

NHS GRAMPIAN BIODIVERSITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a Biodiversity Duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in carrying out their functions. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was published by the Scottish Government in 2004 and contains 5 strategic objectives, including:

- Reversal of biodiversity loss
- Increasing awareness and engagement
- Restoring and enhancing through planning, design and practice
- Providing a management framework for including biodiversity in all decision making
- Encouraging a wider availability of knowledge

The Biodiversity Duty states that, in exercising any functions, public bodies should further the conservation of biodiversity as far as is consistent with the exercising of those functions.

NHS Grampian has a board member who is responsible for leading on Biodiversity and champions it as part of his role as a Non-executive Director. He is supported by the sustainability and project teams.

The central 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.

Positioned on the mature broadleaf trees are bird boxes to encourage native species to nest in quiet areas away from traffic and people, in addition to this, there has been further planting of young broadleaf trees to ensure continuous biodiversity within the grounds.

The planting of flowering hedgerows to encourage pollinating insects has been part of the ongoing development within the grounds.

Garden areas throughout NHS Grampian have been set aside for the benefit of all, in some areas these are enclosed and used exclusively by the patients, especially the elderly and those with mental health issues.

The ongoing maintenance of these gardens is carried out by NHS Grampian staff with the support of local charities which encourage those with special needs to be actively involved in the ongoing development of the garden areas.

Along with the green areas, we have a small colony of bats which are protected by law and left undisturbed to roost, which allows the colony to develop and grow naturally.

In the future, NHS Grampian's Foresterhill site will have a therapeutic roof garden where planting will be allowed to mature without significant input by grounds maintenance staff.

All development works take into account the disturbance to trees and green areas. Ground works avoid the disturbance of root balls and where this is not possible, trees are removed and relocated and all projects require the reinstatement of green areas on completion.