



Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report – Argyll and Bute Council 2021 - 2023

The report follows the headings as set out in the current Scottish Government template.

1. INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PUBLIC BODY
2. ACTIONS TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE
3. MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY
4. NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
6. RESEARCH AND MONITORING
7. BIODIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

The Council promotes and has had many successes over the last three years including:

- **Local Development Plan (LDP2):** https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated_files/finalpldp2writtenstatementdepositv2_ac1.pdf
- The LDP2 is a key document in the delivery of biodiversity conservation through land use and management policies, protection and designation of a range of International, National and Local sites. This ensures that land use planning and the management of Council land delivers protection and enhancements for biodiversity.
- **The Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Action Plan** has 29 ongoing projects being delivered by partners, this is due to be refreshed in line with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan when the latter is published.
- **Estates (Argyll and Bute Council):** work in partnership with the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust in a native woodland expansion project. The ser worked with Breedon (Quarry Company) to provide nesting sites for Sand Martins in a Sand Pit which had recently ceased the land is owned by the Council and has since been restored with a grass seed and wildflower mix. In terms of contributing to pollinators the estate has provided land for a local Beekeeper to place his hives on land on Islay.
- **Roads and Amenity Services:** They have carried out INNS control on some roadside verges and assisted with promoting wildflower verges by modifying the cut regime to encourage two to three flushes of native wild flowers and by doing so have contributed to the project on the Argyll and Bute islands mainland. Reed bed restoration at Glengorm and Gartbreck landfills restoration of reed bed filtration systems which are in place to filter and treat leachate from landfill Sites.Coastal and Marine Management Perennial Plants Sewmore Public Realm £25k Roads and Infrastructure The purchase of native shrubs and perennial plants for the flower beds at Bowmore Public Realm.
- **Habitat Restoration Advice to community groups:** through our Community Development officer and Td (:)/TT0 1 have-3 (n a)-2 cn erd0.6 (a)-2.9 (da)-2.9 (v)-

- SUDs on all medium/large new housing developments Helensburgh: Glenoran Road: Ref. 17/00837/PP and Sawmill Field Helensburgh: Ref. 19/02604/PP and Dunbeg Corridor: Ref. 19/01464/PP
- New Community Woodland in the Dunbeg Corridor by Oban
- Local Nature Reserve at the Holyloch, Sandbank by Dunoon. Management Plan has been updated to include additional mixed tree native species planting ponds creation and some tree clearance to accommodate grassy glades. The volunteers to continue to monitor the site for bird and otter activity as well as remove Japanese Knotweed.

4. NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sustainable-development-and-climate-change>

- Solar panels which can generate up to one megawatt of energy have been installed on suitable buildings owned by Argyll and Bute
- We use wood to heat 12 of our buildings following the installation of biomass boilers;
- We operate a 50 kilowatt wind turbine which helps to power our Glengorm Waste Disposal Site on Mull;
- The change to LED lightbulbs in our street lighting is expected to save more than 1,100 tonnes of Carbon dioxide every year;
- 99 schools and nurseries across Argyll and Bute (both Council and other providers) are registered with Eco-Schools and 47 have green flag status;
- Our Sustainable Procurement Policy ensures that our procurement minimises its contribution to climate change <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/selling-council/procurement>

- Valuing Your Soils (2016)
- National Peatland Plan (2015)
- Natural Flood Management Handbook (2015)

5.2 Events and Activities: Supported various community events including highlight areas for permanent pollinator planting.

5.3 Ranger service out with Argyll and Bute Council: Working with the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust with regards to Ranger activities

5.4 Collaborative Working: on a range of projects lead by the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust in relation to Peatland Restoration and Invasive Non Species eradication.

5.5 Volunteering opportunities: Yes through the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust and Local Development Trusts i.e. Appin Community Development Trust and the Rhododendron ponticum clearance project up Glen Creran, Loch Craignish project on Native Oyster and Seagrass restoration projects and citizen science projects including seabed species recording. Loch Linnhe Marine and Coastal Group.

6. RESEARCH AND ASSOCIATED MONITORING

As a Local Authority, we are not a research institute and it is not within our remit or our capacity to analysis the effectiveness of partner lead projects.

6.1 Partner Projects:

- x The Rain Forest initiative is being managed through the Argyll and the Isles Coastal and Countryside Trust, the council's partners.
- x Encouraging Citizen Science CPAL project information is still very relevant.
- x Growing Wild, a Kew Gardens initiative schools and community groups encouraged to apply for wildflower seeds and mushroom growing kits.
- x The Woodland Trust free native bare root trees information sent to a range of community groups including Community Councils.

6.1 Reporting Data: Agencies, clubs and trusts tend to do this, the council does not have capacity. The council promotes citizen science campaigns and native

