



Community Action Plan

Cumbernauld Glen Wildlife Reserve

September 2017

Purpose

This document has been created in partnership with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Cumbernauld Academy and the community of Kildrum, Carbrain and Abrohill. The Action Plan identifies the history of the site, key issues and solutions that would be manageable by the students and local community to enhance natural heritage and achieve positive change. This document will also identify contacts within the Scottish Wildlife Trust to develop safe working practice and appropriate permissions required while working on Trust owned land.

Natural Connections project

Cumbernauld Living Landscape aims to enhance, restore and reconnect green areas of the town. Over 50% of Cumbernauld's town centre is made up of green spaces: parks, woodlands and gardens. However, these areas are often disconnected from one another and many are not as good for people – or wildlife – as they should be.

The Natural Connections project will encourage young people from marginalised groups to learn about, value and celebrate their local natural heritage. It will also give them the opportunity and skills to make real and lasting improvements to their environment. In addition, the project will promote and celebrate the town's greenspaces to the wider community through outdoor "Living Windows", an interactive web-map, a fold-out activity map and public events and displays.

Natural Connections will enable local residents and the marginalised groups to take action to improve three sites within Cumbernauld, St Maurice's, Ravenswood LNR and Cumbernauld Glen. These improvements will address improving biodiversity, safety, access; encourage health and wellbeing through participating in volunteers' days and give local volunteers and the marginalised group's lifelong learning skills.

Cumbernauld Glen Wildlife Reserve - History of the site.

The ancient woodland of Cumbernauld Glen is a haven for wildlife and also provides an important, relaxing environment for local people. Early spring sees pockets of snowdrops appearing and summer brings a profusion of bluebells. The meadow attracts butterflies, including small pearl-bordered fritillary.

Cumbernauld Glen is steeped with a rich history. From Roman legions marching through, the gift of land from Robert the Bruce to the Fleming family upon the murder of the 'Red Comyn' to the passing over of the deeds to the Scottish wildlife Trust from the Cumbernauld Development Corporation, the Glen has developed from a hunting estate to a rich wildlife reserve for the people and wildlife.

The reserve can be explored using over 10k of path network and features such as the reinstated 16th Century dovecot, the limekilns and the Caledonian Railway Line – now the site of the Glasgow to Edinburgh line through Vault Glen – can be seen today.

Cumbernauld Glen is one of many greenspace sites you can visit within the [Cumbernauld Living Landscapes](#) partnership project. If you are interested in learning more about the site or if you would like to support the local community-based conservation group - The Friends of Cumbernauld House Park & Glen – who assist the Trust in management, policy and project decisions on the reserve, you can get in touch with them using the contact details on the next page.

Why the site is important

The site is home to a variety of species from lichens and fungi to mammals and birds. In 2012 a Scottish Natural Heritage survey was commissioned to discover if the iconic Scottish species the pine marten were in the area. DNA analysis from scat confirmed their presence and further studies by volunteers have gained photographic evidence. The significance of their return in such an urban environment is substantial. When noted in 2012 of their presence within the town, it was at that point the furthest south the pine martens natural range had extended to. Persecuted in the past for their fur and taken almost to the point of extinction, pine marten are making a remarkable recovery due to strict protection laws being put in place. Pine marten thrive in the correct conditions and the broadleaf mixed woodland and semi-natural ancient woodland create a welcome home for these incredibly elusive animals.

Other species of particular note within Cumbernauld Glen are the beautiful Bluebell woodlands which can be seen at their best during the months of April and May. As an indicator of ancient woodland, bluebells have a symbiotic relationship with the oak trees in the woods and are a delight to see and smell in spring. These woodlands are awash with colour throughout the year with many plant species carpeting the forest floor. Birds can be seen making nests and flitting from limb to limb in the search for food and a mate. Early morning in March is the ideal time to listen out for migratory species returning for nesting season.

Badgers, fox and deer make these woodlands their home. Evidence of their nocturnal foraging and travels can be found. Insects are plentiful and with the creation of new wildflower meadows, biodiversity is expected to improve.

Objectives

- Enhance and protect the biodiversity of the site
- Involve the community, local groups and schools in the decision making and practical management of the site
- Raise the awareness of the site through Natural Connections school workshops and practical volunteer days

Outcomes

- Build the confidence of students and increase skills
- Increase wildlife biodiversity
- Increase wildflower biodiversity and abundance
- Create a safer place for people to visit
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Raise awareness and appreciation of the site

Contacts

Before any work commences please ensure permissions are gained from the management/ land owner of the site. Cumbernauld Glen is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. For any questions or comments on site maintenance please contact:

Duncan Clark
Cumbernauld Greenspace Manager
dclark@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

To record an interesting sighting of wildlife please contact the Scottish Wildlife Trust's website, taking note of the date, time and location of sighting:

<http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/how-you-can-help/recording-sightings/>

If you have any questions regarding the Cumbernauld Living Landscape or community engagement within Cumbernauld contact:

Ian Mackenzie
Project Development Officer
lmackenzie@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

If you would like to support your local group contact:

Friends of Cumbernauld House Park and Glen
Iain MacKenzie
Secretary
EMAIL HERE



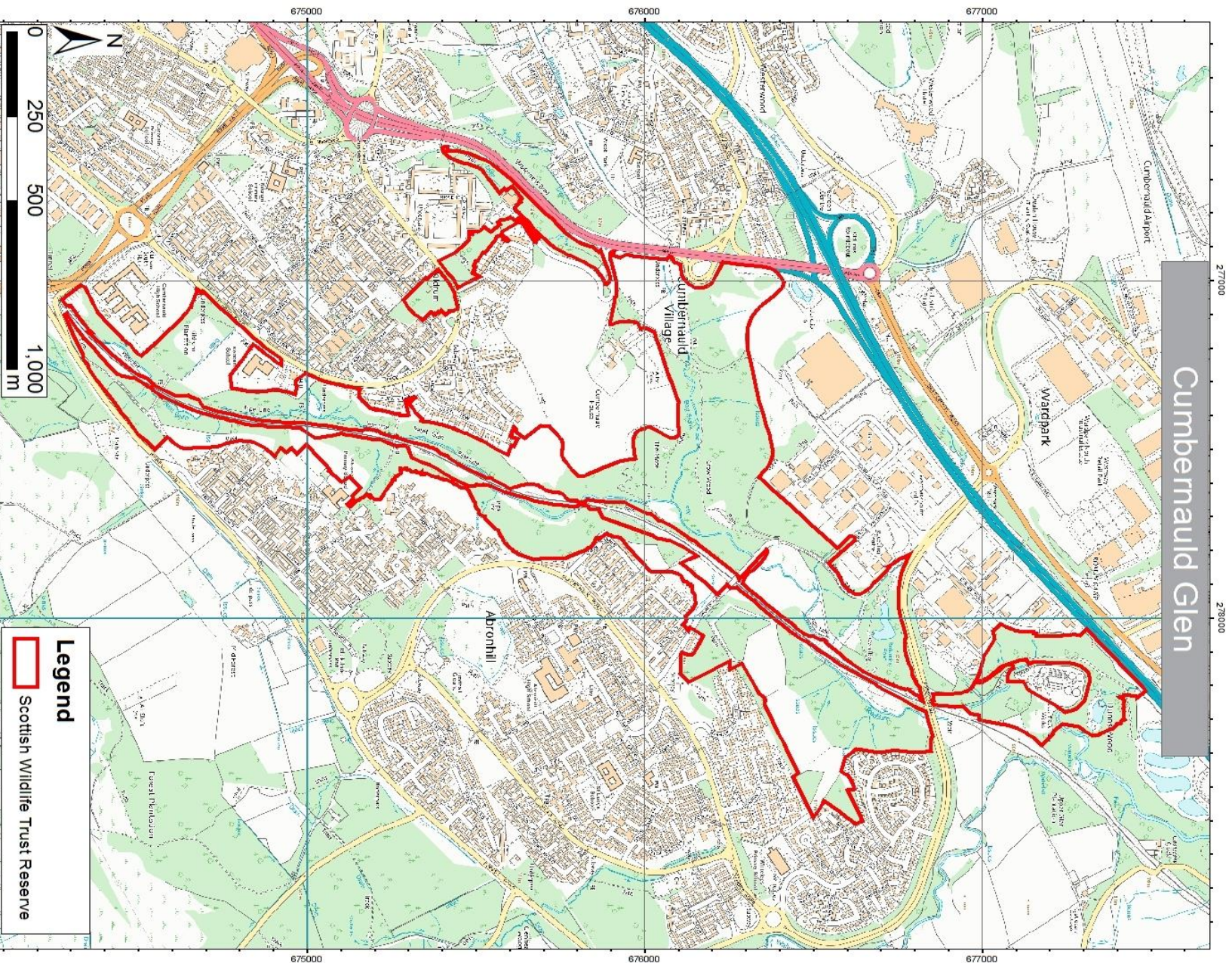
This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

North Lanarkshire Council 100023369 2008

Produced by:
North Lanarkshire Council
Greenspace Development
Palacegig House
Cumbernauld
G67 3HU

N
1:4,661





Scottish Wildlife Trust
 HQ Harbourside House
 110 Commercial Street
 Edinburgh
 EH6 6NF

© Crown copyright and database rights 2017.
 Ordnance Survey licence number 100030835.
 Central Grid Reference: NS776759
 Region: Cumbernauld
 Scale: 1:10,000



Community Action Plan

Short term

Action	Target completion	Responsibility	Measure of success	Notes	Progress as of September 2017
Tree planting	When necessary	Students/Community/volunteers	No. of trees planted	Discuss with Greenspace Manager of site, location, species suitability and number to be planted	Natural Connections 2016 160 oak trees planted
Tree guard removal	When necessary	Students/Community/volunteers	No. of tree guards removed	Removal of tree guards will allow further tree growth	
Wildflower planting	Aug 2015 – March 2016	Students/Community/volunteers Grow Wild seed promotion packs once per year	Coverage of per/m ² of wildflower seed sown	Plant species must be native and areas check for what type of species are suitable for the site. Species such as bluebell and yellow rattle require planting in autumn as they need frost conditions to germinate.	Natural Connections 2017 Wildflower seeds sown on meadow area Native wildflower plugs planted on mountain bike trail Native wildflower plugs planted in wildflower Meadow Pond mix added to new wildlife pond and to SUDs pond area
Litter picking	Ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Volume of litter removed - per bag	Organise days through Keep Scotland Beautiful to increase profile of group. Clearing of outflow stream would be best during winter and spring months	Natural Connections 27 glass bottles removed 6 bags of waste removed 1 AMEY fence removed
INNS/Scrub removal	Ongoing where/when necessary	Students/Community/volunteers	Area per/m ² cleared	Carry out tasks while reducing damage to meadow	Natural Connections Area cleared of willow herb, bramble and bracken
Survey of wildflowers	Seasonally appropriate	Students/Community/volunteers Approach other organisations i.e. Cumbernauld Living	Set benchmark to No. of species and abundance	Possible Bioblitz	

		Landscape Plantlife etc.	currently present		
Action	Target completion	Responsibility	Measure of success	Notes	Progress as of September 2017
Pond creation	May 2017	Students/Community/volunteers Approach other organisations i.e. Cumbernauld Living Landscape Froglife etc.	Area of pond created	How can this be measured? Volume of material removed?	Scottish Wildlife Trust 4 Ponds added 2016 through contractual works – via Duncan Clark
Fence mending	When necessary	Students/Community/volunteers	Length per/M of mended fence		Only where necessary
Bat/bird house making – Bug habitats	May 2017	Students/Community/volunteers	No of habitats made and installed	NOT REQUIRED	Check landowner is happy to have bat boxes due to licencing laws – CMG does not need boxes but they could be sold or placed elsewhere.
ID Surveys	May 2017	Students/Community/volunteers	End of session evaluation	Delivered by sister organisations	Natural Connections One citizen science survey carried out – 2016 Wild Ways Well - 2016 Deadwood survey 2 citizen science surveys Dragonfly surveying
Exploring Natural History through creativity	May 2017	Students/Community/volunteers	End of session evaluation	Very simple and fun activity nature art/ photography	Natural Connections Environmental Art/ Volunteers day 2016 Lego photography day –2016
Bush skills		Cumbernauld Living Landscape Community Engagement Officer to be approached	Learning new skills End of session evaluation	Dependant on capacity	Natural Connections Wood carving –2016, Outdoor cooking –2017 CPD session to High School Teachers – 2016
Path clearing/ maintenance	May 2017 then ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Length of path cleared of debris and photographs	Images	Natural Connections Path support works –2015 Path support works –2015 Path cleared of mud –2017 Scottish Wildlife Trust Remaining path support works carried

					our contractually – Duncan Clark
--	--	--	--	--	----------------------------------

Medium term

Action	Target completion	Responsibility	Measure of success	Notes	Progress as of September 2017
Wildlife pond creation	March 2016	Students/Community/volunteers	Area of pond created No. of species found in pond after one year	Size and depth recorded Bioblitz suggested	See short term tasks
Drainage improvements	Where and when required	Students/Community/volunteers	Reduction of flooding to path(s)	Assess if this is required on each site. Would require a work team to assist i.e. TCV Project team	Natural Connections To date 1 drain created and one drain cleared of mud –2015
Scrub removal	Ongoing where/when necessary	Students/Community/volunteers	Area per/m ² cleared	Carry out tasks while reducing damage to meadow	See short term tasks
INNS Removal	Ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Survey area to compare Area/m ² from previous survey	INNS must be cut and left to mulch at site of cutting due to current laws regarding INNS	Ongoing
Improvements to Forest Schools area	Ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Feedback from Forest Schools leaders		Not started

Long term

Action	Target completion	Responsibility	Measure of success	Notes	Progress as of September 2017
Wildflower meadow management	Ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Reduction of nitrogen rich grasses and increase of wildflowers per/m ² Can be surveyed before and after	Removal of cut hay essential to encourage wildflower growth Sowing of Yellow rattle <i>Ranunculus minor</i> , to reduce grass volume	Scottish Wildlife Trust 3 wildlife ponds created through contractual works by D Clark
Woodland management (weeding and pruning)	Ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Healthy growth of trees, clear line of vision through woodland, better feeling of safety	Semi mature to mature branches laterally thinned at a maximum of 5" (head height), not exceeding 20% of tree mass, materials used to create brash deterrent for deer and to encourage regeneration or removed for the use of bug habitats	Scottish Wildlife Trust Ongoing tree inspections pick up safety issues, natural woodland does not require any thinning at present. All woodland management carried out by Reserves manager, consult with D. Clark in first instance.
Scrub removal	Ongoing where/when necessary	Students/Community/volunteers	Area per/m ² cleared	Carry out tasks while reducing damage to meadow	See short term tasks
Removal of INNS species	ongoing	Students/Community/volunteers	Compare coverage of INNS before and after Native species return	Rhododendron and Salmon berry found at St Maurice's	Ongoing
Path maintenance	Where and when required	Students/Community/volunteers	Reduction of flooding to path(s)	Assess if this is required on each site. Would require a work team to assist i.e. TCV Project team	See short term tasks

Action	Target completion	Responsibility	Measure of success	Notes	Progress as of September 2017
Tidy Forest Schools Area	Ongoing when required	Students/Community/volunteers	Information from Forest Schools Leader, that they are happy with condition of the site	Maintain this area for both high school use and for Forest school use	Not started

