The Edinburgh Nature Network

Urban & Built Environment Opportunities

Pollinator-friendly planters on the Glenmorangie Building; Image by RBGE

There are 24 incredible opportunities to green the built environment in Edinburgh that were identified through the ENN which would provide benefits to both people and nature.

These opportunities include:

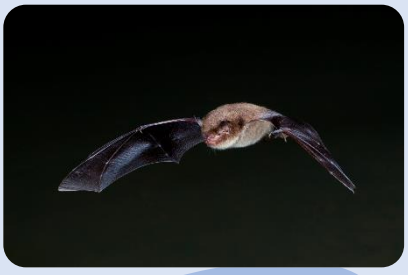
- Greening rooftops across the city
- Replacing the artificial environment to allow for better drainage and wildlife access
- Encouraging pollinator-friendly interventions in private gardens, such as windowsill planters

Using the location, action description, and species in the accompanying table, we hope you can find an opportunity that is right for the aims of your organisation.

Species Spotlight

These are just some of the incredible, local species covered in the opportunities in this area. Please check the accompanying table or the **ENN story map** to get more details on the actions connected to each species.

Ringed Plover



Daubenton's Bat

Buff-tailed Bumblebee

European Badger

Speckled Wood Butterfly

Edinburgh Nature Network is a long-term strategic approach to manage, restore and enhance the urban landscape of Edinburgh, highlighting opportunities to take action across the city.

Get Involved

If your organisation has an ongoing or completed project relating to one of these actions, please log it in our survey.

Get in touch with us at thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk

EDINBURGH'S thriving green spaces

Scottish Wildlife Trust

EDINBVRGH THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

ENN Action Number	Area	Action	Category	Beneficiary Species
CR004	Airport	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to address issues around the airport**: air, noise and water pollution, and the heat island effect from the large areas of tarmac and sealed surfaces. Solutions could include: • Green roofs and walls as used by Singapore Changi Airport with over 20,000 plants that help purify the air and reduce the surrounding temperature. • Increase porous surfaces through rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat creation to filter and absorb surface water runoff. • Plant trees and hedging to provide shade and mitigate noise pollution.	Create	
CR005	Airport	**Create an environmental sustainability partnership for the airport to deliver habitat enhancements and ecosystem services**. Collaborating with relevant environmental organisations will align with the existing Water Quality Partnership approach, which is led by airport staff working alongside organisations including SEPA, NatureScot and RSPB.	Create	
CO017	Braid Hills	**Connect Braid Hills to the Meadows**. There is limited priority habitat between Braid Hills and the Meadows, apart from native woodland within Astley Ainslie Hospital grounds and Grange Cemetery. There are mainly residential dwellings with private gardens between Braid Hills and the Meadows, which provide vital for stepping stone habitat and connectivity for wildlife.	Connect	

CR023	Burdiehouse	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions in existing housing estates and future residential developments surrounding Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park**. This will expand habitats and associated benefits from the park into the wider area. Greenspace within new residential developments should be an extension of the park and connected to other greenspaces. Sharing information on the benefits of nature-based solutions will improve support. Solutions could include: • Green roofs and living walls providing air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation. • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters providing stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.	Create	Invertebrates Birds
EN039	Burdiehouse	**Enhance biodiversity at Mortonhall Cemetery.** The cemetery is home to wildlife including European Badgers (*Meles meles*), but it can be further enhanced for wildlife, which will improve biodiversity and benefit people.	Enhance	Badger
CO013	Central	**Connect existing greenspaces**. The Meadows, Princes Street Gardens and Calton Hill should be connected with stepping stone habitat provided by landowners, businesses and residents. These could include windowsill planters for pollinators, green roofs or rooftop gardens.	Connect	

CR018	Central	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to demonstrate that a city can balance traditional building materials with natural infrastructure**. There is new development planned for Fountainbridge, which is an opportunity to incorporate nature-based solutions throughout the planning process such as: • Green roofs and living walls to provide air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation. • 'Brownfield' roofs where habitat and species are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto the roofs of new developments. Brownfield sites mostly consist of Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMH). This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat, and can host species-rich invertebrate communities, and is important for birds such as the ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula)*. • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filter surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffers noise from city traffic and provides a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters provide stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.	Create	Invertebrates Birds - notably the Ringed Plover
CR019	Central	**Create solutions to artificial light pollution.** Artificial lighting provides a perception of safety, but has enormous impacts on wildlife, most recently being linked with a 50% decline in moth populations and has a detrimental effect on crepuscular species and birds who experience perpetual daylight. It also causes health problems for humans, affecting sleep and increasing risks of physical disease such as heart problems and mental health issues such as anxiety. A sympathetic approach to lighting would benefit wildlife and people, and would enhance the quality of architectural spaces. Bat-friendly lighting was successfully used in Worcester, and they installed a second set of this lighting in 2021 after finding out the area was being used by bats.	Create	Moths Birds Bats

CR035	Craiglockhart and Morningside	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to flooding and the heat island effect at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital**. Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filter surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. Rain gardens should be implemented in car parks. Planting native trees will mitigate flooding, as well as providing shade to ameliorate the heat island effect.	Create	
CR013	Granton and Wardie	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions on the new Granton Waterfront Development and Granton Marina Development**. This could include: • Green roofs and living walls to help with air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation. • Brownfield roofs where habitat and species are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto the roofs of new developments. Brownfield sites mostly consist of Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMH). This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat, and can host species-rich invertebrate communities, and is important for birds such as the ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat creation to filter surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) created rain gardens in their grounds. • Native hedging, including berry-producing, species to both buffer noise from city traffic and provide a food resource and shelter for birds and other wildlife. • Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters to provide stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.	Create	Invertebrates Birds - notably the Ringed Plover
PR008	Granton and Wardie	**Protect Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land at Granton Harbour**. This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat that hosts species-rich invertebrate communities and is important for birds. There is ongoing development here, so this habitat should be incorporated into the design, e.g. through brownfield roofs.	Protect	Birds Invertebrates UK BAP priority species

PR009	Granton and Wardie	**Protect Open Mosaic Habitat at Newhaven Harbour**. This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat that hosts species-rich invertebrate communities and is important for a range of birds, including wetland and coastal species. This habitat should be protected, e.g. through brownfield roofs.	Protect	Birds Invertebrates UK BAP priority species
CR029	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to meet the demand for more ecosystem services such as air purification, flood regulation, noise regulation, temperature regulation and health and wellbeing**. There are large areas of artificial sealed surfaces around the Gyle Shopping Centre. Nature-based solutions could include: • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding. Rain gardens can be implemented in car parks. • Native trees providing shade and ameliorating the heat island effect. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Green roofs and living walls can be retrofitted onto existing buildings within the retail park to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification.	Create	Birds
CR030	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to meet the demand for more ecosystem services such as air purification, flood regulation, noise regulation, temperature regulation and health and wellbeing**. There are currently large areas of artificial sealed surfaces around Hermiston Gait. Nature-based solutions should include: • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding. Rain gardens are straightforward to implement in car parks. • Native trees providing shade and ameliorating the heat island effect. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Green roofs and living walls can be retrofitted onto existing buildings within the retail park to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification.	Create	Birds

PR031	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	**Protect Open Mosaic Habitat south of Edinburgh Park**. This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat which hosts species-rich invertebrate communities and is important for birds. Planning permission is granted, which could result in loss of this priority habitat if it is not incorporated into the design. Ideally a large greenspace should be maintained during development. 'Brownfield roofs' should be explored, where habitat and species are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto roofs. This is one of the few remaining large greenspaces in this business park. It provides priority habitat as well as ecosystem services in an area in need of more. As much of this habitat should be retained as possible, and more ecosystems services and habitat need to be provided nearby.	Protect	Birds Invertebrates UK BAP priority species
CR017	Inverleith and Stockbridge	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions on new developments, such as along Water of Leith corridor,** including: • Green roofs and living walls to provide air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation. • 'Brownfield' roofs where habitat and species are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto the roofs of new developments. Brownfield sites mostly consist of Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMH). This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat, and can host species-rich invertebrate communities, and is important for birds such as the ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filter surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) created rain gardens in their grounds. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffers noise from city traffic and provides a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters provide stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.	Create	Invertebrates Birds - notably the Ringed Plover

CO004	Leith	**Connect habitats from Lochend Park to Craigentinny Golf course**. Connectivity could be enhanced using the disused railway line from Quarryholes to Seafield.	Connect	
CR008	Leith	**Create a demonstration site to show how creating and maintaining habitat enhancements and nature-based solutions provides multiple benefits in built-up urban environments**. Show Edinburgh residents how to retrofit enhancements to their homes, and developers how to incorporate natural enhancements in their designs, such as: • Green roofs and living walls, such as a wall of ivy, can be retrofitted onto existing buildings and as part of new developments to help with air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation. • 'Brownfield' roofs where habitat and species are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto the roofs of new developments. Brownfield sites mostly consist of Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMH). This habitat type, which is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat, can host species-rich invertebrate communities and is important for birds such as the ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat creation to filter surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) created rain gardens in their grounds. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, to buffer noise from city traffic and provide a food resource and shelter for birds and other wildlife. • Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters to provide stepping stone habitat for pollinators move around the city.	Create	Birds - notably the Ringed Plover Pollinators

EN007	Leith	**Enhance greenspace owned by housing associations in conjunction with the communities that live there**. This will improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of residents and will enhance habitat connectivity for wildlife. The main housing association for Leith is Port of Leith Housing Association Ltd.	Enhance	
CR034	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions at BioQuarter and Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh**. Large areas of sealed surfaces cause surface water flooding and a heat island effect. This site is earmarked for future development, which provides opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure, such as: • Green roofs and living walls to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding. • Native trees providing shade and ameliorating the heat island effect.	Create	Birds
RE026	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Restore Braid Burn**. Braid Burn is culverted under Cameron Toll Shopping Centre. Restore parts of it to the surface to cope with flooding and allow wildlife to access this habitat.	Restore	

CR027	Newcraighall	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to meet demand for ecosystem services such as air purification, noise regulation, insect pollination and health and wellbeing**. There are large areas of artificial, sealed surfaces, including tarmac and plastic 'grass' in supermarket and retail car parks, including Fort Kinnaird. Nature-based solutions should include: • Native trees providing shade and ameliorating the heat island effect. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. • Green roofs and living walls can be retrofitted onto existing buildings within retail parks and supermarkets to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification. • Nectar-rich flowering planters providing stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.	Create	Pollinators Birds
PR030	Newcraighall	**Protect Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land adjacent to Hunter's Hall Public Park**. After a period of abandonment, the land has been colonised by a range of rare species and is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat. It hosts species-rich invertebrate communities and is important for birds such as ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). It is earmarked for future housing development, but some habitat could be retained through the addition of 'brownfield' roofs, where habitats are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto the roofs of new developments.	Protect	Birds – Notably the Ringed Plover UK BAP priority species

CR015	Portobello	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions on new developments on Seafield Industrial Estate and A1 Industrial Park, as identified in City Plan 2030**. New developments provide opportunities to incorporate nature-based solutions such as: • Green roofs and living walls providing air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation. • 'Brownfield' roofs where habitat and species are translocated from existing brownfield sites onto the roofs of new developments. Brownfield sites mostly consist of Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMH). This is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat, and can host species-rich invertebrate communities, and is important for birds such as the ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). • Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filter surface water runoff and mitigate flooding. • Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffers noise from city traffic and provides a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife. • Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters provide stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.	Create	Invertebrates Birds - notably the Ringed Plover