



NHS Grampian Biodiversity Duty Report 2020 – 2022



Foresterhill Health Campus through the seasons

Version No.: 1

Authors: Sustainability, Compliance & Risk Team



THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORTING TEMPLATE: LEVEL TWO ORGANISATIONS

Report Outline

Bodies are encouraged to use the following structure for their report. This is set out in the template below, which you can either type directly into, or copy into a separate document.

- Section 1: Introductory information about your public body
- Section 2: Actions to protect biodiversity and connect people with nature
- Section 3: Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Section 4: Nature-based solutions, climate change and biodiversity
- Section 5: Public engagement and workforce development
- Section 6: Research and monitoring
- Section 7: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

Completion Notes

These completion notes offer guidance to support your public body to complete your Biodiversity Duty Report. Taken together with the associated hyperlinks, they provide suggestions on the breadth of actions that could be included in your report. They may also assist with forward planning on how biodiversity can be taken into account in future.

While they incorporate the key elements on which you may wish to report, they are not an exhaustive list and it is likely that there will be a range of additional work that your organisation carried out in support of biodiversity on which you may also wish to report. To find out more on the Biodiversity Duty see the [NatureScot website](#).



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PUBLIC BODY

Please describe your organisation’s role and purpose, including any particular environmental responsibilities

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Summarise your organisation’s role and purpose, including a brief outline of governance and management structures.</p> <p>Summarise any relevance and impacts of biodiversity to your organisation, including your role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing public information, community learning and education around nature and the environment; • Any key environmental impacts from your operations.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>NHS Grampian is the Health Board for the North East of Scotland and is responsible for the provision of healthcare services to the population in this area. The Grampian region is a considerable geographical area, which covers a variety of environmental settings: from cities and towns, to mountainous regions, rural countryside and coastal villages. This provides the Health Board with the unique opportunity to develop and actively participate in activities that will help local flora and fauna to prosper. Additionally, it is widely acknowledged that the development of green spaces benefits the physical and mental wellbeing of staff, patient and visitors to our various sites.</p> <p>The main NHS Grampian Health Campus at Foresterhill has a large collection of mature broadleaf trees. Recent developments within the site has placed great pressure on the need for parking and pedestrian walkways, we have however maintained large areas of parkland along with a fresh air garden to the front of the original hospital.</p> <p>Across the Foresterhill Health Campus site there are bird boxes installed which are in place to encourage the nesting of native birds within a suitable habitat. There has also been plantings of deciduous trees to ensure continuous ecological overlap in the age structure of the woodland species and associated fauna and flora across the site to increase the overall ecological role of the site as a green corridor.</p> <p>NHS Grampian has taken an active role in reducing the amount of non-native species on the Foresterhill Health Campus site and alerting the council when required.</p>



SECTION 2: ACTIONS TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Please describe and explain any actions that your organisation has undertaken alone or as part of a partnership to benefit biodiversity directly, to tackle the main drivers of biodiversity loss, or to achieve wider outcomes for nature and people

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>You may wish to report on activities across the breadth of your organisation, including any actions that you have undertaken on your premises.</p> <p>Please explain how these actions have benefited biodiversity, noting successes and challenges, and any plans for future or follow-up work. These might include:</p> <p>Addressing or raising awareness of some of the key drivers of biodiversity loss, which might include work or projects to tackle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change; • Land use change; • Pollution. <p>Enhancing biodiversity at your premises through actions in and around offices, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing bird boxes / feeders; • creating habitat for wildlife, such as wildflower areas; • installing green roofs; • organising staff volunteering days; • sponsoring a species or habitat, or raising funds for a local wildlife trust or charity.
<p>Links to related resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on the Key pressures on biodiversity. • Guidance on Buildings and biodiversity - how to make space for nature in the built environment. • Information on placemaking, open space and green infrastructure. • Examples of smaller actions that can be enacted in the office or staff homes - Biodiversity - what can you do? • Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scottish Water Volunteering Programme



Text Field	<p><u>NHS Staff Garden</u></p> <p>The staff garden opened in March 2022. <u>New garden unveiled in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to improve staff wellbeing (pressandjournal.co.uk)</u></p> <p><u>(1) NHS Grampian Endowment Fund ❤️ (@nhsgcharity) / Twitter</u></p> <p>The project, like the previously installed Robertson Family Roof Garden, will be charitably funded and maintained. A range of pre-COVID-19 fundraising projects were undertaken. Significant financial support has been given by NHS Grampians Endowment Committee, the Organ Donation Committee and from various groups, organisations and individuals. A number of donations have come from bereaved families, grateful for the care given, who wish to do something positive for the staff who looked after their relatives. The amount raised so far is about one third of the initial design and installation costs.</p> <p>Designed areas include the creation of four areas, urban, sea, river and land and mountain. The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation generously gifted money for large boulders for the mountain area. The Health Improvement Fund donated money for a large picnic table. This was commissioned in the shape of a fallen tree, cut in half horizontally. It is hoped that a small open covered shelter has been installed with an electrical point.</p> <p>The planting reflects the four areas and will dramatically improve the biodiversity of the site. Behind the project is the clear benefit for staff, who will be able to use the garden, enjoying the fresh air and inspirational planting. Staff have used the space since opening for lunch, department lunches and time for reflection and pause. Volunteers have maintained the garden since opening over the Summer and Autumn new plants and bulbs have been planted.</p>
-------------------	---



Summer and Winter 2022 in ARI Staff garden.

[\(2\) NHS Grampian \(@NHSGrampian\) / Twitter](#)

Greenspace Site at Foresterhill Health Campus

The Greenspace project started on the 10th October 2022 on the Foresterhill Health Campus site. The project will be led by a Greenspace Project manager who works closely with the construction team and funding partner. This site is situated between the new Mortuary Building construction started (10th October 2022) and



the Foresterhill Health Centre. Under the current plans, existing trees on the site will be salvaged and incorporated into this area. As part of the project new native trees, wild meadows and plants will be planted to provide a greenspace area for patients, staff and the community:

The aims and objectives of the Greenspace Project can be described as follows:

- To develop a destination greenspace to act as a focus for outdoor activity for patients, staff, visitors and the surrounding communities to help enhance ecosystem services.
- To develop a strong planted structure across the campus that defines routes, creates human scale outdoor spaces and integrates planned future development and improves biodiversity.
- To develop a connected green network across the campus, that provides valuable habitat and enhances biodiversity and increases the ecological value of the site.
- To develop an integrated water management system across the campus, to reduce current site runoff and to accommodate necessary attenuation associated with future planned development which will improve ecosystem services.
- To develop a legible network of on-street and off-street public realm and green routes focused on pedestrian movement, also connecting into wider active travel routes.

The green infrastructure interventions are situated in the western portion of the campus. The works include: The creation of the destination greenspace, adjacent to the health centre, structural tree planting to define routes and spaces, the creation of integrated water storage basins and linear storage features to manage surface water run-off.

The linked benefits of the green infrastructure strategy works will be as follows:

- Significant increase in the habitat and ecological value of the site through expansion of connected green spaces.
- Enabling and encouraging outdoor activity for all users of the site, encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and realising therapeutic and clinical benefits for patients through easy access to high quality green space and healing environment
- A reduction in pressure on existing drainage infra-structure and reducing downstream flooding in central Aberdeen
- Improving the character, visual quality and perception of the campus, through the establishment of a strong landscape framework



- Enabling and increasing the volume of pedestrian and cycle movement across the campus, for all users of the site: patients, staff, visitors and the surrounding communities. Improving the legibility and quality of the pedestrian experience for all users of the site including enhanced access for those with a disability to the amenities on the site.

The project is being delivered in partnership with NatureScot and the completion date is 30th June 2023.



Diseased Ash tree within greenspace area felled December 2022

Opening of Blackbird Walk

Blackbird Walk was developed to circle around the proposed Greenspace Project site. The aim of the path is to promote active travel from Woodhill House and Foresterhill Health Centre to the main Foresterhill site at NHS Grampian. The project succeeded in increasing biodiversity; planting 10 native trees (cherry, rowan and



oak), Scotia Seed meadows and replacing non-native bushes with lavender to support pollinators. The work was done in collaboration with Sustrans Scotland, Scotia Seeds and Nature Scot.



Opening of Blackbird Walk. The walk allows safe active travel and chance to enjoy native biodiversity on the Foresterhill Health Campus site.

Foxes at Foresterhill Health Campus

Foxes continue to prosper at the Foresterhill Health Campus and can be seen at: the east end of the site; areas around the greenspace site; near Foresterhill Health Centre and Royal Cornhill Hospital.

SECTION 3: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

Please outline any steps your organisation has taken to incorporate biodiversity measures into its wider policies, plans or strategies. This should include decision-making structures and staff and organisational roles and responsibilities.

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Outline any of your own body's policies, plans and strategies that refer to biodiversity, or that may affect biodiversity positively or negatively, and describe how these are reflected in the structure of your organisation.</p> <p>These may include policies on managing green spaces, consideration of biodiversity in estate management, procurement policies and purchasing decisions, use of an Environmental Management System, and Sustainability and Climate Change commitments.</p> <p>Detail any areas in which your organisation has most successfully implemented mainstreaming of biodiversity, or has demonstrated leadership in a local or national context, including through working with others, or raising awareness of biodiversity or nature.</p>
<p>Links to related resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on Buildings, Highways and Infrastructure - Maintenance & biodiversity, • Research on Maximising the benefits of green infrastructure in social housing. • The Place Standard tool and associated Strategic Plan 2020-2023 provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. • Guidance on establishing a Local Nature Conservation Sites system. • Case study - Procurement by the Scottish Courts and Tribunal (SCTS) Services. • The Forest Stewardship Council global forest certification system. • Guidance on Scotland's Pollinator Strategy, projects, resources • Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Nature Conservation Sites systems in North Lanarkshire and Aberdeenshire. ○ A Pollinator Action Plan in Aberdeenshire
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>Individuals who lead on biodiversity and champions it as part of their role include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of eHealth & Facilities (Board Level Sustainability Lead) • Head of Sustainability, Compliance & Risk



- Head of Capital Projects
- Greenspace Project Manager
- Environment Manager (currently advertised)
- Waste Management Officer
- Sustainability Support Officer

NHS Grampian also has a senior level Sustainability Governance Group; which includes individuals from various departments who form strategies to promote sustainability – including those that actively promote the development of biodiversity on our estate. There is also an Operational Sustainability Group which leads on the implementation of these projects.

NHS Grampian has a Sustainability, Environment and Energy policy which is adhered to. The organisation believes that the effects of its operations and actions on the environment is of significant importance. Part of the policy states that the organisation is committed to:

“...the efficient management of emissions to air, water (including discharges to sewer) and land, the philosophy being that environmental issues should be addressed in an integrated way in order to achieve the highest level of environmental protection from the largest industrial activities.”

Nature and Biodiversity is also a featured topic of the National Sustainability Assessment, which scores health boards on their performance towards sustainability. NHS Grampian has a valuable and significant outdoor estate. It also has a legal duty and responsibility to enhance and protect that for the benefit of nature and biodiversity. There is increasing evidence that therapeutic contact with nature has important health and wellbeing benefits.

The board will also be establishing an Environmental Management System, integrating ISO 14001. This is being done in collaboration with an external specialist consultancy group.

In response to the Climate Emergency announced by Scottish Government, NHS Scotland have made six commitments, which have been signed off by all NHS Chief Executives:

1. NHS Scotland will be a ‘net-zero’ greenhouse gas emissions organisation by 2045 *at the latest*.



2. All NHS Scotland new buildings and major refurbishments will be designed to have net-zero greenhouse emissions from April 2020.

3. Each NHS Board should undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment covering all operational areas and produce a Climate Change Adaptation Plan to ensure resilience of service under changing climate conditions.

4. NHS Scotland transport GHG emissions from its owned fleet (small/ medium vehicles) will be net-zero by 2025.

5. The NHS supply chain will be reviewed to determine the extent of associated greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts.

6. Each NHS Scotland Board should establish a Climate Change/ Sustainability Governance group to oversee their transition to a net-zero emissions service.

NHS Grampian have created a biodiversity action plan with the following with the following goals, this is still in process and plan to complete and agree early into 2023.

Our Strategic goals and transformations:

- **Amenity** - Maintenance a key priority (Implement an ecologically sympathetic grounds maintenance management regime) – greenspace management plan policy and grassland guidance. NHS Grampian strategy of native species throughout all NHS Grampian sites
- **Mainstreaming Biodiversity** – To halt biodiversity loss. To increase the biodiversity within NHS Grampian’s greenspace by 2030 and provide public awareness of this.
- **Development** - Green infrastructure is developed for all new build projects. Biodiversity loss from construction projects is mitigated.
- **Surveying and Monitoring** –Baseline data and reports
- **Engagement** – reports, newsletters, open days, promote achievements. To increase the use and appreciation of biodiverse greenspace, Develop selected areas of greenspace as an educational resource. Encourage active travel to our sites. [20 Minute Neighbourhoods | Our Place](#).



- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site Specific Action Plans – Foresterhill Health Campus, Dr Gray's, Royal Cornhill Hospital, Woodend and Community Hospitals |
|--|---|

SECTION 4: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

How has your organisation integrated biodiversity into nature based solutions to the climate emergency and other socio-economic outcomes?

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Climate change is a direct driver of biodiversity loss. Some species are dying out while others are being displaced due to warmer air temperatures, extreme weather patterns, and higher sea levels. As well as being a direct driver of biodiversity loss, climate change also worsens the other drivers. For example it enables quicker spread of non-native invasive species. Combined action for biodiversity loss and climate change can be achieved through nature-based solutions.</p> <p>This reporting section provides the opportunity for your organisation to provide details on how you are supporting the positive contribution biodiversity can make to building resilience, and helping nature to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions can play a vital role in helping us to protect and enhance biodiversity, achieve net zero targets, and improve quality of life.</p> <p>You may wish to report on a range of specific processes or activities that your organisation has undertaken, including within your buildings and workforce, and projects that you have delivered.</p> <p>Integration might include incorporating biodiversity into nature-based solutions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The climate emergency, for example by developing climate change strategies that include nature, investing in green infrastructure, and taking action for pollinators. • Inclusive economic growth, for example by growing nature based industries, or investing in key natural visitor attractions • Health and wellbeing, for example by improving access to nature for all
<p>Links to related resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on how urban nature-based solutions can help Scotland's towns and cities mitigate and adapt to climate change providing guidance and examples. • The Helping nature to adapt webpage contains useful information on making use of nature's capacity to adapt to change as one of our best tools for managing climate change impacts, including through managing native woodlands and restoring peatlands.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The publication People, Place and the Climate Emergency includes examples and information on local nature-based solutions to deliver a range of socio-economic outcomes.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>Health Facilities Scotland has been working on a Sustainable Construction Guide for all health boards in Scotland. The aim of this document is to design buildings to achieve net zero operational Greenhouse Gas emissions. This guide offers instruction on conserving and enhancing biodiversity, e.g. early appraisals of projects to allow the development of plans/strategies that can contribute to environmental security, prioritising the use of brownfield sites over greenfield sites etc.</p> <p>This guidance document Sustainable Design and Construction (SDaC) Guide (SHTN 02-01) National Services Scotland (nhs.scot) was issued in October 2021. Although this guide will not mandatory for current projects (such as the Baird Family Hospital, the Anchor Unit), aspects of this will being used for the development and construction of the North East Scotland and North Isles Integrated Mortuary and the National Treatment Centre at the Foresterhill Health Campus site, as well as the MRI Scanner Project at Dr Gray's Hospital.</p>



SECTION 5: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Public Engagement

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Detail communications and education activities have you undertaken to inform or engage directly or indirectly with communities, young people and the public. This might include actions to raise staff, customer and public enjoyment and understanding of, and connection with, biodiversity and nature, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting volunteering; • Exhibitions and events; • School outreach; • Outdoor learning; • Citizen Science initiatives; • Provision of public education programmes; • Information hosted on your webpage; • Blogs and press releases.
<p>Links to related resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas on volunteering outdoors. • Stats, stories, activities and inspiration to help bring nature and landscapes to life for young people and learners through education, including Beyond your boundary: easy steps to learning in local greenspace, and the Outdoor Learning Directory is a useful source of information and resources. • Ideas on citizen science activities that can increase public enjoyment, understanding and connection with nature. • Information on how to make more use of Scotland’s outdoors as ‘Our Natural Health Service’
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>This has not been done at this time. Although 2023 may provide opportunities included in the new biodiversity action plan subject to funding and staff.</p> <p>On the completion of the Greenspace project we aim to host opening events to promote the area as well as highlighting the biodiversity benefits.</p>

Workforce skills and training

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Detail activities that have been undertaken to support the development of your workforce, particularly in relation to skills relevant to biodiversity, nature, outdoor learning and community engagement in the natural environment.</p> <p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff training, education and capacity building; • Hosting conferences, exhibitions and events; • Collaborative working with other organisations and sharing best practice.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>This has not been done at this time.</p>

Identify any opportunities that are available to your staff to take part in practical actions

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering days, for example with environmental Non-Governmental Organisations; • Participation in staff networks that aim to deliver on or promote objectives related to biodiversity or nature; • Opportunities for secondments to other organisations working on biodiversity and conservation.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>This has not been done at this time. We aim to seek these opportunities in 2023.</p>

SECTION 6: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Describe any research activities that your organisation has undertaken to help develop understanding and awareness of biodiversity or nature

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Detail relevant research activities undertaken to raise awareness and understanding of nature and biodiversity, or to understand the way in which communities engage with the natural world. Where relevant, summarise the key changes that this research has supported within your public body.</p> <p>This might include research papers, surveys or reports undertaken by your organisation.</p>
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>Four Ecological Appraisals were completed by Envirocentre for Foresterhill Health Campus, Dr Grays, Foresterhill Health Campus and Woodend Hospital in Spring 2022.</p> <p>The survey identified different species of plants and vegetation and whether they were species of importance. It also took into account the possibility of this area to be a favoured habitat for transient faunal species.</p> <p>The survey recorded this area as the potential habitat and/or foraging area for birds, bats, red squirrels, hedgehogs and a variety of insect species. Recommendations have been made to mitigate potential habitat destruction caused by construction, such as avoiding the felling of trees during the nesting seasons for birds and the retention of trees and greenspace where possible, avoiding the removal of grassland during the winter to prevent unintentional killing of hibernating hedgehogs, and the prevention of pollution running into the partially surfaced burn.</p> <p>It also advised on opportunities to increase biodiversity in the area to compensate for any loss of habitat, such as the planting of pollinator wild flowers and berry/fruit producing plants and trees, the recreation of habitats for hedgehogs and insects from log piles of any felled trees, bat boxes to increase roosting opportunities and the incorporation of green roofs or living walls into the building as a sustainable urban drainage feature as well as increased foraging opportunities for insects, birds, bats and increasing roosting opportunities.</p> <p>Where possible, the health board will adhere to the recommendations made from the survey. These recommendations have formed part of the biodiversity action plan.</p>



What follow-up actions or monitoring have you undertaken to assess the impacts of the actions you have taken? How have you measured this? If you do not carry out any monitoring activities, please explain why.

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Where appropriate, you may wish to report on monitoring of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities relating to recording of engagement with or understanding of nature; • Your contribution in meeting national and international biodiversity targets; • Biodiversity related programmes or projects that you have delivered either alone or in partnership with others; • Implementation of relevant strategies or policies; • Organisational capability or development in relation to biodiversity or the natural world.
<p>Links to related resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on biodiversity data, including obtaining and sharing data from Local Records Centres Biodiversity - where to find data. • The State of Scotland's Nature report provides a useful overview. • The National Biodiversity Network provides a single hub for biodiversity data management in the UK. • Biological Recording in Scotland is a useful source of information on surveys and biodiversity data management in Scotland.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>No follow up yet this will be reviewed in 2023.</p>

SECTION 7: BIODIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Describe your organisation's main achievements for biodiversity over the reporting period and what you are most proud of (this can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events and actions).

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Examples of key achievements might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading or contributing to programmes or projects that directly support the key steps in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, or contribute to international Biodiversity targets; • Demonstrating national leadership or expertise in relation to biodiversity or nature; • Meeting your strategic aims in relation to biodiversity; • Completion of key projects with relevance to biodiversity or nature; • Funding achieved or delivered; • Volunteering days or time invested; • Provision of successful education or public engagement activities.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>Initiative from staff to complete garden projects, particularly those in outlying sites.</p> <p>Royal Cornhill Hospital – team are working on a small garden and recently installed bedding boxes which will have vegetables, lavender and plants for pollinators.</p>

Looking ahead, what do you think will be the main challenges over the next three years?

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Challenges might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and resource pressures; • Delivery of cross-cutting actions; • Preventing further loss of habitats and species; • Effective management of invasive non-native species; • Pressures for space; • Need to meet targets; • Encouraging enhanced partnership working. •
---	--



Text Field	<p>Economic and resource pressures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current spending and resources are extremely limited as there is ongoing financial constraints nationally.• NHSG had attempted to take forward the Greenspace Project under existing frameworks, however the costs which were generated via that approach did not come within the budget, hence the decision to tender in the marketplace. The project has now started, although with financial challenges. <p>Ongoing capital projects on site (construction of Baird Family Hospital & Anchor Unit, Elective Care Centre) will bring disruption of habitat, flora and fauna on site</p> <p>From environmental perspective, NHSG is working on meeting the net-zero carbon emissions targets as per the national Climate Change Commitments – with the current focus being on the installation of EV infrastructure.</p> <p>To implement the NHS biodiversity action plan – To resource funds during economic pressures.</p>
-------------------	--