounds Association

Yearnstane Project



Appendix 2: Plant Species of Conservation Concern in Renfrewshire

This information has been compiled from a range of sources, with the national distributions being assessed using the BSBI's New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (2002) (edited by Preston, Pearman and Dines). The Renfrewshire dimension was provided by various sources, including the audit process which preceded the production

and publication of the 2004 Local Biodiversity Action Plan, from Keith Watson's 2013 Flora of Renfrewshire, from Phase 1 Habitat Surveys undertaken in 1991 and 1999 and from SINC surveys undertaken since initial designation in 2002. The information is presented below in three levels of National Significance and three levels of

Local Significance. Higher plants are one of the better groups for information held, because of a history of surveying and data compilation at both national and local levels, as can be seen below.

Nationally Significant Plants Growing in Renfrewshire:

Found in less than 5% (141) of 10km squares in GB

Scientific Name	English Name	No. of 10km squares recorded in the Atlas
<i>Cicuta virosa</i>	Cowbane	139 ("Caplaw" in Renfrewshire)
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Coral Root Orchid	102
<i>Elatine hydropiper</i>	Eight-stamened Waterwort	33
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	Holy Grass	18
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	Tufted Loosestrife	51

Found in less than 10% (281) of 10km squares in GB

Scientific Name	English Name	No. of 10km squares recorded in the Atlas
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Water Sedge	219
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignel	164
<i>Salix myrsinifolia</i>	Dark-leaved Willow	276
<i>Sedum villosum</i>	Hairy Stonecrop	211
<i>Zostera noltei</i>	Dwarf eel-grass	159

Found in less than 20% (562) of 10km squares in GB

Scientific Name	English Name	No. of 10km squares recorded in the Atlas
<i>Asplenium viride</i>	Green Spleenwort	435
<i>Carex diandra</i>	Lesser Tussock Sedge	378
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Slender Sedge	461 (Walls Hill and Hartfield Moss in Ren.)
<i>Carex limosa</i>	Bog-sedge	423
<i>Carex pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered Sedge	377
<i>Carum verticillatum</i>	Whorled Caraway	296
<i>Diphasiastrum alpinum</i>	Alpine Clubmoss	539
<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Oblong-leaved Sundew	508
<i>Hammarbya paludosa</i>	Bog Orchid	302
<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>	Parsley Water-dropwort	551 ("Erskine" in Renfrewshire)
<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>	Small-white Orchid	Old records only
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Lesser Wintergreen	558
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Cloudberry	394
<i>Ruppia maritima</i>	Beaked Tasselweed	363 ("Langbank" in Renfrewshire)
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	Mossy Saxifrage	406
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort	432
<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Chickweed Wintergreen	514 (Bardrain Glen in the 1940s)

Renfrewshire Significance:

Found in 5 sites or fewer in Renfrewshire: very uncommon

Scientific Name	English Name	Estimated No. sites where species has been found in Renfrewshire
<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	Giant Bellflower	1
<i>Carex acuta</i>	Slender Tufted-sedge	1
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand Sedge	1
<i>Carex dioica</i>	Dioecious Sedge	1
<i>Carex disticha</i>	Brown Sedge	1
<i>Carex paniculata</i>	Greater Tussock Sedge	3
<i>Carex pauciflora</i>	Few-flowered Sedge	1
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge	1
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	Flea Sedge	1
<i>Carex spicata</i>	Spiked Sedge	1
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Centaury	1
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage	1
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Coral Root Orchid	2
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	1
<i>Ceratocapnos claviculata</i>	Climbing Corydalis	2
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	1
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	Great Sundew	1

Found in 5 sites or fewer in Renfrewshire: very uncommon (continued)

Scientific Name	English Name	Estimated No. sites where species has been found in Renfrewshire
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Narrow Buckler-fern	2
<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>	Few-flowered Spike-rush	1
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry	1
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	1
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Cranesbill	5
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	1
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak Fern	2
<i>Hippurus vulgaris</i>	Marestail	2
<i>Huperzia selago</i>	Fir Clubmoss	1
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	2
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort	1
<i>Listera cordata</i>	Lesser Twayblade	1
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade	3
<i>Littorella uniflora</i>	Shoreweed	1
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	Tufted Loosestrife	1
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	1
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	1
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean	5
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water Lily	2
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adder's-tongue	1

Found in 5 sites or fewer in Renfrewshire: very uncommon (continued)

Scientific Name	English Name	SINC No. or other sites where found
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris	1
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Beech Fern	1
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	1
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield Fern	1
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Lesser Wintergreen	1
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	4
<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	Marsh Yellow-cress	1
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow	1
<i>Salix myrsinifolia</i>	Dark-leaved Willow	1
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort	1
<i>Triglochin palustris</i>	Marsh Arrowgrass	1
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower	1
<i>Utricularia minor</i>	Lesser Bladderwort	2
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Greater Bladderwort	1
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	Cranberry	2
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry	1
<i>Viola lutea</i>	Mountain Pansy	2
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy	1
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirreltail Fescue	1

Found in 6 -10 sites or fewer in Renfrewshire: uncommon

Scientific Name	English Name	Estimated No. sites where species was found in Renfrewshire
Carex aquatilis	Water Sedge	7
Carex diandra	Lesser Tussock Sedge	6
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	8
Carex limosa	Bog-sedge	6
Carum verticillatum	Whorled Caraway	8
Drosera rotundifolia	Sundew	7
Hydrocotyle vulgare	Marsh Pennywort	6
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin	8
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	6
Meum athamanticum	Spignel	6
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle	6

Found in 10-20 sites or fewer in Renfrewshire: less common

This table will be populated as ongoing survey work across Renfrewshire progresses during the lifespan of this Biodiversity Action Plan.

Scientific Name	English Name	Estimated No. sites where species was found in Renfrewshire
Platanthera chlorantha	Greater Butterfly Orchid	11

Appendix 3: Bird Species of Conservation Concern in Renfrewshire

Since the outset of the LBAP process in Renfrewshire, bird conservation inputs have depended on the expertise and inputs of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club Clyde Branch for its ornithological components. This continues to be the case for the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan and SOC has provided updated information on local bird species of conservation concern, which is based on many years of monitoring bird populations and distributions.

The SOC has reviewed the latest Red and Amber lists included in 2021's Birds of Conservation Concern 5 and concluded that the following species are the most pertinent for the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Selected Red List species of concern in Renfrewshire
Hen Harrier
Lapwing
Swift
Cuckoo
Skylark
Grasshopper Warbler
House Martin
Starling
Mistle Thrush
Spotted Flycatcher
Whinchat
House Sparrow
Tree Sparrow
Tree Pipit
Greenfinch
Linnet
Lesser Redpoll
Yellowhammer

Selected Amber List species of concern in Renfrewshire	
Whooper Swan	Kestrel
Shelduck	Rook
Woodpigeon	Sedge Warbler
Moorhen	Willow Warbler
Oystercatcher	Common Whitethroat
Common Sandpiper	Wren
Redshank	Dipper
Snipe	Song Thrush
Black-headed Gull	Dunnock
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Meadow Pipit
Short-eared Owl	Grey Wagtail
Tawny Owl	Bullfinch
Sparrowhawk	Reed Bunting

SOC Clyde Branch has narrowed down these lists further to a selection of species which are realistically viable for conservation measures in Renfrewshire. Even within this selection, SOC has recognised the resource challenges faced by all the biodiversity partners by identifying local priority (*) candidates and indicated the summary reasons for selection in the following tables below.

Red List

SPECIES	SOC comments on conservation requirements	Notes on status and distribution
Hen Harrier *	The Renfrewshire Heights Special Protection Area (SPA) lies entirely within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The designation was applied because of its national importance for breeding Hen Harrier. This is one of the highest categories of nature conservation importance in the UK, indeed Europe, and there is a responsibility to monitor the breeding population and address the habitat requirements of this species.	The breeding population of Hen Harriers declined after the publication of the 2004 LBAP and there are currently no breeding pairs in Renfrewshire.
Swift	Being tackled through Actions summarised within this Action Plan, particularly PP11.	Scattered and to be clarified by the survey element of specific Actions above.
Lapwing *	This is a declining species in Renfrewshire, thought to be mainly due to lack of suitable 'honeypot' breeding sites, which theoretically could be relatively easily created through habitat manipulation and cooperation from farmers.	Only a handful of sites in Renfrewshire believed to still hold nesting Lapwings.
House Martin	Initiate public education programme to deter illegal destruction of nests on residential and other properties.	Widespread but dependent on small, isolated habitats.
Starling	Requires action at national and farming policy level, but maintained grassland under public ownership, private golf courses, etc, could be managed more sympathetically towards sustaining the bird's natural (invertebrate) food supply.	Reasonably common and widespread as a breeding species in Renfrewshire.
Mistle Thrush	Creation of native woodlands in semi-upland habitats.	Reasonably common and widespread as a breeding species in Renfrewshire.

Red List (continued)

SPECIES	SOC comments on conservation requirements	Notes on status and distribution
Spotted Flycatcher	Habitat manipulation, mainly by appropriate tree planting at suitable sites.	No recent records of nesting in Renfrewshire.
Whinchat *	Habitat manipulation by creating open neutral grassland habitats, lightly grazed; advising farmers and foresters on glade requirements.	Has declined as a result of changing agricultural practices.
Tree Sparrow *	Retention of traditional colony sites, e.g old farm buildings; erection of nest boxes in suitable habitat; supplementary feeding.	Has declined as a result of changing agricultural practices.
Linnet	Conservation of areas of gorse scrub and farmland hedgerows; control of burning by farmers, especially during nesting season; sensitive road verge maintenance planning.	Has declined as a result of changing agricultural practices.
Yellowhammer	Encourage farmland biodiversity appropriately for the species.	Has declined as a result of changing agricultural practices.

Amber List

SPECIES	SOC comments on conservation requirements	Notes on status and distribution
Whooper Swan *	Action required to sustain Renfrewshire's internationally important flock of Icelandic Whooper Swans. Specifically, encourage an appropriate land management regime on the sanctuary area within the Black Cart Special Protection Area.	Reduction in recent years as a wintering bird in Renfrewshire.
Shelduck *	Encourage research into the decline of wintering and breeding Shelduck on the Inner Clyde Special Protection Area.	
Red Grouse	Encourage moorland management of the Renfrewshire Heights SPA to produce a naturally sustainable population of Red Grouse, as part of an overall plan for the conservation of biodiversity focusing on Hen Harrier.	Formerly an Amber Listed species on the Birds of Conservation Concern schedules. Low population levels and limited distribution in Renfrewshire.
Redshank	Integrate with appropriate wetland habitat plans. Encourage research into the decline of wintering and passage Redshank on the Inner Clyde Special Protection Area Reduction in recent years as a wintering bird in Renfrewshire.	Only a handful of sites in Renfrewshire believed to still hold nesting Redshank.
Snipe	As Redshank for breeding habitat, also moorland water table management.	Only a handful of sites in Renfrewshire believed to still hold nesting Snipe.
Black-headed Gull	Review previous draft plan. The species has continued to decline.	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Attempt to halt and where possible reverse the effects of illegal persecution.	
Short-eared Owl	Integrate ecological requirements to the Hen Harrier prescribed management plan for the Renfrewshire Heights SPA.	Only occurs in Renfrewshire as an occasional winter visitor.

Amber List (continued)

SPECIES	SOC comments on conservation requirements	Notes on status and distribution
Kingfisher	Design riparian tree planting to discourage disturbance of nests by anglers.	Localised breeding population.
Kestrel	Create more open neutral grassland areas and wider woodland glades to facilitate improved hunting habitat.	Has declined as a result of changing agricultural practices.
Song Thrush *	Conservation of scrub woodland habitat and selective naturalisation of public parkland; also, education on use of garden pesticides.	Reasonably common and widespread as a breeding species in Renfrewshire.
Dipper	Installation of nesting niches/boxes in bridge construction and maintenance works.	Widespread but dependent on small, isolated habitats.
Bullfinch	Encourage conservation and retention of scrub woodland, and inclusion of Prunus and Malus fruit tree species.	Small but widespread population in Renfrewshire.
Reed Bunting	Integrate with appropriate wetland habitat plans, and conserve areas of purple moor grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> (winter seed supply).	Widespread but dependent on small, isolated habitats.

Other Bird Species of Local or Regional Significance

Only species with potential practical opportunities for local conservation measures are listed here.

SPECIES	SOC comments on conservation requirements	Notes on status and distribution
Kingfisher	Design riparian tree planting to discourage disturbance of nests by anglers.	Formerly an Amber Listed species on the Birds of Conservation Concern schedules. Localised breeding population.
Lesser Whitethroat	<p>Lesser Whitethroat is retained as an LBAP species in Renfrewshire because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.They are locally rare in both Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. 2.The breeding habitat in itself is extremely rare in those counties. 3.It remains a perfect indicator species for quality scrubland habitat, which benefits other important scrub species i.e. Song Thrush & Linnet. 4.Long term field research in Renfrewshire & Ayrshire (SW Scotland) is still ongoing and vitally important as, according to the British Trust for Ornithology, this is the only research project in the UK that is looking into the Lesser Whitethroat specifically and the distribution results are an important source of information for a migratory species which has benefited from climate change. 5.Funding for habitat management (restoration & replanting) is still ongoing in Gleniffer Braes Country Park. 6.Scientific papers about habitat management / distribution and habitat preference changes for the Lesser Whitethroat are in preparation for future publication. 	Species has only a tentative presence in Renfrewshire, nesting intermittently at a single site in Gleniffer Braes Country Park.



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