

Specialist Advice Report

Biodiversity, habitat and landscape plan

Farm Name/Address: West Lothian Council
Beecraigs Country Park
Linlithgow
EH49 6PL

Farm BRN: 145594

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Background

Biodiversity is the diversity of all the life around us, from birds, mammals, insects, and plants, all the way down to microbes in the soil. Since agriculture covers over 70% of the land in Scotland it means that biodiversity and farming and crofting are inextricably linked. Therefore, the role of agriculture is critical, not just in its primary task of feeding the nation but in safeguarding and improving Scotland's rich biodiversity for the future.

Maintaining and improving biodiversity on farmland is a key part of the Scottish Government's Agriculture Reform Programme which sets out to deliver its *Vision for Scottish Agriculture*. To be able to safeguard and improve our biodiversity it is essential to first gain an insight into what we already have on the ground and how it is managed. The purpose of this plan is to give an overview of current habitats and species present on the farm and to suggest ways in which these can be maintained and enhanced.

By maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity on our farmed landscape we can help to maximise the benefits of 'Natural Capital'.

*"Natural capital is a term for the habitats and ecosystems that provide social, environmental and economic benefits to humans. Scotland has a wide range of these habitats and ecosystems – each of which makes a unique contribution to the wellbeing of those who live and work in Scotland."**

The contribution of natural capital to our daily lives is referred to as 'Ecosystem Services'. Agricultural land provides a broad range of ecosystem services with the most obvious being food produced through the utilisation of soils to grow crops and livestock. Less obvious services include flood management through the water stored in wetlands and bogs, carbon storage in woodlands, grasslands and hedgerows, the maintenance of water quality in our rivers and for giving us the aesthetic rural landscape that we value so highly.

*NatureScot: *Natural Capital definition*

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Business Outline

Beecraigs Country Park extends over 370ha near the historical town of Linlithgow. The Country Park is owned and run by West Lothian Council. As well as Beecraigs, they also own an extensive portfolio of public spaces, including some SSSIs, many areas of woodland, and smaller parcels of agricultural land. Only the land at Beecraigs is included in the specialist plan as the woodlands are all managed by the council's own woodlands officers, the SSSIs have site management agreements with Nature Scot and the other parcels of land are leased to tenant farmers on longer term leases. The council are interested in the biodiversity of the agricultural fields and are keen to maintain and improve the habitats that are present. The main objectives of this conservation specialist plan are to document the habitats present in Beecraigs and explore the possibility of improving these habitats to benefit wildlife and the wider environment.

At the time of the survey the agricultural land at Beecraigs was being grazed by tenants, after the animal attraction closed and the council no longer own their own livestock. The priorities for managing the site are a little unclear currently. In conversation with biodiversity officers from the council, there is a desire to transition the farmland to be more regeneratively farmed. The term "regenerative farming" is open to interpretation, but generally the focus is on soil health by minimising soil disturbance, keeping soil covered, maximising crop diversity and integrating livestock. There is the potential to do all of that at Beecraigs, whilst also using the site to educate the numerous visitors to Beecraigs. At present, the land is let out to neighbouring farmers to graze the land, which is convenient and provides income, whilst also allowing the council to claim subsidy. In order to move forward with the desire to farm more in tune with nature and to prioritise biodiversity, a different approach to managing the land would be needed.

Note:

Reference will be made within this report to the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS). This is the Scottish Government's principal vehicle for funding improvements to biodiversity on farms. The scheme is competitive, and the availability of some scheme options often depends on geographical location. The latest updates and information on the scheme can be found at: [Agri-Environment Climate Scheme \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org). Management options available on your holding can be found by using the targeting tool: [AECS-2024-Targeting-Tool](#)

Farm habitats and species

A biodiversity survey was carried out in March 2025. The main habitats were mapped and are shown on the map in Appendix 3. The park is situated 1 mile south of Linlithgow and enjoys a good climate. The park houses a mixture of habitats from grasslands, woodlands and a loch. Some of the land could be suitable for arable cropping but otherwise fields are only suitable for grass.

In 2024 the land use was as follows:

Crop type	Area (ha)
Permanent Grassland	124.36
Open Woodland (Grazed)	5.65
Fallow	35.68
Fallow older than 5 years	128.14
Generic Exclusion	1411.37
Total	1705.20

The area surveyed and discussed in this report covers 79.26ha, made up of permanent grass, a small area of woodland grazing and fallow older than 5 years.



Photo 1 – A general view of the grassland fields at Beecraigs, taken from NT/01095/74787 looking south towards Beecraigs Loch.

The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) gateway website provides a list of surveyed species present within a certain distance of the farm postcode. The data gives an idea of the species likely to be present on the farm, though the list is not exhaustive as it only includes information supplied to NBN, often supplied by national surveys. A desktop assessment of the species present on the farm was carried out on 5th March 2025, using the NBN gateway and the postcode for the main holding, with the radius set to 5km. Records more than five years old were excluded. A full list of species recorded within 5km of Beecraigs, as listed on NBN gateway with the parameters described above, can be found in Appendix 1.

Specialist Advice

Hedges

Hedgerows are one of the most valuable wildlife habitats on any farm. They are an important landscape feature, creating the familiar field boundaries which define much of our countryside as well as creating a network of wildlife corridors linking habitats right across the landscape. Their benefits for wildlife are multi-faceted, providing food in the form of berries and nuts, dense cover for protection and nesting sites. Utilised by mammals, birds, insects and even amphibians, their role in maintaining farmland biodiversity cannot be overestimated. Whilst the structure of the hedge itself is so valuable for wildlife, the hedge-bottom is equally so. Dense vegetation along the bottom of the hedge provides cover for ground nesting birds, provides dense vegetation within which insects can over-winter and magnifies the wildlife corridor effect by providing dense ground cover. The hedges also play a role in providing essential shelter and shade for livestock and crops as well as helping to limit and prevent soil erosion by water and wind. Less obvious benefits include supporting many beneficial insects which predate on crop pests and pollinate crops, fixing carbon into the soil and providing biosecurity by separating livestock on different holdings.

There are some excellent hedges at Beecraigs which are well maintained, thick and have a variety of species. The hedges are mostly hawthorn and blackthorn, with some sections of beech and holly. Most hedges were a good shape, cut into an 'A'. Additionally, hedges have been protected from livestock and deer through double fencing. This has resulted in lush, thick hedges with strong bases. However, there were a couple of sections which could be improved to maintain and promote biodiversity. In a couple of locations, the hedges were very tall. If left without being cut back, the hedge will become 'leggy' resulting in a line of weak trees rather than the thick hedge present now. Topping these sections will promote the thickening of the hedge, rather than height, which is ideal for maintaining and promoting wildlife corridors and habitat.

In one surveyed section, a rich array of bird species including goldfinch, blue tit, robin, chaffinch, and dunnock were observed, demonstrating the vital role that hedgerows play in sustaining a wide range of avian life.



Photo 2 – An example of the full and varied hedgerows. This hedge would benefit from being topped. This will encourage the hedge to thicken rather than growing vertically. Cutting this length of hedge into the desired A shape could be tricky due to the deer fence.



Photo 3 – An example of some of the good hedges at Beecraigs. They are a good height and cut into an “A” shape. The hedge on the left is a little shorter than the ideal. The hedge on the right is cut well.



Photo 4 – An example of a laid hedge in between fields. Laying a hedge supports hedge structure and improves overall biodiversity by ensuring the hedge stays dense.



Photo 5 – A potential location for hedge establishment. A hedge here would provide a source of shelter and wind break for any livestock grazing these grassland fields.

Opportunities to maintain and enhance biodiversity:

- Whilst the hedges are generally in good condition and neatly cut, it would be worth considering trying to top the taller sections. Cutting the hedges back prevents the hedge from becoming too leggy and promotes thickness. Aim for hedges to be at least 1.5m tall.
- Where possible, don't cut all the lengths of hedge in one year. Roadside hedges will need trimmed annually for road safety and access reasons, but hedges along tracks or between fields could be left and cut every other year. This will allow some species to flower and fruit, providing a food source for insects and birds.
- If new hedges are to be planted along any boundaries which do not currently have a hedge, consider planting with a mix of flowering and fruiting species, native to Scotland.

Watercourses

Watercourses on farms support a huge range of wildlife both in and around the water. Below the surface can be home to a wide variety of fish, insects and aquatic plants. The water margins support a vast array of insect life and provide cover for small mammals, amphibians and birds. The wide variety of insects in these areas provide rich feeding grounds for birds and the linear nature of the watercourses creates excellent wildlife corridors across the farm landscape. Water-loving mammals such as otters will use them as highways to travel in safety across the landscape between different aquatic habitats as will amphibians, birds and insects. Riparian woodland found along the water margins adds to the diversity providing habitat and shade along the margins. Leaves falling in autumn will enter the watercourse and provide organic matter upon which insects can feed, thus establishing the basis of the aquatic food chain.

Beecraigs does not have any major watercourses, but the park includes Beecraigs loch, which has a number of small burns and drains which feed into, and out of it. The open field drains which are along field boundaries are straight and generally not particularly biodiverse. There is a small winding watercourse which issues and sinks within the farm boundary, and this small section is fenced off with a few small trees and shrubs (a large tree had been blown over in the recent storms).



Photo 6 – Small field ditch running between the hedge and field. Although a small area of land, this wildlife corridor has the potential to provide habitat for a wide variety of species.



Photo 7 – More substantial burn running between two fields. This area is fenced off, though it did look like the gates had been left open to recent grazing stock as there was evidence of livestock. It would be beneficial to keep livestock out of this area, particularly in the winter when ground might be more prone to poaching.

Opportunities to maintain and enhance biodiversity:

- Establishing wider buffer strips along the bank of watercourses can increase the habitat variety for wildlife. These buffer zones can also help prevent soil erosion and minimise diffuse pollution.
- Planting more native species along the burn and leaving a wider grass strip could significantly improve biodiversity by providing more options for shelter and food.
- Keep gates closed into fenced water margins to prevent the chance of poaching and diffuse pollution.

Ponds and Wetlands

Ponds are a highly valuable feature on any farm. They are aesthetically pleasing to have as part of the farm landscape, and they provide excellent habitat for a great many species of wildlife. Even small bodies of open water can host a disproportionate amount of wildlife within the pond, and around its margins. A great many insect species relies on bodies of open still water to complete their life cycles as do several amphibians. Ponds will also provide drinking water for many mammals and birds and the margins of a pond with a fluctuating water level will provide feeding opportunities for small waders such as snipe. Ponds can also help with water management, as it naturally absorbs excess rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding in surrounding areas. Additionally, a pond can enhance the aesthetic value of the landscape, offering a peaceful, serene space for relaxation while supporting the natural ecosystem.

Wetlands are a valuable resource in the farm landscape they may be inundated with water permanently or only for certain periods during the year. As well as providing another habitat for wildlife and their own, often unique array of plants, wetlands can provide an important role in carbon storage, flood risk management and sediment capture. Waders will often use wetlands and surrounding grass fields to nest and feed young chicks, particularly lapwing, curlew, oystercatcher, and snipe. All of these birds are recorded on Wakefield.

There is a loch within Beecraigs, but this is not an area that was surveyed. There is a couple of small areas of wetter ground within some fields, but none were practical for creating new ponds. Beecraigs Loch will provide significant habitat and benefit for wildlife in the area, and whilst adding to this habitat by creating smaller ponds within the agricultural land might be beneficial, the benefit would probably be outweighed by the difficulty of siting the ponds and managing the land after they were dug.



Photo 8 – A wet, rushy corner of a grassland field (NT/00179/74930), this area is slightly raised within the field. Unfortunately, making it a poor candidate for pond formation.

Woodlands and Trees

Farm woodlands rival hedgerows in terms of providing the most beneficial habitats on the farm. Their benefits to wildlife are many-fold providing food, shelter and nesting cover. Their value to wildlife often depends on their own diversity and having woodlands consisting of more native species, a varied age structure and a mix of high canopy and ground cover is especially beneficial for wildlife. Native tree species have countless associations with native insect species which have evolved over millennia, and this is one of the reasons that native woodland species are more beneficial for wildlife. Their effect on the farm landscape cannot be underestimated creating the typical images of rural areas which everyone finds so attractive. Their role within agriculture is also

significant providing shelter/shade for livestock and crops as well as the potential financial returns available from wood products through to the provision of firewood. Woodlands and trees also have a major role to play in the sequestration of carbon.

There are large sections of well-maintained woodland at Beecraigs. The larger woodland areas were not surveyed for this specialist plan as they are managed by council staff with woodland management plans. There are smaller sections of woodland and lines of trees which were looked at as part of the survey.



Photo 9 – An example of the scrubby trees lining many fields in Beecraigs. This area was full of diverse avian species, evidence that this habitat is invaluable for biodiversity.



Photo 10 – An example of older broadleaved trees. These provide a variety of habitats for wildlife.

Opportunities to maintain and enhance biodiversity:

- Consider whether any new trees could be planted at Beecraigs. There may be awkward corners of fields that could be squared off with woodland planting.
- Some of the older broadleaved trees are starting to fall, and planting new trees will maintain the landscape and structural diversity.

Grassland

There is potential to improve the value of the grassland for biodiversity by sowing some of the fields down to a more diverse, floristically enhanced sward. Traditional hay meadows have declined drastically across the UK, with most farmers now making silage rather than hay due to

weather constraints. This means that the grass is cut earlier, usually before it has gone to seed, and farmers have favoured more productive grasses like rye grass, rather than a more diverse sward which might have included multiple grass species as well as flowering plants. The loss of hay meadows has also led to a decline in the biodiversity that they supported, and by creating a more floristically enhanced sward, a range of pollinators would benefit. There is also evidence that a diverse sward has benefits for animal health.

Opportunities to maintain and enhance biodiversity:

- Consider establishing a more diverse sward mix. A more diverse sward can be established either by over-seeding the existing sward, by using the “green hay” method, or by cultivating an establishing a completely new sward. Further advice on the green hay method can be found at <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-03/Norfolk%20Wildlife%20Trust%20-%20Green%20Hay%20-%20160523.pdf> and information on managing hay meadows can be found at <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/learning-resource/managing-meadows/> and <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/creation-of-species-rich-grassland/guidance-for-creation-of-species-rich-grassland/> The management of the species rich meadow is important to ensure that the delicate flowering plants are able to flourish and to make sure more competitive grasses don't swamp them out.
- Local seed merchants who specialise in creating seed mixes for the area would be able to give more advice on what plant species to include. Try contacting Scotia Seeds, Watsons Seeds or Dods Seeds.

Subsidy

It is worth mentioning the current subsidy system in Scotland which pays farmers a “Basic Payment” for meeting basic requirements including cross compliance and minimum activity (in this case the land is grazed, fields are fenced and have water troughs so are suitable for agricultural production, despite the council not having their own livestock). The subsidy system is currently under review and is likely to change in the coming years. This year, 2025, will be the first year of farming businesses having to prepare reports required for a “Whole Farm Plan”. This year, every business will have to prepare two of the following: Animal Health and Welfare plan, Biodiversity Audit, Carbon Audit, Integrated Pest Management Plan and Soil Analysis. These will need to be

done before the SAF is submitted on the 15th May. The Whole Farm Plan is the first step in encouraging farmers to take a holistic view of their business, by encouraging them to baseline their current activities. By 2028 all farms will have to have all the elements of the Whole Farm Plan (if applicable) and after that date there may be further requirements and changes to the subsidy system. As the council do not currently farm the land themselves it is not possible to prepare a carbon audit for the agricultural activities, as there are no inputs or outputs, there is no requirement to do the Integrated Pest Management Plan as they do not use plant protection products, and they have no livestock of their own so the Animal Health and Welfare plan is also not required. Future subsidy may depend on the business carrying out some sort of agricultural activity, so it is worth bearing this in mind when considering future leases or agricultural activities. It is likely that regenerative farming practices will be encouraged and supported, alongside any work that benefits biodiversity. It is therefore also worth keeping up to date with grants and subsidies that might become available as the system changes.

A switch to regenerative agriculture, or a change in the current practice of just grazing the agricultural fields, might require a change to how the subsidy is claimed in the future, either by selling or transferring the entitlements to the tenant, or considering whether a contract farming agreement might be more suitable. A contract farming agreement would possibly allow more control over how the land is managed and might meet more of the council priorities. Contact your local agricultural advisor for more advice.

Action Plan/Recommendations

The following table lists some of the suggested action points that would enhance the biodiversity of the holding. Consideration should be made to which no-cost and low-cost actions could be done, whilst also considering the importance of creating and maintaining wildlife corridors to connect habitats. Funding could be sought from the Agri Environment Climate Scheme <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/>. The scheme is competitive so it would be worth seeking professional advice as to whether it is worth applying before going ahead. Some environmental charities sometimes have smaller grants available to help with small scale projects like tree planting or hedge planting, so it might be worth looking for funding for any of the more costly suggestions.

Habitat	Action
Hedges	- Consider cutting hedges so that they are wider at the bottom than the top to allow light to get to the bottom branches. - Don't cut all the hedges in one year, consider whether hedges between fields could be left and cut every second year to allow some hedge species to flower and fruit. - Think about establishing new hedges to link in with existing hedges.
Watercourses	- Plant more native species along the burn and leave a wider grass strip to significantly improve biodiversity by providing more options for shelter and food. - Ensure gates are shut during wetter months at a minimum, to reduce the risk of poaching and diffuse pollution.
Trees	Consider whether additional field boundaries or awkward corners could be planted with a line of trees to improve habitat connectivity and improve structural diversity on the farm.
Grassland	Consider establishing a more diverse sward mix. A more diverse sward can be established either by over-seeding the existing sward or by using the "green hay" method, or by cultivating an establishing a completely new sward.

Appendix 1

Complete list of species present within 5km of Beecraigs from 2020–2024. Information from the NBN gateway website, consulted 5th March 2025.

10-spot Ladybird	Bird's-Foot-Trefoil	Broad-leaved Pondweed
2-spot Ladybird	Bitter-vetch	Broad-leaved Willowherb
7-spot Ladybird	Black Clock	Bronze Shieldbug
Alder	Black Medick	Brooklime
Alpine Lady's-mantle	Black Sexton Beetle	Broom Fork-moss
American Mink	Black Spleenwort	Brown Bent
American Willowherb	Black Swan	Brown Hare
Annual Knawel	Blackbird	Brown Long-eared Bat
Annual Meadow-grass	Blackcap	Brown Sedge
Annual Pearlwort	Black-headed Gull	Bruch's Pincushion
Ash	Black-horned Gem	Buff-tailed Bumblebee
Ash-black Slug	Black-tailed Godwit	Bullfinch
Autumn Hawkbit	Blackthorn	Bulrush
Autumnal Water-starwort	Black-throated Diver	Burnet-saxifrage
Azure Damselfly	Blue Tit	Bush Vetch
Badger	Blue Water-speedwell	Butterbur
Bank Haircap	Bluebell	Butterfly-bush
Barn Owl	Blue-tailed Damselfly	Buzzard
Barnacle Goose	Bog Stitchwort	Canada Goose
Batman Hoverfly	Bottle Sedge	Canadian Waterweed
Bearded Tit	Bramble	Carnation Sedge
Bedstraw	Brambling	Carrion Crow
Beech	Branched Bur-reed	Cat's-ear
Bell Heather	Bristle Club-rush	Cereal Leaf Beetle
Bent Grass	Bristly Fringe-moss	Cetti's Warbler
Bifid Crestwort	Bristly Haircap	Chaffinch
Bifid Hemp-nettle	British Dipper	Cherry Laurel
Bilberry	British Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Chiffchaff
Birch Catkin Bug	Broad Buckler-fern	Cleavers
Birch Clubhorn	Broad Centurion	Clover
Birch Shieldbug	Broad-leaved Dock	Coal Tit

Cock's-foot	Common Sorrel	Dipper
Collared Dove	Common Spike-rush	Dog-rose
Coltsfoot	Common Spotted-orchid	Dog's Mercury
Common Bent	Common Threadwort	Dotted Loosestrife
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Common Toad	Downlooker Snipefly
Common Blue Damselfly	Common Valerian	Downy Birch
Common Carder Bee	Common Water-starwort	Druce's Crane's-bill
Common Chickweed	Common Whitlowgrass	Dunnock
Common Couch	Common Wintergreen	Dusky Slug
Common Darter	Common Yellow-sedge	Early Hair-grass
Common Dog-violet	Compact Rush	Early-purple Orchid
Common Duckweed	Coot	Elder
Common Feather-moss	Cormorant	Elegant Bristle-moss
Common Field-speedwell	Cow Parsley	Enchanter's-nightshade
Common Frog	Cowslip	English Stonecrop
Common Garden Snail	Crack-willow	European Larch
Common Guillemot	Cream-spot Ladybird	Even Scalewort
Common Gull	Creeping Bent	Eyebright
Common Hawker	Creeping Buttercup	Eyed Ladybird
Common Hemp-nettle	Creeping Forget-me-not	Fairy Flax
Common Knapweed	Creeping Soft-grass	Fairy Foxglove
Common Mouse-ear	Creeping Thistle	Fallow Deer
Common Neobisid	Crested Dog's-tail	False Oat-grass
Common Nettle	Crossbill	Fatsia
Common Pincushion	Crosswort	Fen Bedstraw
Common Pollen Beetle	Cuckooflower	Field Forget-me-not
Common Poppy	Curled Dock	Field Horsetail
Common Ragwort	Curlew	Field Maple
Common Red Soldier Beetle	daffodils	Field Vole
Common Sallow	Daisy	Field Wood-rush
Common Sandpiper	Dandelion	Fieldfare
Common Scoter	Dark-edged Bee-fly	Fingered Cowlwort
Common Sedge	Daubenton's Bat	Floating Sweet-grass
Common Shrew	Devil's-bit Scabious	Forked Veilwort
Common Smoothcap	Dilated Scalewort	Foxglove

Frizzled Pincushion
Frogbit
Gadwall
Garden Lady's-mantle
Garden Warbler
Garlic Mustard
Garlic Snail
Germander Speedwell
Glaucous Sedge
Glittering Wood-moss
Goat Willow
Goldcrest
Golden Plover
Goldeneye
Goldfinch
Goosander
Gooseberry
Gorse
Gorse Shieldbug
Goshawk
Grasshopper Warbler
Great Black-backed Gull
Great Crested Grebe
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Great Tit
Great White Egret
Great Willowherb
Great Wood-rush
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil
Greater Plantain
Greater Pond-sedge
Green Alkanet
Green Cellar Slug
Green Mountain Fringe-moss
Green Nettle Weevil

Green Woodpecker
Greenfinch
Green-ribbed Sedge
Green-soled Slug
Green-veined White
Grey Heron
Grey Partridge
Grey Squirrel
Grey Wagtail
Greylag Goose
Ground-elder
Groundsel
Guelder-rose
Gypsywort
Hairy Sedge
Hairy Shieldbug
Hard Rush
Hard-fern
Harebell
Harlequin Ladybird
Hart's-tongue
Hawkweed
Hawthorn
Hawthorn Shieldbug
Hazel
Heath
Heath Bedstraw
Heath Plait-moss
Heath Speedwell
Heath Spotted-orchid
Heath Wood-rush
Heather
Heath-grass
Hedge Bindweed
Hedge Mustard

Hedge Woundwort
Hedgehog
Hemp-agrimony
Herb-Robert
Herring Gull
Himalayan Balsam
Himalayan Cotoneaster
Hogweed
Holly
Honeysuckle
Horse-chestnut
House Martin
House Sparrow
Hoverfly
Hybrid Oak
Iberian Threeband Slug
Indet. Ear Moth
Intermediate Lady's-mantle
Ivy
Ivy-leaved Crowfoot
Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Jackdaw
Japanese Knotweed
Japanese Larch
Jay
Jointed Rush
Juniper
Kestrel
Kingfisher
Knapweed
Knotgrass
Knotted Pearlwort
Lady-fern
Lady's Bedstraw
Lapwing

Larch Ladybird	Marsh Hawk's-beard	Nut Leaf Weevil
Large Bindweed	Marsh Horsetail	Nuthatch
Large Red Damselfly	Marsh Lousewort	Opium Poppy
Lateral Cryphaea	Marsh Orchid	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage
Lawson's Cypress	Marsh Ragwort	Orange Ladybird
Leafhopper	Marsh Thistle	Osier
Lemon-scented Fern	Marsh Violet	Otter
Leopard Slug	Marsh Willowherb	Oval Sedge
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Marsh Woundwort	Oxeye Daisy
Lesser Celandine	Marsh-bedstraw	Oxford Ragwort
Lesser Periwinkle	Marsh-marigold	Oystercatcher
Lesser Pondweed	Mat-grass	Pale Persicaria
Lesser Redpoll	Meadow Buttercup	Palmate Newt
Lesser Spearwort	Meadow Crane's-bill	Peacock
Lesser Stitchwort	Meadow Fescue	Pea-leaf Weevil
Lesser Trefoil	Meadow Foxtail	Pedunculate Oak
Lesser Whitethroat	Meadow Oat-grass	Peregrine
Lily Beetle	Meadow Pipit	Perennial Rye-grass
Lime	Meadow Saxifrage	Perennial Sow-thistle
Linnet	Meadow Vetchling	Pheasant
Little Egret	Meadowsweet	Pied Wagtail
Little Grebe	Mistle Thrush	Pignut
Long-eared Owl	Mole	Pill Sedge
Long-tailed Duck	Montbretia	Pine Ladybird
Long-tailed Tit	Moorhen	Pine Marten
Lyell's Bristle-moss	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	Pineappleweed
Magpie	Mute Swan	Pink Masterwort
Maidenhair Spleenwort	Myotis Bat species	Pink Purslane
Male-fern	Nathusius's Pipistrelle	Pink-footed Goose
Mallard	Neat Feather-moss	Pintail
Mallrug, Mallryg	Netted Field Slug	Pochard
Marmalade Hoverfly	New Zealand Willowherb	Pointed Spear-moss
Marsh Cinquefoil	Nipplewort	Polypody
Marsh Foxtail	Northern Marsh-orchid	Potato Capsid
Marsh Harrier	Norway Maple	Prickly Sow-thistle

Primrose	Roe Deer	Small Sweet-grass
Procumbent Pearlwort	Rook	Smaller Cat's-tail
Purple Toadflax	Rosebay Willowherb	Smooth Hawk's-beard
Quaking-grass	Rough Hawkbit	Smooth Jet Slug
Rabbit	Rough Meadow-grass	Smooth Lady's-mantle
Ragged-Robin	Rough-stalked Feather-moss	Smooth Meadow-grass
Raspberry	Rowan	Smooth Newt
Raven	Russian-vine	Smooth Sow-thistle
Red Bartsia	Rusty Willow	Sneezewort
Red Campion	Sand Martin	Snipe
Red Clover	Scaup	Snow Bunting
Red Currant	Scots Pine	Snow Goose
Red Dead-nettle	Sedge Warbler	Snowberry
Red Fescue	Selfheal	Snowdrop
Red Fox	Sessile Oak	Soft-rush
Red Kite	Sharp-flowered Rush	Song Thrush
Red Valerian	Sheep's Fescue agg.	Soprano Pipistrelle
Red-breasted Merganser	Sheep's Sorrel	Sparrowhawk
Red-legged Partridge	Sheep's-fescue	Spear Thistle
Red-legged Shieldbug	Shelduck	Speedwell
Red-osier Dogwood	Shepherd's-purse	Spiraea
Redshank	Shining Crane's-bill	Spotted Flycatcher
Redstart	Shore Sexton Beetle	Spreading Meadow-grass
Red-stemmed Feather-moss	Short-fruited Willowherb	Springy Turf-moss
Red-tailed Bumblebee	Shoveler	Square-stalked St John's-wort
Redwing	Silver Birch	Squirreltail Fescue
Reed Bunting	Silver Y	Starling
Reed Canary-grass	Silver-Green Leaf Weevil	Sticky Mouse-ear
Reed Sweet-grass	Silverweed	Stock Dove
Rhododendron	Siskin	Stonechat
Ribwort Plantain	Sitka Spruce	Swallow
Ring-necked Duck	Skylark	Swan's-neck Thyme-moss
Ring-necked Parakeet	Slavonian Grebe	Sweet Cicely
Robin	Slender St John's-wort	Sweet Vernal-grass
Rock Dove	Small Garden Bumblebee	Swift

Sycamore	Water Forget-me-not	Wild Cherry
Tawny Owl	Water Horsetail	Wild Strawberry
Tawny Soil Slug	Water Mint	Wild Thyme
Teal	Water Rail	Willow Warbler
Thale Cress	Water Shrew	Wireworm
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Water-cress	Wood Anemone
Timothy	Water-plantain	Wood Avens
Toad Rush	Waved Silk-moss	Wood Bristle-moss
Toad Rush agg.	Wavy Bitter-cress	Wood Sage
Tormentil	Wavy Hair-grass	Wood Warbler
Tramp Slug	Wayfaring-tree	Woodcock
Tree Bumblebee	Western Balsam-poplar	Woodpigeon
Tree Pipit	Western Honey Bee	Wood-sorrel
Tree Slug	Western Red-cedar	Woolly Fringe-moss
Tree Sparrow	Wheatear	Wren
Treecreeper	Whimbrel	Wych Elm
Tree-moss	Whinchat	Yarrow
Tufted Duck	White Campion	Yellow Fringe-moss
Tufted Forget-me-not	White Clover	Yellow Horned-poppy
Tufted Hair-grass	White Dead-nettle	Yellow Iris
Tufted Vetch	White Earwort	Yellow Oat-grass
Tumid Notchwort	White Wagtail	Yellowhammer
Tutsan	White/Buff-tailed Bumblebee workers	Yellow-rattle
Upright Hedge-parsley	White-lipped Snail	Yew
Wall Speedwell	Whitethroat	Yorkshire-fog
Wall-rue	Whooper Swan	Zigzag Clover
Water Avens	Wigeon	
Water Dock	Wild Angelica	

Appendix 2

Links to Useful Information

Hedgerows

[Management or Restoration of Hedgerows \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/management-restoration-hedgerows)

[Supporting guidance for Management, Restoration or Creation of Hedgerows \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/supporting-guidance-management-restoration-creation-hedgerows)

<https://www.fas.scot/publication/technical-note-tn738-hedges-carbon-conservation-compliance/>

[10 tips for a healthy hedge](#)

Ponds & wetlands

[Ponds, Pools, Lochans: Guidance on good practice in the management and creation of small waterbodies in Scotland. June 2000 \(sepa.org.uk\)](#)

[Wetland Management \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/wetland-management)

[Supporting guidance for Wetland Management \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/supporting-guidance-wetland-management)

Watercourses & water margins

[Water Margins in Arable Fields \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/water-margins-arable-fields)

[Supporting guidance for Water Margins in Arable Fields and Water Margins in Grassland Fields \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/supporting-guidance-water-margins-arable-fields-and-water-margins-grassland-fields)

Species rich grassland

[Species-rich Grassland Management \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/species-rich-grassland-management)

[Supporting guidance for Species-rich Grassland Management \(ruralpayments.org\)](https://ruralpayments.org/supporting-guidance-species-rich-grassland-management)

Wild bird seed

[Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds](#)

[Grass Strips in Arable Fields](#)

Appendix 3

Farm maps



Farm Advisory Service

Website: www.fas.scot | Advice Line: 0300 323 0161 | E-mail: advice@fas.scot

