

Biodiversity Action in the Glen

On the following pages we have highlighted some of the work we have already undertaken to enhance and increase biodiversity within Pittencrieff Park.

How can you get involved?



Fife Council is committed to maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of all of its greenspaces which includes Pittencrieff Park. We are working in a number of ways to achieve this.

It is important to recognise that the Council cannot and would not have been able to progress some of the biodiversity and conservation activities without input from other partners and particularly volunteers.

If you want to volunteer please contact us at: pittencrieff.park@fife.gov.uk

Even seemingly small projects can have a greater knock on effect for a variety of wildlife.



Pittencrieff Park restoration project

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with match support from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and Fife Council, a £1.6 million transformation to return this much loved green space to its former glory began in Autumn 2012.

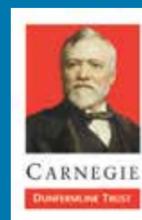
Producing information about the Biodiversity of Pittencrieff Park, or the Glen as it is known locally, is part of this project.



Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Although at 76 acres Pittencrieff Park is a relatively small area of parkland it does have a number of different habitats that support a large variety of plants and animals.

In our day to day care of the Park and alongside our partners, volunteers and the local community, we are continuing to work to improve the biodiversity within Pittencrieff Park.



What else are we doing in the Glen?	
Grassland management	Promote wildflower growth Maintain more food sources and habitat for insects, birds and mammals
Birds	Installing bird boxes Monitoring bird populations and bird boxes
Insects	Leaving deadwood (rather than removing it) throughout the park
General	Recycling "green waste" such as grass and shrub cuttings Composting Wood chipping Reusing materials where appropriate Moving towards more sustainable practices

Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) sets out nature conservation priorities and projects for Fife. It will increase our understanding of nature and tackle locally some of the threats that face biodiversity.

It is available to view in full at: fifedirect.org.uk/beautifulfife

What will the Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan do?

- help to improve the condition of habitats and protect species
- contribute to restoring and enhancing landscapes
- it will enable local people to take part in conservation initiatives on their doorstep and help raise awareness about the value of the environment

Who is it for?

The Fife LBAP is for everyone who lives and works in Fife, or enjoys visiting the Kingdom.

- anyone can take part
- many will benefit from actions, including individuals, local community groups, landowners, land managers, businesses, statutory and voluntary organisations, planners and developers

All of our actions can make a difference. And many simple actions, when put together, can change a lot.

Bird and Bat Boxes

- 10 bird and 10 bat boxes have been made using untreated wood and installed in 2014
- these will be monitored and more added in future
- they provide new habitats for nesting birds and roosting bats



Yellow Rattle

(*Rhinanthus minor*)

- will grow each year flowering between June and September
- though an attractive flower itself, yellow rattle is also semi-parasitic and will suppress the growth of grass species
- it's common name refers to the colour of its petals and the "rattling" of its dried seeds in late summer



Ox-eye daisy

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

- bigger flowers and longer stems than the daisies you would see on your lawn
- their white petals with yellow centres put on a show from June to August

Bush vetch

(*Vicia sepium*)

- flowers are a pink/purple colour and found in clusters
- can be seen from May until October
- a climbing plant



Bulb Planting

- more than 200kg of mixed Narcissi (daffodils) and 1000 crocus bulbs from 2013 onwards
- annual spring flowers provide an early nectar source for pollinators such as bees and butterflies

Wildflower Seed Planting

- appropriate mixtures of seeds including hedgerow species and native bluebells
- changing our grass cutting regimes along with planting wildflowers provides more nectar sources for insects and more food sources for all wildlife



Wildlife Area

- can be found in the south west corner of the park, immediately below the Peafowl Sanctuary
- creation of a wildflower area including meadow species such as Yellow Rattle, Ox-eye Daisy and Bush Vetch as well as woodland species such as native bluebells
- new native trees planted in 2012 as well as natural regeneration and existing mature trees
- minibeast hotel, bird and bat boxes
- change in management of the area such as reducing grass cutting
- already home to animal species such as Ringlet butterflies and White Tailed bumblebees as well as small mammals and birds



Lawyers' Orchard

- 2 species of pear tree have been planted - Doyenne and Conference
- 9 species of Apple tree have been planted - Discovery, Cox's Orange Pippin, Falstaff, Egremont Russet, Katy, Worcester, 2 x James Grieve, Greensleeves and Red Falstaff



Tree Planting

- 200 mixed native whips (birch, rowan, hawthorn and oak) have been planted in wildlife area and the adjoining south woodland
- planting young trees not only adds to the number and variety of trees within the park it also means the age structure of our trees is more mixed

Japanese Knotweed

(*Fallopia japonica*)

- native to Eastern Asia
- frequently seen along riverbanks, roadsides and derelict land
- invasive root system and strong growth can damage foundations, buildings, roads and walls
- the foliage and dense colonies completely crowd out other herbaceous species



Himalayan Balsam

(*Impatiens glandulifera*)

- native to the Himalayas
- often seen along riverbanks and in and around urban areas
- outcompetes native plants
- it's method of seed dispersal (seed pods explode in October spreading seeds up to 7m) has aided the spread

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Giant Hogweed

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

- native to Central Asia
- can grow to between 2 and 5.5 metres in height
- it can cause problems for other plant species but also has implications for human health and is therefore actively removed
- control of this species should only be undertaken by professionals with the appropriate gloves and clothing to avoid any risks or irritation



Grey squirrel

(*Sciurus carolinensis*)

- native to North America
- introduced to the UK in the 19th century
- it has largely displaced the native red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in the UK with the largest remaining populations of red squirrel found in the Highlands of Scotland

- it can spread the parapox virus which is now contributing to further losses of red squirrels