

Mainstreaming biodiversity. Integration of Ecology and Biodiversity officers to NETs, Land & Countryside Services.

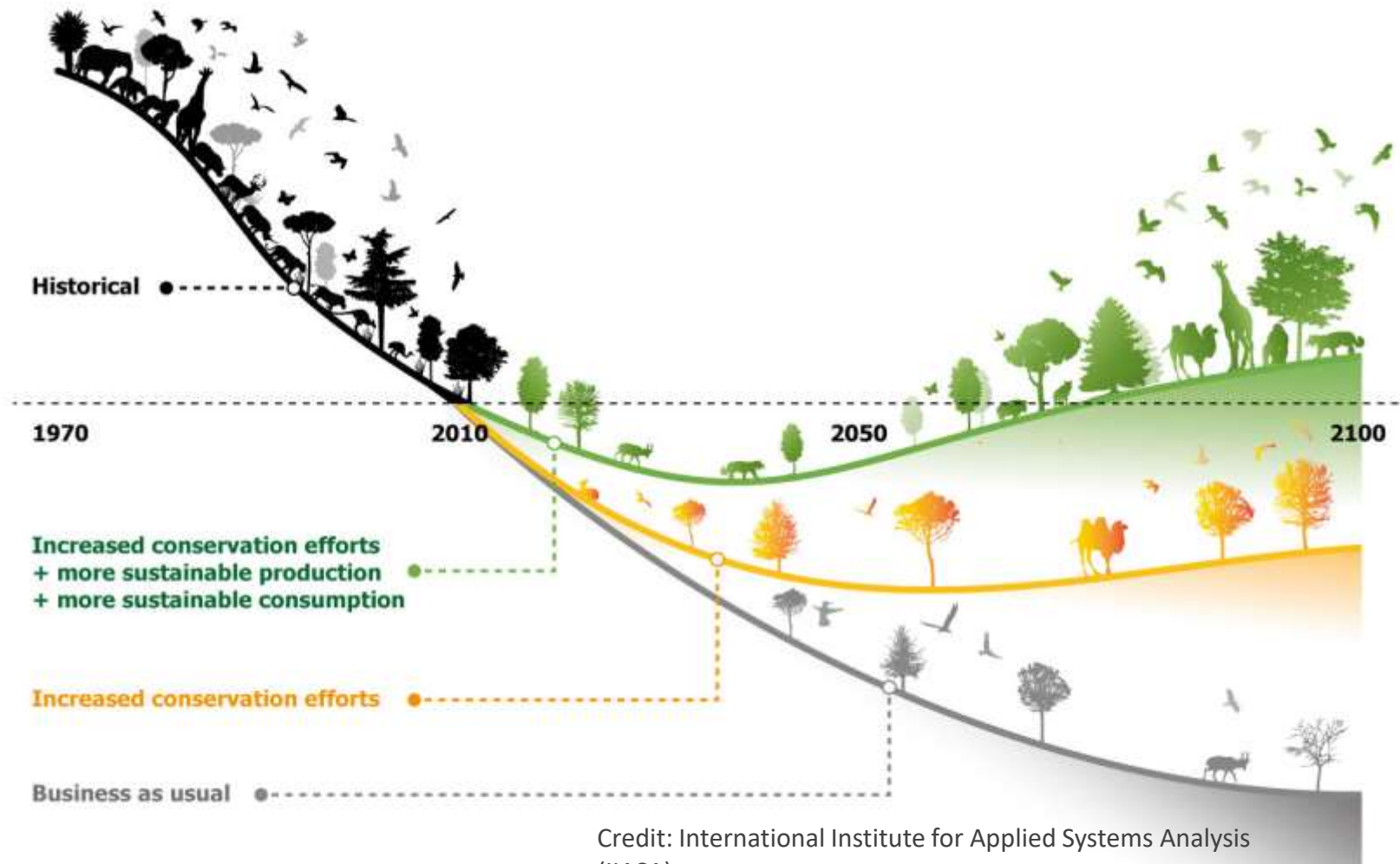
Ecology&Biodiversity@westlothian.gov.uk

23/05/24

Plan

- Introduction
- Briefly - Why biodiversity matters
- E&BD team and what we do
- Advice & advocacy -Education
- Strategy & policy – LBAP
- Projects - Delivering change through projects and partnerships.
- Questions

Why biodiversity matters.



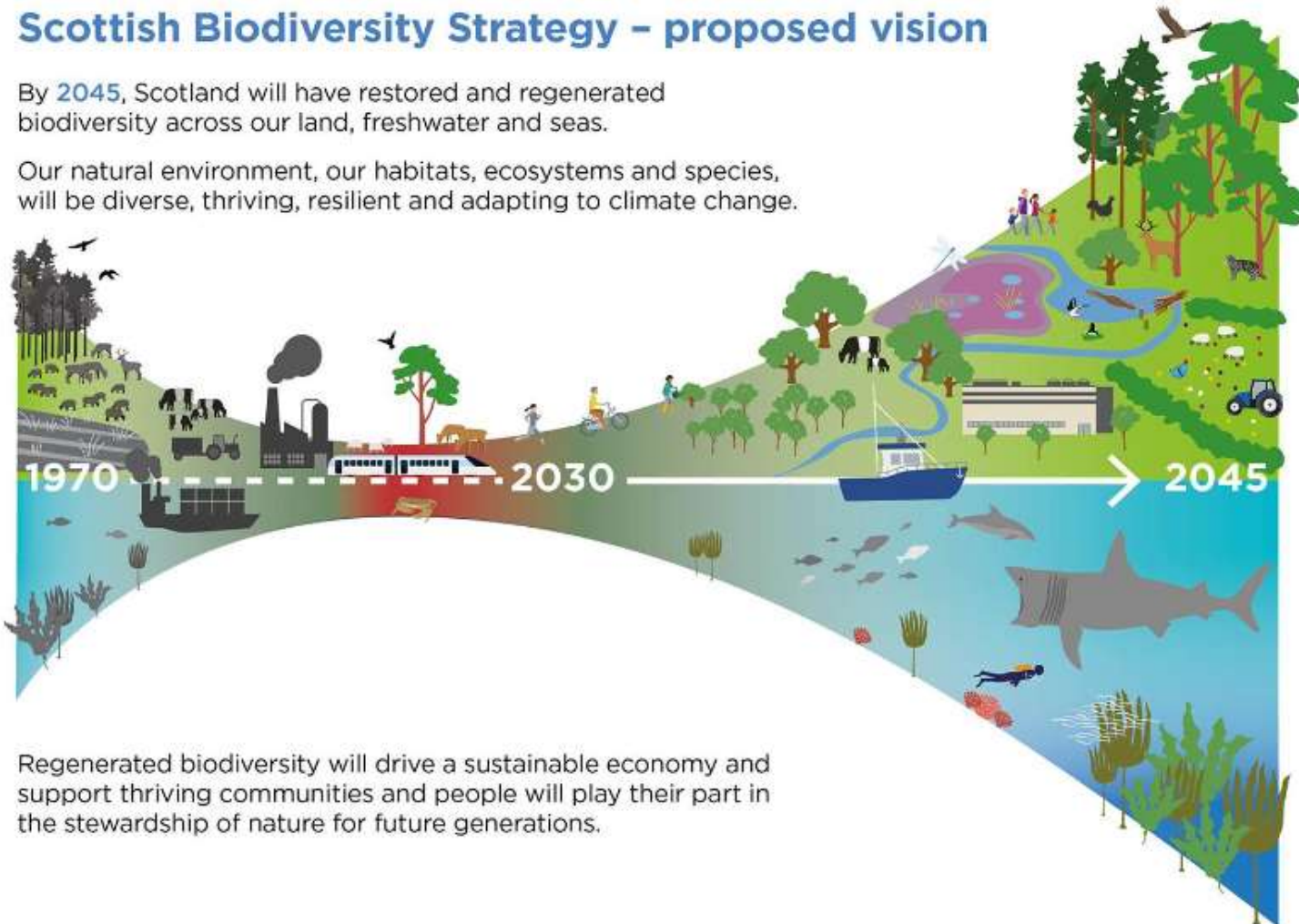
Credit: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Why biodiversity matters.

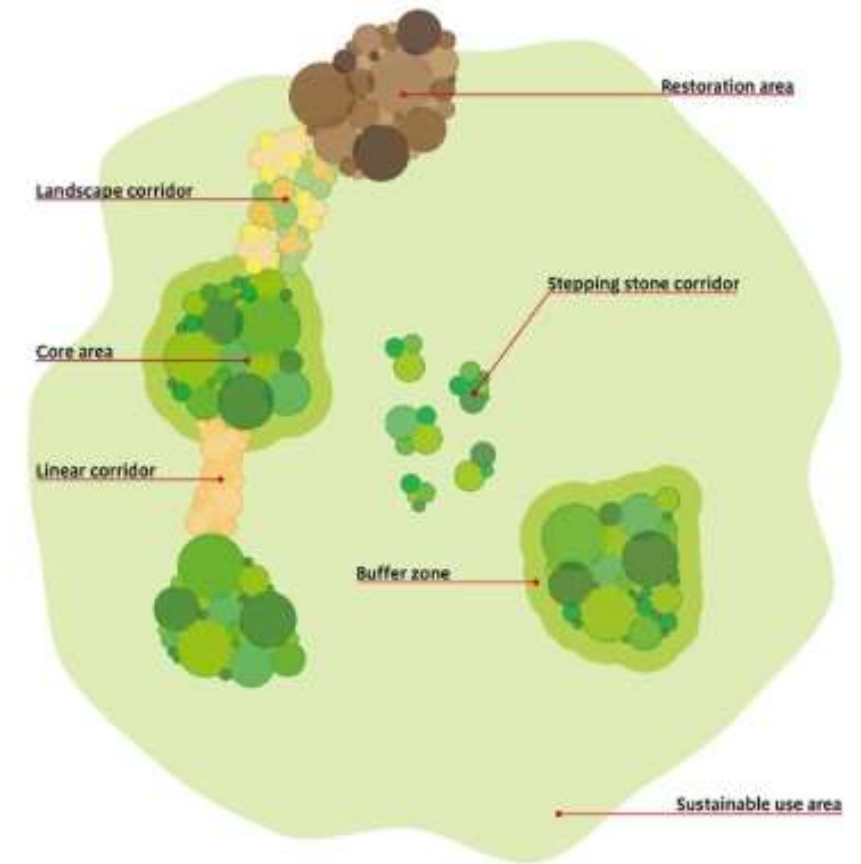
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy – proposed vision

By 2045, Scotland will have restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas.

Our natural environment, our habitats, ecosystems and species, will be diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change.

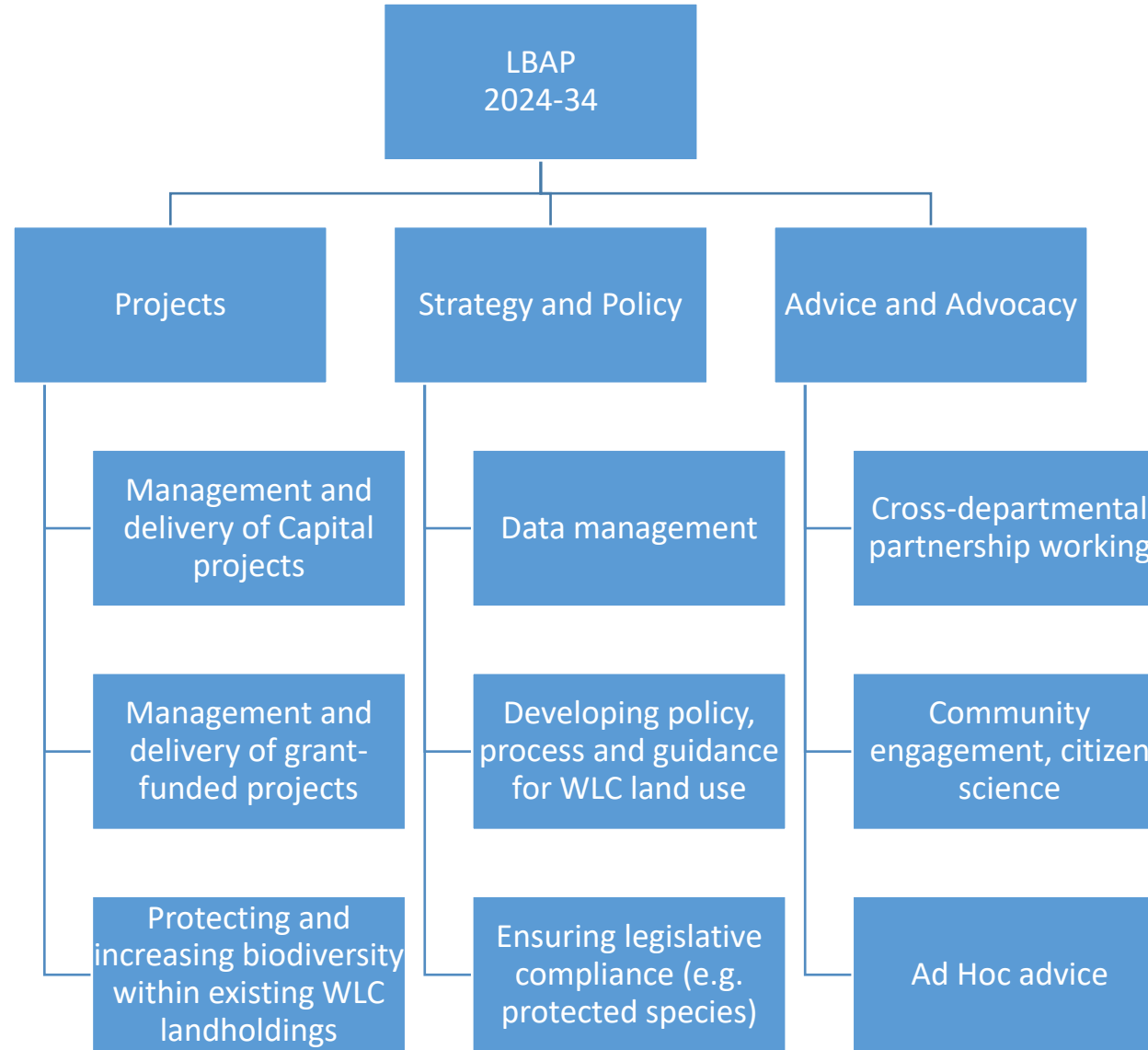


Regenerated biodiversity will drive a sustainable economy and support thriving communities and people will play their part in the stewardship of nature for future generations.



The typical component of a terrestrial ecological network. Source: Lawton et al., 2010.

Integrating biodiversity across the council.



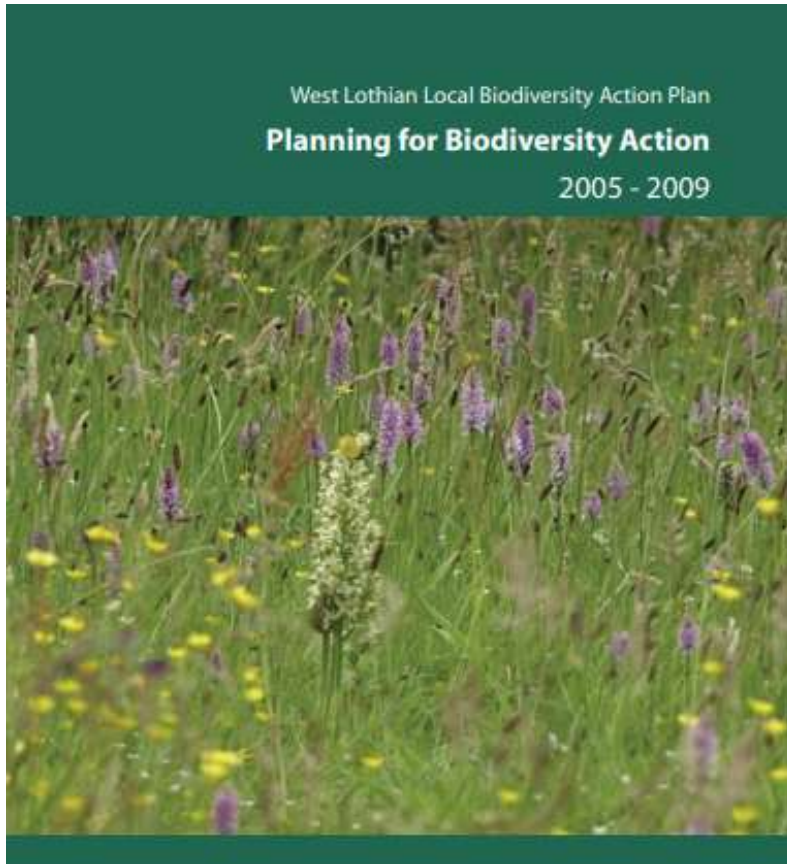
Advice & Advocacy

Over the last 2.5 years, we've worked with the following services and delivered CPD sessions both online and in the field.

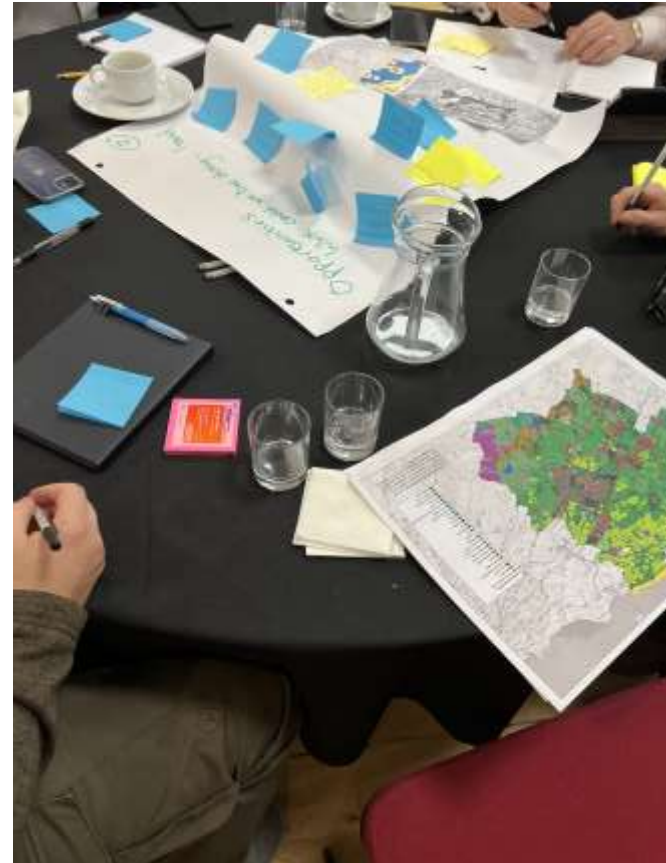


- Planning Services
- Grounds Maintenance
- Open Space
- Climate Change Officer
- Tree & woodland
- Ranger Service
- Property Services
- Education services
- Roads & Transport
- Flood risk management.
- Councillors.

Strategy and Policy

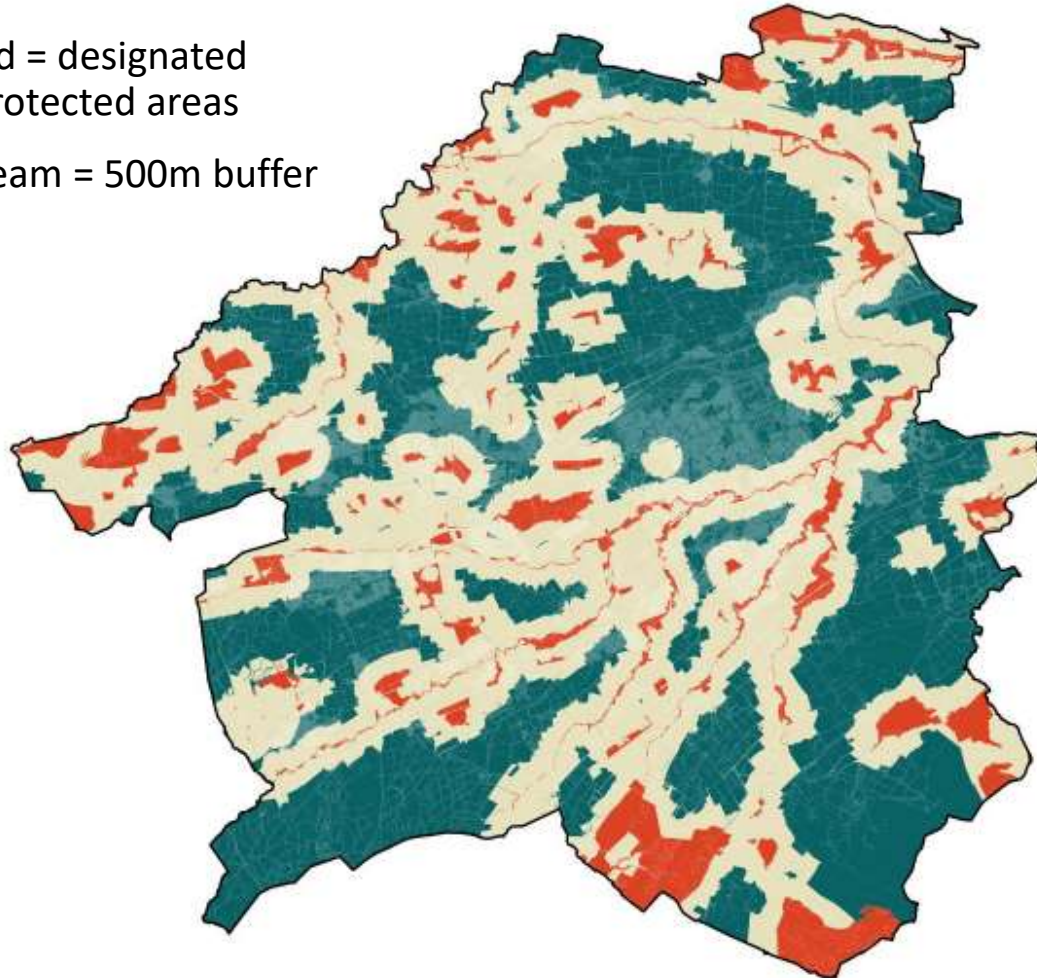


We will have a new LBAP for 2024-34 this year.



LBAP stakeholder workshop 2023

- Red = designated /protected areas
- Cream = 500m buffer



Nature Networks – a new requirement for LA's will ensure functional connectivity of habitats throughout West Lothian. This map showing protected areas (red) and associated buffers (cream) shows the beginnings of a network emerging.

Strategic Significance



Projects: Delivering change through projects and partnerships.

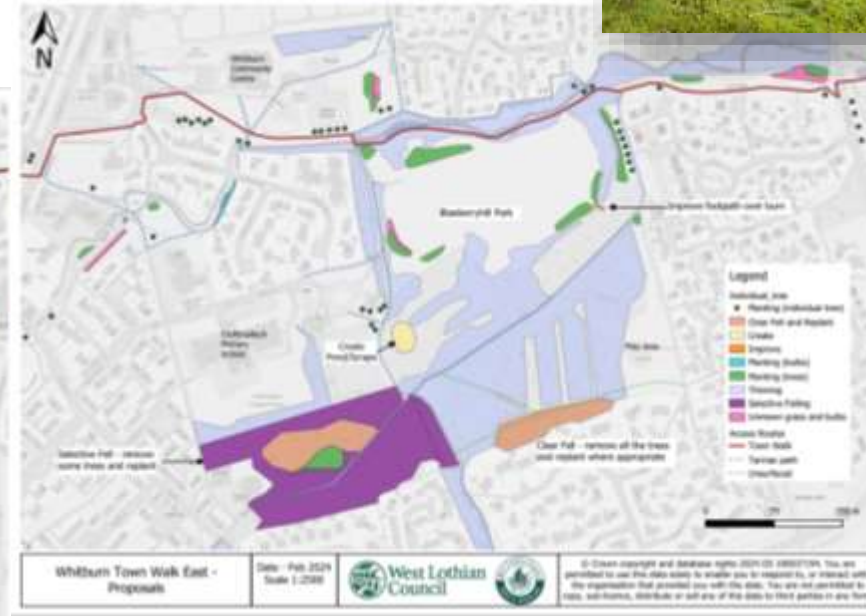
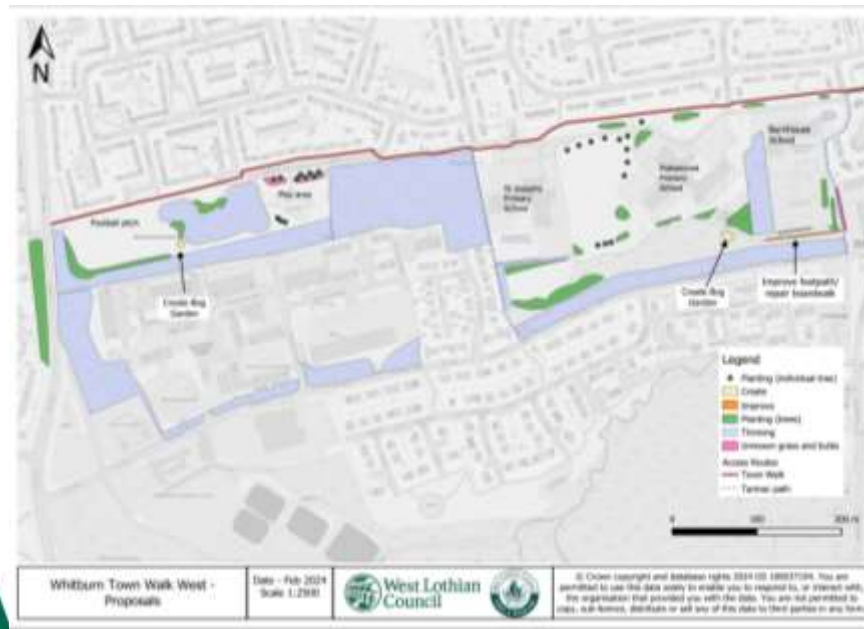


Learning For Sustainability (LFS) is an entitlement all children and young people in Scotland have.

Forth Rivers Trust Partnership Project



Whitburn Town Walk



Wyndford Park



Blackmoss Nature Park



Wild Wednesday Bioblitz 2023



Wild 
WEDNESDAY
BIG BIOBLITZ 2023!



MINIBEAST HUNTS | NATURE ACTIVITIES |
WILDLIFE ID | GAMES & CRAFTS | INFO & ADVICE

28th June | **19th July**
11am-3pm | **11am-3pm**
Almond Park, | **Cambridge Park,**
Livingston | **Murieston, Livingston**
(near the play area) | **(near Cambridge Pond)**

Join the Ranger Service, Ecology & Biodiversity team and a host of other organisations to learn more about nature and the environment! Come along anytime between 11am-3pm, or drop in to the sessions below:

- 11:30am-12:15pm - Bird Survey
- 1pm-1:45pm - Invertebrate Survey
- 2pm-2:45pm - Grassland Survey



    **West Lothian Council**



Thank you for listening



We're all ears.

Feedback or Questions:

Ecology&Biodiversity@westlothian.gov.uk