The Edinburgh Nature Network

Native Woodland and Hedgerows Opportunities

Row of trees in Leith Links

There are nearly 50 incredible opportunities to improve native woodland and hedgerow habitats in Edinburgh that were identified through the ENN.

These opportunities include:

- Planting native flora to support fauna.
- Protecting vital urban woodland which provide important ecosystem services.
- Enhancing areas for wildlife by adding species specific infrastructure e.g. bat boxes.

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.

Hawthorn

Hedgehog

Buzzard

Tawny Owl

Elm

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	Species
CO016	Braid Hills	**Connect Braid Hills to Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park.** Habitat connectivity to Burdiehouse Burn should be strengthened across surrounding fields, parks and golf courses. Improving connectivity for people as well as wildlife through green corridors would provide more health and wellbeing benefits.	Connect	
CO018	Braid Hills	**Connect Braid Hills to Inch Park and Craigmillar Castle Park.** Connectivity along Braid Burn should be improved through Craigmillar Park Golf Course, University of Edinburgh King's Buildings Campus and Liberton Recreation Grounds.	Connect	
PR026	Braid Hills	**Protect ravine woodland along Braid Burn**. Braid Burn provides habitat for a range of wildlife including otter (*Lutra lutra*), dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*) and Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*). It provides connectivity to other areas of priority habitat within the city, though this could be improved.	Protect	Otter Dipper House martin Daubenton's bat
RE019	Braid Hills	**Restore native habitats to Braid Hills by removing invasive non-native species (INNS).** INNS present include giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), and Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). A coordinated effort along Braid Burn is needed to be successful.	Restore	Native plant species
CO014	Burdiehouse	**Connect priority woodland within Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park**. There are gaps between areas of woodland that should be better connected through targeted planting of native tree species.	Connect	

CO015	Burdiehouse	**Connect priority woodland between Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park and Craigmillar Castle Park, through Moredun Wood**. There are gaps in the woodland network that should be connected to provide more benefits for people and wildlife through planting native tree species.	Connect	
PR024	Burdiehouse	**Protect mature trees**. There are green corridors with mature trees along Stenhouse Burn between Liberton Hospital and St Catherine's Park. These should be protected, and more trees should be planted to connect the habitat network.	Protect	
CR020	Central	**Create habitat using nature-based solutions to traffic pollution; both emissions and noise**. Planting of trees, hedgerows and meadows along main roads in the city centre (e.g. Lothian Road, Newington Road, South Bridge, George Street etc.) will mitigate noise and air pollution, and the heat island effect. The pavements in some of these areas are narrow so vertical planting will create connectivity where tree planting isn't possible.	Create	
CO024	Colinton, Wester Hailes and Bonaly	**Connect Colinton and Craiglockhart Dells to Craiglockhart Local Nature Reserve**. Native tree and hedge planting through Merchiston Castle School and Redford Barracks will provide habitat connectivity. Redford Barracks is a large brownfield site that is earmarked for future housing development.	Connect	
CR031	Colinton, Wester Hailes and Bonaly	**Create priority habitat at Kingsknowe Golf Course**. The only priority habitat within Kingsknowe Golf Course is the small strip of native woodland at the northeast corner. Additional planting of native trees along the eastern edge of the golf course will provide additional priority habitat and connect Union Canal and Colinton and Craiglockhart Dells. Creating species-rich grassland by planting a diversity of nectar-rich flowering plants will provide additional habitat for pollinators and other species.	Create	Pollinators

RE024	Colinton, Wester Hailes and Bonaly	**Restore native woodland within Bonaly Country Park.** Thin the tree stock and replace non-native species with native species. Allow natural regeneration of woodland on the lower slopes of the Pentland Hills to provide additional woodland habitat.	Restore	
CO019	Corstorphine	**Connect Corstorphine Hill with the Water of Leith to create a green corridor for people and wildlife.** There is a green corridor along the east end of Carrick Knowe Golf Course that could be better connected to Saughton Park and the Water of Leith for both people and wildlife.	Connect	
CO020	Corstorphine	**Connect Corstorphine Hill and Ravelston Woods with stepping stone habitat**. Expanding the provision of native habitat through nearby school grounds, such as Mary Erskine School for Girls, would provide a corridor for wildlife and ecosystem services for people and wildlife.	Connect	
CO021	Corstorphine	**Connect Davidson's Mains Park to Cammo Estate and the River Almond corridor**. Habitat improvements alongside roads, including the planting of native street trees, hedges and biodiverse road verges, would provide connectivity, alongside enhancements at Royal Burgess and Bruntsfield golf courses.	Connect	
CO022	Corstorphine	**Connect woodland between Corstorphine Hill and Ravelston Woods.** Most of the trees within Murrayfield Golf Course and Ravelston Golf Course are non-native and should be replaced with native species to provide better connectivity for wildlife.	Connect	

PR027	Corstorphine	**Protect Ravelston Wood as it is an ancient woodland with a large Scottish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) population**.	Protect	Scottish Bluebell
PR028	Corstorphine	**Protect Corstorphine Hill as it has a range of priority habitat including native woodland and species-rich grassland, as well as some wildflower meadows.** It also provides habitat for a large colony of badgers (*Meles meles*).	Protect	Badger
PR041	Craiglockhart and Morningside	**Protect woodland within Astley Ainslie**. Many of the trees within Astley Ainsley Hospital grounds are veteran trees, some of which date back to the early 19th century. The woodland provides habitat for wildlife as well as ecosystem services such as flood regulation and air purification. The trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), however the area is earmarked for development.	Protect	
PR042	Craiglockhart and Morningside	**Protect woodland within Easter Craiglockhart Local Nature Reserve**. It is native broadleaved woodland, planted over 200 years ago. It is important for elm (*Ulmus sp.*), wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) and bat species.	Protect	Elm Wren Tawny Owl Bats

CR011	Cramond	**Create woodland by planting native trees in Muirhouse.** There is demand for more ecosystem services in Muirhouse for noise regulation and health and wellbeing. Tree or hedge planting will diffuse noise. Planting fruit bearing species will provide food for people, birds and other wildlife, as well as better access to nature and the wellbeing benefits associated with this.	Create	
EN015	Cramond	**Enhance habitat at Bruntsfield golf course for wildlife**. There is existing native woodland within the golf course, but more could be done to improve the site for wildlife. There is a pond that should be enhanced and other habitat improvements will provide better connectivity between the golf course and the River Almond. It also neighbours Lauriston Farm, so additional pollinator habitat and amphibian ponds would complement the habitat found nearby.	Enhance	Pollinators Amphibians
EN016	Cramond	**Enhance habitat at Royal Burgess golf course for wildlife**. The freshwater habitat could be enhanced through the inclusion of ponds, whilst trees, hedges and wildflowers would also improve connectivity from Davidson's Main through to the River Almond.	Enhance	
EN017	Cramond	**Enhance habitat at Silverknowes golf course for wildlife**. Grassland on the coastal edge of the course can be enhanced by planting a coastal mix of wildflower species to support pollinators, in conjunction with native hedges and trees to support a range of wildlife and provide ecosystem services for people.	Enhance	Pollinators

CO008	Dalmahoy and Balerno	**Connect habitats across agricultural land through the planting of native hedgerows and trees**. Creation of native wildflower meadows and buffer strips along field margins will provide habitat for pollinator species.	Connect	Pollinators
EN008	Dalmahoy and Balerno	**Enhance the golf courses for biodiversity and habitat connectivity**. The species-poor grassland can be improved, while tree planting will connect areas of woodland.	Enhance	
EN045	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	**Enhance amenity grassland at tram stops and along travel routes**. Tree planting and meadow creation at Saughton Tram Stop will provide additional habitat for wildlife.	Enhance	
EN046	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	**Enhance amenity grassland within the Gyle Business Park and along travel routes**. Native tree planting and meadow creation will provide additional habitat for wildlife. Amenity grassland in Edinburgh Park should be enhanced for pollinators and other wildlife. Changing the grass cutting regime to support growth of wildflowers will provide habitat for pollinators in parks and road verges, connecting existing meadows.	Enhance	
EN027	Holyrood and Duddingston	**Enhance habitat at Duddingston Golf Course for wildlife**. There is existing native woodland within the golf course, but more could be done to improve the site for wildlife. There is a pond that should be enhanced and other habitat improvements will provide better connectivity between Duddingston Loch and Figgate Burn Park.	Enhance	
EN028	Holyrood and Duddingston	**Enhance Prestonfield Golf Course for biodiversity and habitat connectivity**. The species-poor grassland can be improved, while tree planting will connect areas of woodland.	Enhance	

EN029	Holyrood and Duddingston	**Enhance Duddingston Recreation Grounds for biodiversity and habitat connectivity**. The species-poor grassland can be improved, while tree planting will connect areas of woodland.	Enhance	
EN005	Leith	**Enhance Leith Links**. It is mainly amenity grassland with lines of mature trees. Native hedging with species such as hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) around the perimeter will provide berries for birds and noise regulation to buffer the sound from traffic on the nearby roads. City of Edinburgh Council have a master plan for Leith Links.	Enhance	Birds
CR032	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Create more priority habitat**. Plant native trees and hedges, and create species-rich grassland within University of Edinburgh's Peffermill Playing Fields, Prestonfield Golf Course and along Braid Burn.	Create	
CO025	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Connect Craigmillar Castle Park to Bawsinch and Holyrood Park**. Priority habitat is limited between these greenspaces. Increasing habitat connectivity for pollinators will help them to move between sites, particularly butterflies. Little France Park is home to locally rare species including small skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*), speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*) and small copper *(Lycaena phlaeas*), while Holyrood Park is home to northern brown argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*) and grayling (*Hipparchia semele*). Allowing them to expand their range will help populations be more resilient to the warming climate.	Connect	Locally rare butterfly species
EN051	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Enhance Liberton Golf Course**. Enhance riparian habitat along Niddrie Burn by planting native trees and shrubs to support wildlife on site and provide a corridor between Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park and both Craigmillar Castle Park and Hunter's Hall Public Park. Enhance grassland with diverse nectar-rich wildflowers to provide pollinator habitat.	Enhance	

PR035	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Protect Inch Park as it provides priority habitat for wildlife including native woodland and wetlands**. It provides ecosystem services such as noise regulation and flood regulation where there is high demand.	Protect	
PR037	Liberton, Inch and Little France	**Protect native woodland and veteran trees within Craigmillar Castle Park**. It provides habitat for a range of species including bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), as well as ecosystem services such as flood regulation, air purification and noise regulation.	Protect	Bullfinch Buzzard
PR029	Newcraighall	**Protect native woodland at Hunter's Hall Public Park, which provides habitat and ecosystem services for people and wildlife.**	Protect	
EN001	Pentlands	**Enhance existing field margins to create better habitat connectivity for pollinators.** Reduce use of pesticides and herbicides, plant flowering hedgerows and set aside wildflower margins at field edges.	Enhance	Pollinators
EN022	South Queensferry and Dalmeny	**Enhance Dundas Castle Estate for Great Crested Newts (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*).** There are historical records from 1996 and 2005 of newts in the ponds at Dundas Castle Estate. A survey should be conducted to determine if the newts are still there, and habitat should be enhanced. New ponds should be created within the dispersal range of current ones and connectivity provided through features such as rough grassland or hedgerows.	Enhance	Great Crested Newts
EN058	Stenhouse and Saughton	**Enhance habitat for wildlife, including pollinators, in Saughton Allotments**. The allotments should be enhanced by eliminating the use of herbicides and pesticides and using natural pest control, incorporating areas for wildlife and adding bat boxes, hedgehog homes and log piles for invertebrates. Enhancing wet areas by adding small ponds would help with flood regulation.	Enhance	Bats Hedgehogs Invertebrates