



NHS Lothian
Biodiversity Action Plan
Consultation Summary

Help Shape NHS Lothian's Greener Future

Hello,

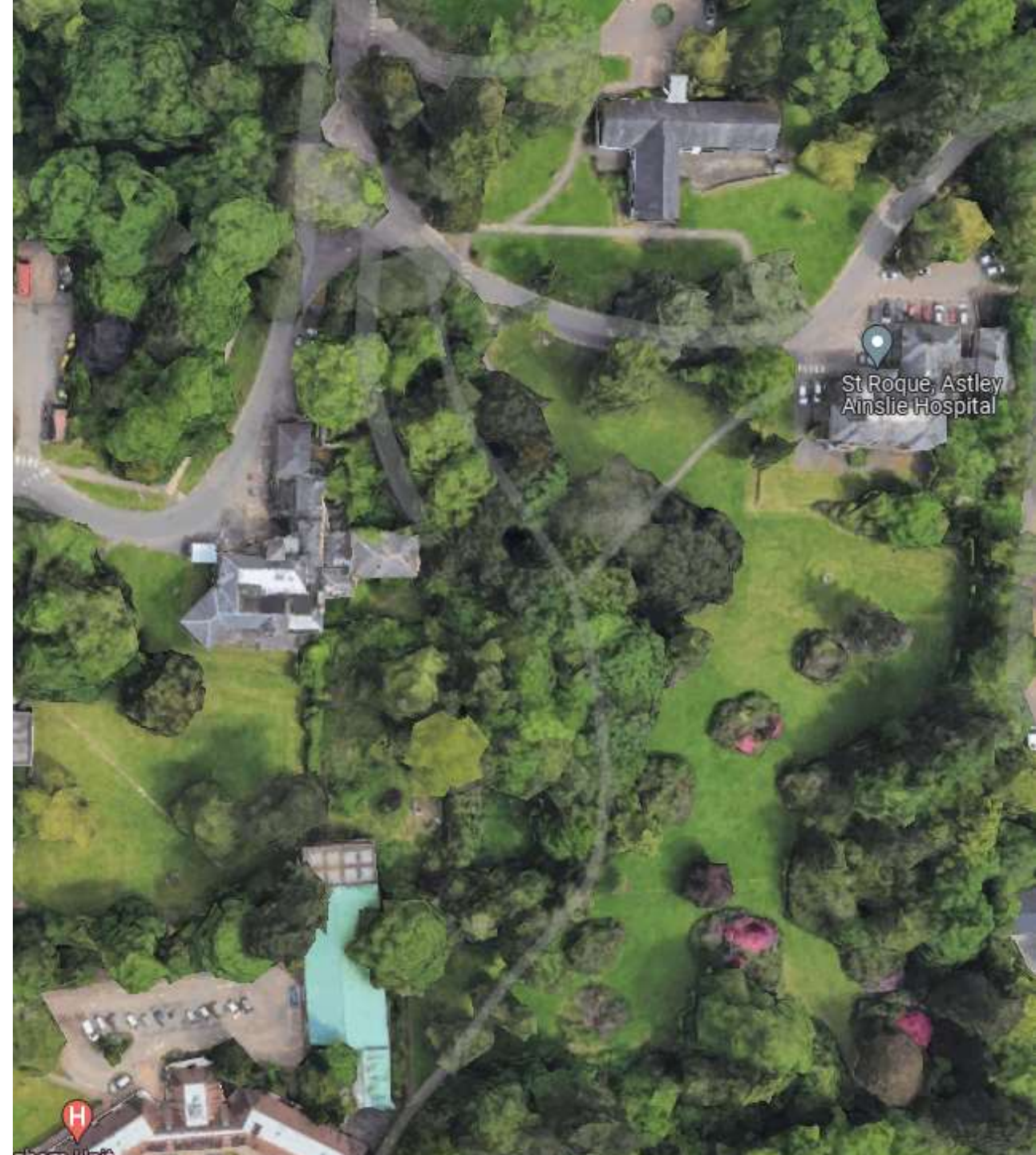
We're excited to share that NHS Lothian is developing a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to create a thriving natural environment across our estate! This plan will guide our efforts for the next 10 years, making our hospitals and facilities more welcoming for wildlife and people alike.

Your Voice Matters!

We want to hear from you! We've created a short online survey to gather your valuable feedback on the plan and how we can improve it.

How to take part

- Take a look through these slides or the full version of the plan [here](#).
- Fill in the online survey to tell us what you think. Is there anything we have missed and should include?
- Contact us if you need to find out more by emailing ian.mackenzie@nhs.scot



What is a Biodiversity Action Plan and why do we need one?

BAPs are plans developed by organisations to protect and enhance the biodiversity of environments that they have control over.

At the heart of the BAP is the recognition that an organisation can have both a positive and negative impact and an ambition to tip the balance in nature's favour.

We need one to:

- Help ensure that we are meeting our legal and moral obligations.
- Provide support and guidance to our teams to make the best decisions.
- Communicate to our partners and stakeholders what actions we are taking and what standards we expect.



Our action plan

Our vision: NHS Lothian will be nature positive by 2030, and will have restored and regenerated biodiversity across our estate by 2045. Our natural environment, our habitats, ecosystems and species, will be diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change. Regenerated greenspaces and biodiversity will support the health of thriving communities.

To achieve this vision action plans have been developed for specific types of greenspace on the NHS estate. The full plan details the threats these habitats face and the key policies and legislation that's affect them.

The following tables summarise the actions we have identified and the full version of the plan can be downloaded [here!](#)

Woodland and trees

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain and expand the current extent of woodland 2. To improve the biodiversity of woodland 3. To improve the quality of access to woodlands. 			
Action	Timescales	Delivery lead & partners	Resources required
Develop an NHS Lothian Tree Management Policy to set out clearly existing and future tree-related policies that will inform how the NHS manages trees and woodlands in its own ownership ⁴	1 to 3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time Staff time and external advice
Identify opportunities to plant more trees or woodland areas, improve biodiversity and enhance woodland habitat connectivity across campuses.	One year	NHSL Sustainability Team	Staff time and external advice
Develop woodland management plans for the Astley Ainslie Hospital and the Royal Edinburgh Hospital	One year	NHSL Estates & Facilities	External consultants
Establish status management for areas of woodland connected to RIE, MLCH, SJH & Tippethill Hospital	One year	NHSL Sustainability Team; PPP programme support	Staff time
Deliver tree planting as specified in greenspace management plans for AAH, REH, ELCH	1- 5 years	Lead: NHSL Estates & Facilities Partners: TBC	Revenue / project funding (<£50k)
Improve quality of practical woodland management skills and increase knowledge of common sense risk management of trees ⁵	1 to 3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Reorient existing practice & training
Create and/or enhance species-rich hedgerows at sites identified as having best potential to improve wildlife habitat	1 to 3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Reorient existing practice
Promote incorporation of woodlands, woodland planting and management within development and ensure and adherence to BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.'	1 to 3 years	NHSL Sustainability Team/Capital Planning, Estates & Facilities	Reorient existing practice

Fresh water

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance the river, burn and associated riparian features To improve water quality To increase public awareness of the wildlife and amenity value of rivers and burns 			
Actions	Timescales	Delivery Lead & partners	Resources required
Develop policies to control INNS species and favour establishment of appropriate native species adjacent to rivers on the NHSL estate	One year	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Re prioritisation of existing resource
Identify sites suitable for riparian woodland creation or enhancement.	One year	NHS Lothian Sustainability Team / NHS Lothian Charity	Staff time
Work with BioQuarter Partners to identify action to improve condition of Niddrie Burn	1 to 3 years	NHS Lothian PPP Contract Management Team /EQUANS	Lifecycle funding / charitable funding
Deliver actions to remove INNS and establish appropriate native wetland species in Niddrie Burn	1 to 2 years	EQUANS (Partners: Edinburgh University, Scottish Enterprises ELGT; CEC)	Revenue funding
Maximise the ecological value of existing SUDS following SEAP best practice guidance ⁶	1 to 5 years	NHSL Sustainability Team/Capital Planning, Estates & Facilities	Capital investment
Develop and deliver interpretation project for patients staff and visitors to the BioQuarter	One year	NHSL Charity	Potential for external funding
Work with partners to integrate health benefits into Burdiehouse Burn Restoration Project	1 to 2 years	NHS Lothian Sustainability Team / Public Health	Re-orient existing practice

Green & blue infrastructure

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance integrated green infrastructure as a key structural component of site development masterplans for all acute sites. To increase public awareness of the amenity value of open sustainable urban drainage systems (swales) and their connections to rivers and burns. 			
Actions	Timescales	Delivery Lead & partners	Resources required
Develop public realm and landscape strategies that compliment strategic (service) and development masterplans for each of the acute hospital sites. A landscape strategy should be underpinned with assessment of the natural capital assets and biodiversity audits.	1 – 3 years	NHSL Capital Planning / Strategic Planning	Staff time / consultancy support
Develop robust development masterplans that set key design and delivery rules for each acute hospital site, ensuring consistency in approach and minimising damage to existing landscape and ecology in accordance with legislation and national standards.	1 – 3 years	NHSL Capital Planning / Strategic Planning	Staff time / consultancy support
Communicate intentions of landscape strategies and masterplans to wide range of stakeholders including project teams, estates and facilities staff, clinical staff and site management.	1- 3 years	NHSL Capital Planning / Strategic Planning	Staff time / consultancy support
Undertake investigation through mapping of existing swales and establish connections to local watercourses where not already known.	1- 3 years	NHSL Capital Planning / Strategic Planning	Staff time / consultancy support
Provide awareness and communicate connections to existing water courses and importance of swale as an important amenity for acute hospital site.	1 year	NHSL Sustainability Team	Staff time
Engage with local Infection Prevention Control colleagues to promote importance of swales as not only flood prevention/ water attenuation, when considered a HAI risk to patients.	1 year	NHSL Sustainability Team	Staff time



Grassland & parkland

Objectives			
1. Increase the extent and quality of semi-natural habitats in and around grassland and parkland 2. To promote good management practice to maximising wildlife and health benefits			
Actions	Timescales	Delivery Lead & partners	Resources required
Identify areas of semi natural grassland and parkland and ensure maintained regimes are in place to enhance them (Known areas include REH, ELCH, AAH, WGH)	One year	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Improve the biodiversity of amenity and formal greenspaces through targeted interventions relaxation of grassland cutting, allowing shrubs to develop greater structural diversity	1 to 5 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Deliver key elements of AAH, REH and ELCH greenspace management plans	1 to 2 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Re-orient existing resource
Increase the age and structural diversity of trees through tree planting at key sites.	1 to 3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Lifecycle funding / charitable funding
Increase skills and capacity of teams to manage diverse grassland areas using expert advisors where appropriate	1 to 2 years	NHSL Sustainability Team NHSL Estates & Facilities	Re-orient existing resource
Promote the benefits of biodiversity in public spaces to the public using art and creativity to engage new audiences	1 to 5 years	NHSL Charity	Staff time / revenue funding

Invasive non-native species

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify any INNS present on NHS Lothian estate or in surrounding areas 2. Ensure that NHS Lothian works in partnership to reduce the impact of INNS in Scotland 3. Make sure that NHS Lothian complies with legislation and continuously improves its contribution to the management of INNS 			
Actions	Timescales	Delivery lead & partners	Resources required
Review existing documentation in order to identify any non-native invasive species on NHS Lothian estate or surrounding areas	1 year	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Identify and share a list of known INNS to Grounds and Gardens Team and key community and voluntary sector group for awareness (if not already)	1 year	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Ensure that awareness of potential NNIS forms part of communications with partners, communities, staff and visitors as part of any engagement in relation to Greenspace and Biodiversity	1 year	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Identify key partners in relation to identifying and notifying of NNIS	1-3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Work with Environmental Management System Co-ordinator to ensure that NHS Lothian has policies and processes in place to comply with legislation in relation to INNS	1-3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time

Nature connection

Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NHS Lothian outdoor estate is recognised and fully utilised as a heath asset for patients, staff and communities. 2. There are more opportunities for people to connect and learn about nature on the NHS estate 3. We work together with communities and partners to enhance biodiversity 			
Actions	Timescales	Delivery lead & partners	Resources required
Develop hub for greenspace and biodiversity information in NHS Lothian	1 year	NHS Lothian Charity	Staff time
Review the tenure of the three existing community gardens to ensure that ensure they are supported to be exemplars of nature connection	1 – 2 years	NHSL Public Health	Staff time / legal advice
Enhance the biodiversity of the community gardens and create opportunities to interpret the wildlife found in them	Ongoing	Cyrenians, Sustaining Dunbar	Staff time & external creative support
Identify and develop new community growing spaces,	1-3 years	NHSL Estates & Facilities	Staff time
Deliver an ongoing programme of nature based activity at major hospital sites	Ongoing	NHS Lothian Charity; Cyrenians, RSPB, ELGT, TCV	Staff time & partnership funding
Develop the NHS Lothian Green Health Network to support staff and partners deliver nature based activities	Ongoing	NHS Lothian Charity	Staff time
Develop a programme of citizen science link to national schemes to support the monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity projects.	1-2 years	NHS Lothian Charity	Staff time & partnership funding

Your voice matters!

We want to hear from you! We've created a short online survey to gather your valuable feedback on the plan and how we can improve it. The survey asks 5 key questions:

1. Do you agree with the overall vision of the BAP?
2. Do you believe the central aims are appropriate and comprehensive?
3. Do you believe the action plan adequately addresses the key issues for greenspace on the NHS Estate?
4. Are there any additional actions that should be added?
5. Are there any actions that should be removed?

Take the survey now - It's Quick & Easy!

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/nhslothiansurveys/nhs-lothian-biodiversity-action-plan-consultation-survey>

Survey closes 31st July 2024

