

# The Edinburgh Nature Network

## Heathland and Peatland Opportunities



Glencorse Reservoir in the Pentland Hills Regional Park

There are 8 great opportunities to improve peatland, heathland and bog habitats within the Edinburgh region that were identified through the ENN.

These opportunities include:

- Safeguarding key heathland in the Pentland region
- Protecting a key habitat for species in these areas
- Restore peatland and heathland which have been lost, in order to improve water quality and reduce nearby flood risk

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.

## Habitat Spotlight

These are just some of the incredible species and habitats 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.



Red Moss of Balerno



Six-Spot Burnet Moth



Green Hairstreak Butterfly



Bell Heather



Peatland

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](mailto:thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk)

ENN Action Number	Area	Action	Category	Species
PR034	Colinton, Wester Hailes and Bonaly	<p><b>Protect heathland in Bonaly as it is an important habitat for green hairstreak butterfly (<i>Callophrys rubi</i>).</b> The green hairstreak population has declined by 30% since 1970 and has undergone local losses in several regions in the UK.</p>	Protect	Green Hairstreak Butterfly
RE023	Colinton, Wester Hailes and Bonaly	<p><b>Restore degraded heathland through coordinated management.</b> Peat soils here are shallow and Class 3 (Scotland's Soils Carbon and Peatland, 2016). These soils are carbon-rich, with some areas of deep peat. Ditch blocking and stopping muirburn will restore peat hydrology and vegetation, which will improve water quality and reduce flood risk.</p>	Restore	
PR040	Craiglockhart and Morningside	<p><b>Protect the small area of true peat in the eastern part of the marsh at Easter Craiglockhart Local Nature Reserve.</b></p>	Protect	
PR018	Holyrood and Duddingston	<p><b>Protect lowland dry heath.</b> This is the only lowland dry heath in the whole of Edinburgh and is important for rare grassland specialists such as six-spot burnet moth (<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>). It is generally under-grazed and should be improved. It is important not to plant trees or make other habitat enhancements that would conflict with this habitat type to prevent it being lost. Actions should be undertaken naturally with ranger assistance.</p>	Protect	Six-spot Burnet Moth

CO001	Pentlands	<b>Connect existing fragmented areas of peatland.</b> Field ditches and small burns can provide habitat connectivity for areas of peatland.	Connect	
PR001	Pentlands	<b>Protect peatland, heathland and bog.</b> The habitat at Red Moss of Balerno is the only raised bog in the City of Edinburgh. It is managed by Scottish Wildlife Trust. The peatland is covered in a blanket of pink-purple heather ( <i>Erica sp.</i> ), sundews ( <i>Drosera sp.</i> ), ragged robin ( <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> ) and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses.	Protect	Heather Sundews Ragged robin Mosses
RE001	Pentlands	<b>Restore degraded peatland through management and reducing recreational pressures.</b> Ditch blocking and stopping muirburn will restore peat hydrology and vegetation, which will improve water quality and reduce flood risk. Restoring peatland will mitigate the effects of climate change as peat is a carbon store. Intact areas of peatland with <i>Sphagnum</i> species on the surface can sequester particulate matter and heavy metals from the atmosphere.	Restore	Mosses
RE002	Pentlands	<b>Restore historical upland habitats.</b> City of Edinburgh Council Pentland Hills Regional Park team hold long-term biodiversity survey and fixed-point monitoring data. Collaboration with scientists to analyse the data would provide useful information on how best to restore and manage the habitats.	Restore	