

THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORTING TEMPLATE: LEVEL TWO ORGANISATIONS

Report Outline

Bodies are encouraged to use the following structure for their report. This is set out in the template below, which you can either type directly into, or copy into a separate document.

- Section 1: Introductory information about your public body
- Section 2: Actions to protect biodiversity and connect people with nature
- Section 3: Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Section 4: Nature-based solutions, climate change and biodiversity
- Section 5: Public engagement and workforce development
- Section 6: Research and monitoring
- Section 7: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

Completion Notes

These completion notes offer guidance to support your public body to complete your Biodiversity Duty Report. Taken together with the associated hyperlinks, they provide suggestions on the breadth of actions that could be included in your report. They may also assist with forward planning on how biodiversity can be taken into account in future.

While they incorporate the key elements on which you may wish to report, they are not an exhaustive list and it is likely that there will be a range of additional work that your organisation carried out in support of biodiversity on which you may also wish to report. To find out more on the Biodiversity Duty see the [NatureScot website](#).



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PUBLIC BODY

Please describe your organisation's role and purpose, including any particular environmental responsibilities

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Summarise your organisation's role and purpose, including a brief outline of governance and management structures.</p> <p>Summarise any relevance and impacts of biodiversity to your organisation, including your role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing public information, community learning and education around nature and the environment;• Any key environmental impacts from your operations.
Text Field	<p>Biodiversity Duty</p> <p>1.1 A duty to further the conservation of biodiversity was placed on public sector bodies in Scotland in 2004. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires public bodies to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions they have taken to meet this biodiversity duty. This report describes the action that NHS Ayrshire & Arran has taken in the period 2017 to 2020 to meet this duty.</p> <p>Statement of Organisational Commitment</p> <p>1.2 There is growing evidence demonstrating the positive relationship between quality, accessible greenspace and mental and physical health and wellbeing; although the mechanisms by which these benefits occur are not yet fully understood.</p> <p>1.3 NHS Ayrshire & Arran takes a proactive role in meeting its responsibility towards furthering the conservation of biodiversity when undertaking its duties. In particular, it acknowledges and actively promotes the role of the natural environment as a resource which can support and sustain good health.</p>



Governance – Leadership and Management of Biodiversity

Chief Executive

1.4 Accountability for the Board's biodiversity duty ultimately lies with the Chief Executive.

Sustainable Development Champion

1.5 The Director of Corporate Support Services has been nominated by the Board as the sustainable development champion encompassing the duty to promote biodiversity. The senior level appointment serves to re-emphasise the Board's commitment to promoting biodiversity. Furthermore the position brings an element of organisational endorsement and authority on matters relating to biodiversity.

Director of Corporate Support Services (2017-2019)

1.6 The day to day planning and delivery of the Board's biodiversity duty is delegated to the Director of Corporate Support Services.

Director of Infrastructure and Support Services (2019 –onwards)

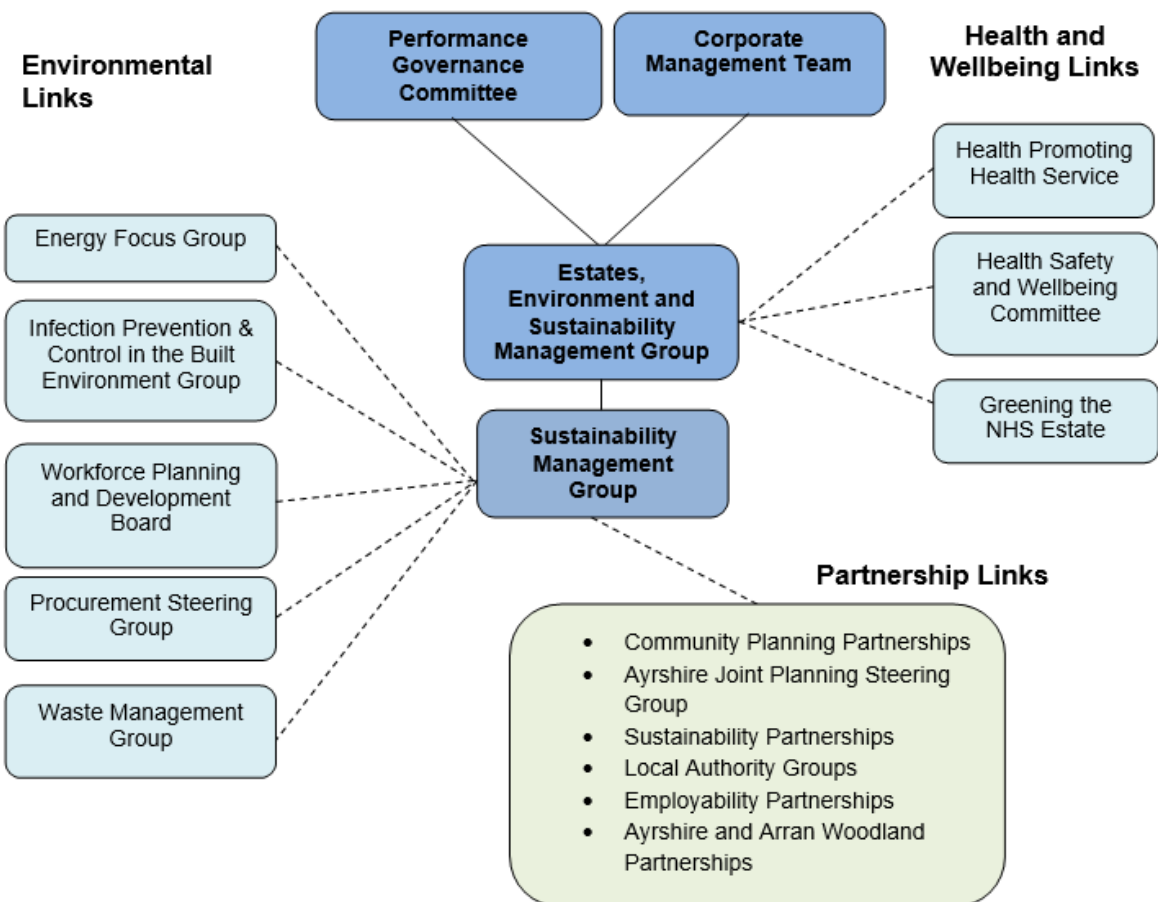
1.61 This role supersedes the CSS role and is the new title of the directorate department. The Director is the boards Sustainability Champion.

Estates, Environment and Sustainability Group

1.7 The Estates, Environment and Sustainability Group is charged with developing an effective strategy for the management and development of all health care property, accommodation and land owned or leased by NHS Ayrshire & Arran to provide health and social care services. The Group's remit and terms of reference were revised in August 2013 and it now co-ordinates all health and



	environment and sustainability activity across the organisation. The governance structure is set out below:
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1.8 An important aspect of the strategy is to steer and co-ordinate environmental improvements within the estate which have benefits in terms of the health and wellbeing of patients, staff and the wider community and which contribute to delivering the NHS corporate responsibilities on its sustainability agenda, the quality strategy and biodiversity duty.

1.9 This include maximising the contribution of NHS Ayrshire & Arran to sustainable development by overseeing the local implementation of CEL 2 (2012) – The Sustainable Development Policy for NHS Scotland (2012) and CEL 14 (2010) – The Corporate Good Citizenship Assessment Model.

1.91 The adoption of the NHS Corporate Greencode Auditing toolkit to facilitate the implementation, maintenance and a programme of continual improvement in the Board's Environmental Management System provides the opportunity to undertake annual review which is inclusive of the biodiversity process.

Sustainability Management Group

1.92 The Sustainability Management Group was established to implement a number of these priorities and leads the development and implementation of the NHS Board's Sustainable Development Action Plan, within which, biodiversity reporting is one of a number of strategic priorities. Progress is reported to the Estates Environment and Sustainability Group; Corporate Management Team and ultimately the Action Plan is presented to the NHS Board prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

Greening the NHS Estate Steering Group

1.93 The Greening the NHS Estate Steering Group was established to develop, implement and monitor the Greening the NHS Estate project which aims to maximise the quality of, access to and use of NHS outdoor estate as a health promoting resource for patients, visitors, staff and surrounding community. Progress is reported directly to the Estates Environment and Sustainability Group and has also been reported to the Corporate Management Team. Nationally, progress is reported via the Green Exercise Partnership to the Natural Health Service Steering Group.



Scottish Forestry and TCB The Conservation Volunteers Group

1.94 – This group is an evaluation group for the second phase of the land development project. This group focuses on the health improvement part, setting up green gyms and local engagement groups with the space. The previous phase 1 group was made up estates looking at infrastructure changes.



SECTION 2: ACTIONS TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Please describe and explain any actions that your organisation has undertaken alone or as part of a partnership to benefit biodiversity directly, to tackle the main drivers of biodiversity loss, or to achieve wider outcomes for nature and people

Guidance on completing this section	<p>You may wish to report on activities across the breadth of your organisation, including any actions that you have undertaken on your premises.</p> <p>Please explain how these actions have benefited biodiversity, noting successes and challenges, and any plans for future or follow-up work. These might include:</p> <p>Addressing or raising awareness of some of the key drivers of biodiversity loss, which might include work or projects to tackle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Change;• Land use change;• Pollution. <p>Enhancing biodiversity at your premises through actions in and around offices, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing bird boxes / feeders;• creating habitat for wildlife, such as wildflower areas;• installing green roofs;• organising staff volunteering days;• sponsoring a species or habitat, or raising funds for a local wildlife trust or charity.
Links to related resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance on the Key pressures on biodiversity.• Guidance on Buildings and biodiversity - how to make space for nature in the built environment.• Information on placemaking, open space and green infrastructure.• Examples of smaller actions that can be enacted in the office or staff homes - Biodiversity - what can you do?• Case studies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Scottish Water Volunteering Programme



Text Field	<p>Greening the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Estate</p> <p>2.1 'Greening the NHS Estate' is a collaborative project between NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the Green Exercise Partnership (GEP), which is primarily a partnership between Forestry Commission (Scotland), Scottish Natural Heritage and NHS Health Scotland.</p> <p>2.2 In 2011/12 Public Health led a strategic review of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran outdoor estate, with advice and support from the GEP. A total of 86 sites were assessed against criteria including: size; potential for improving health and wellbeing and enhancing biodiversity; how accessible, connected, attractive and appealing they were; and opportunities to involve communities. The Review identified seven sites which offered the greatest development potential to improve access to the outdoors for patient, staff, and the wider community and to create opportunities for improving health and wellbeing.</p> <p>2.3 On-the-ground walk-around visits took place at each site involving landscape architects from the GEP, Public Health and colleagues from NHS Estates. Input was also sought from key informants at each site as available. These visits informed the creation of site-specific Landscape Assessment and Development Reports, which were completed in June 2012. The sites were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ayrshire Central Hospital;• Arran War Memorial Hospital;• University Hospital Crosshouse;• University Hospital Ayr (UHA) and Ailsa;• Biggart Hospital;• Girvan Community Hospital; and• Arrol Park Resource Centre. <p>2.4 The reports provide a concise analysis of the external spaces at each site and propose a range of actions over a 1-5 year time period which could be implemented to maximise environmental improvements and use of greenspace with a view to improving the health and well being of staff, patients and the wider community.</p> <p>2.5 An overview of the findings was reported to NHS Directors and through the Estates Environment and Sustainability Group. In addition, clinical staff, managers and patients have been consulted on key aspects of the review and implementation process.</p> <p>2.6 UHA/Ailsa was prioritised as a GEP national demonstration site to showcase the health and wellbeing benefits that can be gained from positive investment in and management of the NHS estate. Funding was secured from Scottish Government, GEP (Forestry Commission Scotland), NHS</p>
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Endowments and Sustrans Scotland to develop a landscape masterplan and carry out improvement works.

2.7 The project has brought neglected woodland back into sustainable management and given the extensive area of woodland, meadow and grassland (approximately 28 hectares) a clear purpose as a health improvement asset for patients, staff, visitors and the local community. Approximately 3.6 km of new paths network has been created in the hospital grounds including: 1km of a new Sustrans cycle route which will ultimately connect to the A77; and a network of woodland walks. These are supported by new signage and interpretation. Significant woodland management works were undertaken and approximately 2,500 new trees have been planted and 26 new seats and perches have been installed, all in native green oak. A new teaching circle has also been created in one of the meadow areas.

2.8 The new network of paths and greenspace developments were officially opened by the Chairman of the NHS board. Staff report that they are using the grounds for walking and relaxation and they are reporting mental health benefits from taking time away from busy wards to 'de-stress and unwind'. Some staff also report using the paths for 'walk and talk' meetings with colleagues. Patients have commented that they find the paths and the spaces 'peaceful and therapeutic'. In addition to benefits to public health, infrastructure improvements are supporting the NHS Board to meet its corporate objectives relating to climate change, biodiversity, sustainability and good corporate citizenship.

2.9 Work is now required to promote engagement with, and use of, the outdoor space. Funding was secured for a Greenspace for Health Senior Project Officer who will liaise with patients, clinicians, staff and wider community groups to support and enable green exercise, recovery programmes and outdoor learning on site. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) has been commissioned to deliver this project. To date a new Green Gym is operational on site and a calendar of citizen science, art and conservation events is in place focused on raising awareness of the biodiversity on site.

Our Natural Health Services

2.91 Lead by Scottish Natural Heritage – is a national cross government initiative, led by Scottish Natural Heritage, which aims to create a step change in how the natural environment can be used, valued and protected as a precious resource which supports our health and wellbeing. The programme has three strategic interventions, one of which is Green Health Partnerships (GHP's)



which are taking a whole systems approach at a local level to making the most of our green spaces for public health benefits.
<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/contributing-healthier-scotland/our-natural-health-service>

North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership – Demonstration site

2.92 A collaborative group amounts Public Health, North Ayrshire council, 3rd sector, Ayrshire college, paths for all, clinical staff from NHS, a wide ranging partnership not just focusing on NHS activities.

North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership (NAGHP) is one of four national GHP demonstration projects in Scotland who are working with their local communities to encourage people to spend more time outdoors in contact with nature every day through promoting green volunteering, pastimes, recreation, learning and active travel.

Its function is supporting local community groups and organisations to develop nature-based initiatives such as health walks, green gyms and community growing for everyone to enjoy; and exploring how these initiatives can support people who are in recovery or have a long term condition to live well.

Green Health Partnership actions in the North Ayrshire Healthy Weight Strategy and Physical Activity Work plan.

Feeding actions into the Public Health Business Plan and the Public Health and Priorities Delivery Group. Maintaining NHS Greenspace for health work within NHS Ayrshire and Arran Sustainability Work Plan and contributing to the greenspace element of the NHS Sustainability Assessment and Biodiversity Report.

Girvan Community Garden

2.93 In partnership with the NHS, Girvan Community Garden and Volunteers have set up Green Gym sessions. The scheme aims to encourage volunteers outdoors into the fresh air and exercising through gardening. The initiative supports NHS Ayrshire and Arran's commitment to health and well being through physical activity and contact with nature.

Girvan Community Hospital Wind Turbine



2.94 Whilst creating sustainable 'green' energy, the erection of a wind turbine on the new Girvan Community Hospital site initially caused problems for local birds. This difficulty was overcome by the use of 'white' lighting which attracts both birds and bats away from the turbine blades.

East Ayrshire Community Hospital- Dementia Friendly Garden

2.95 In collaboration with BAM, site owners, NHS Ayrshire & Arran- through its Staff Lottery Fund- allocated funding for a dementia friendly garden for the benefit of patients, visitors and staff. The local community around the Cumnock area was supportive in shaping of the project. Its direct involvement in the garden's formation and longer term maintenance requirements should ensure that the garden remains a valued and well used asset for years to come. The Forget-me-not garden continues to improve each year and has brought lots of enjoyment for patients, relatives and staff.

Arrol Park Therapeutic Sensory Garden

2.96 Funding was also allocated in 2011 from the Staff Lottery Fund to provide a therapeutic sensory garden within Arrol Park Resource Centre, Ayr. The garden is tailor-made to fulfil the needs of the continuing care patients and community clients served by the unit. It continues to improve each year and has brought lots of enjoyment for patients, relatives and staff.

Other Garden Projects and Green Spaces

2.97 A significant number of picnic benches and outdoor seating has been provided. The furniture compliments the existing garden and other green spaces throughout hospital and related sites. The materials used are long lasting and weather resistant being made from environmentally friendly materials yet retains a natural timber effect in keeping with their surroundings. Increasing requests to the Staff Lottery Office for similar items have been made reflecting their popularity. By helping to maximise the use of the outdoor spaces for both patients and staff, it has served as a small, but practical means of actively promoting the important link between quality greenspace and general physical/mental well being. Projects financed by the Staff Lottery fund include:

- Patio Area, Procurement/Estates, Ayrshire Central Hospital;
- Ballot Road Clinic, Irvine;
- Eglinton House Courtyard, Ailsa Hospital;
- CT/MRI Dept, Ayr Hospital;
- Shared Garden, Clonbeith/Dunure Ward, Ailsa Hospital;
- Former Bowling Green, Ailsa Hospital.

Greenspace of Health officer



	Runs green gyms, focusing on maintenance, planting, with aims on improving health and wellbeing through taking actions around the site upkeep. This has dual outcomes. People benefit from being outdoors carrying out activities, whilst at the same time grounds maintenance is carried out.
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SECTION 3: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

Please outline any steps your organisation has taken to incorporate biodiversity measures into its wider policies, plans or strategies. This should include decision-making structures and staff and organisational roles and responsibilities.

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Outline any of your own body's policies, plans and strategies that refer to biodiversity, or that may affect biodiversity positively or negatively, and describe how these are reflected in the structure of your organisation.</p> <p>These may include policies on managing green spaces, consideration of biodiversity in estate management, procurement policies and purchasing decisions, use of an Environmental Management System, and Sustainability and Climate Change commitments.</p> <p>Detail any areas in which your organisation has most successfully implemented mainstreaming of biodiversity, or has demonstrated leadership in a local or national context, including through working with others, or raising awareness of biodiversity or nature.</p>
Links to related resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on Buildings, Highways and Infrastructure - Maintenance & biodiversity, • Research on Maximising the benefits of green infrastructure in social housing. • The Place Standard tool and associated Strategic Plan 2020-2023 provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. • Guidance on establishing a Local Nature Conservation Sites system. • Case study - Procurement by the Scottish Courts and Tribunal (SCTS) Services. • The Forest Stewardship Council global forest certification system. • Guidance on Scotland's Pollinator Strategy, projects, resources • Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Nature Conservation Sites systems in North Lanarkshire and Aberdeenshire. ○ A Pollinator Action Plan in Aberdeenshire
Text Field	



NHS Greenspace: Strategic Review

3.1 In addition to securing strategic accountability and governance for biodiversity management and greenspace development in NHS Ayrshire and Arran (see section 2), the strategic review of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran outdoor estate and associated Landscape Assessment and Development Reports, have informed the NHS Boards approach to greenspace development and enhancement across the estate over the coming years.

Ayrshire Central Hospital and Woodland View

3.2 The GEP demonstration site has acted as a catalyst for greenspace projects at other sites prioritised in the strategic review. As well as retrofitting existing sites NHS Ayrshire and Arran is committed to ensuring that biodiversity and greenspace development are key considerations in the planning of new build projects. The construction of the new Woodland View Community Hospital within the grounds of the existing Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine provided the opportunity to consider how best to maximise the use of greenspace for health, wellbeing and recovery from the outset of the planning process.

3.3 Funding was secured from NHS Endowments to employ landscape consultants to develop a woodland management plan and access proposals for an inaccessible and underutilised area of woodland on site covering approximately 6.45 ha. A funding bid for Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) funding has recently been approved and work can now commence to: gently thin the woodland; create a woodland walk and open glade which can be enjoyed by staff, patients and the wider community; and enrich the planting species within the woodland.

3.4 The development of gardens and greenspaces around the new hospital building has also been a priority and an arts strategy for the site has been themed around connecting the outdoor and the indoor spaces.

3.5 Further joint working with, and grant funding from, Sustrans Scotland has also led to the upgrade of a footpath, linking Woodland View to the neighbouring community of Castlepark and National Cycle Network route 7, to dual use pedestrian/ cycle path status. Work is also progressing with North Ayrshire Council to create an active travel hub on site. This will complement the existing paths infrastructure being implemented within the hospital grounds as part of the new build developments.

University Hospital Crosshouse

3.6 The other large hospital site which was prioritised in the strategic review is University Hospital Crosshouse. This is a more challenging site as it has very little existing greenspace, however a



landscape architect has been employed to develop proposals in partnership with the Healthy Hospital Group on site which will focus initially on introducing some new decorative planting and specimen trees at the entrance and approach to the hospital. This will help screen the prevailing winds and car parking and reduce the impact of the hard surfaces, which currently dominate the site.

Links with other policies, strategies and initiatives

3.7 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and greenspace development are also key elements within the NHS Ayrshire & Arran Property and Asset Management Strategy (PAMS).

3.8 The role of biodiversity in contributing to NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Climate Change Adaptability Policy Framework Plan is also recognised.

Biodiversity Strategy

3.9 The boards Biodiversity and Greenspace Strategy initiatives are contained within the boards Sustainability Action Plan. These are the output from our annual assessment, and form our key indicators for the work plan.

These include:

- Appointment of a Green Space Champion on the Executive Board to champion green space activities and the links with health
- Put in place a program looking at all of our Greenspace to expand our current provisions
- Set out targets to increase quantity and quality of our greenspace across the estate
- Continuation of post Greenspace for Health – senior project office - Promotion worker
- Create a Green Health Plan for all of our sites
- Encourage our local community groups to use our greenspace promoting this on our website
- Increase our green spaces in all our buildings where land is constrained
- Widen our working groups out to include local partners, community planning groups, social care partners, third sector parties to increase to use of our outdoor space.
- We will be accessing the impacts of the provision of our service on local biodiversity and put in place mitigation actions to reduce any adverse effects and identify areas to enhance and increase biodiversity.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gain support of our action plan once completed, and appoint a desiccated lead to oversee its implementation.- Actively working to improve our ecological value within our estate by planting plants with higher biodiversity value, restoring native rich habitats to enhance pollinator abundance.- Plan to remove the use of pesticides and harmful chemicals, sustainably manage our waste, address our mowing regime across the estate, and increase our native planting with better nectar fruit bearing species.- Training is to be provided to estates and grounds staff involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the estate – Nature Scot training programs to be used here- Develop a management plan for one at least one of our sites- Gather evidence that we have increased our biodiversity across our sites due to the actions that we have under taken, and include a program to identify and irradiate invasive species and can demonstrate an overall reduction.- Our Biodiversity Action Plan will be communicated to our staff, patients and stakeholders and make this information publically available.- Our staff will have access to training and will provide opportunities to get involved in biodiversity conservation activities outdoors.

SECTION 4: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

How has your organisation integrated biodiversity into nature based solutions to the climate emergency and other socio-economic outcomes?

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Climate change is a direct driver of biodiversity loss. Some species are dying out while others are being displaced due to warmer air temperatures, extreme weather patterns, and higher sea levels. As well as being a direct driver of biodiversity loss, climate change also worsens the other drivers. For example it enables quicker spread of non-native invasive species. Combined action for biodiversity loss and climate change can be achieved through nature-based solutions.</p> <p>This reporting section provides the opportunity for your organisation to provide details on how you are supporting the positive contribution biodiversity can make to building resilience, and helping nature to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions can play a vital role in helping us to protect and enhance biodiversity, achieve net zero targets, and improve quality of life.</p> <p>You may wish to report on a range of specific processes or activities that your organisation has undertaken, including within your buildings and workforce, and projects that you have delivered.</p> <p>Integration might include incorporating biodiversity into nature-based solutions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The climate emergency, for example by developing climate change strategies that include nature, investing in green infrastructure, and taking action for pollinators. • Inclusive economic growth, for example by growing nature based industries, or investing in key natural visitor attractions • Health and wellbeing, for example by improving access to nature for all
<p>Links to related resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on how urban nature-based solutions can help Scotland's towns and cities mitigate and adapt to climate change providing guidance and examples. • The Helping nature to adapt webpage contains useful information on making use of nature's capacity to adapt to change as one of our best tools for managing climate change impacts, including through managing native woodlands and restoring peatlands.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The publication People, Place and the Climate Emergency includes examples and information on local nature-based solutions to deliver a range of socio-economic outcomes.
Text Field	<p>Ayr/Ailsa Project – Greenspace Demonstrator Site An example project which has increased our biodiversity within the grounds of the NHS.</p> <p>4.1 University Hospital Ayr provides the main A&E service for South Ayrshire, with units specialising in Vascular Surgery, Ophthalmology and Audiology. Ailsa Hospital provides residential and out-patient mental health services, with a woodwork shop and garden offering occupational therapy. A nursery next to the main hospital provides day care for children up to the age of five.</p> <p>4.2 The hospitals are based on a large campus, part of which was designed to house the county lunatic asylum in the 1860s. The North of the site is covered in woods, fields and meadows, and there is a growing residential population nearby who use the grounds for informal recreation. The campus offered great potential for staff, patients, visitors and local residents to explore a varied, beautiful environment, but there was little to encourage pedestrians or cyclists to use the place. The network of routes was limited and unattractive, with no seats to encourage people to spend time and relax. The woodland was neglected and overgrown, with paths that were too steep for many users and often very muddy.</p> <p>4.3 The new paths offer opportunities for a real work out as well as gentle exercise. The project commissioned a landscape architect to review the site and assess features such as the historic landscaping around the old buildings, as well as the potential for viewpoints and landmarks. Consultations and workshops with health professionals and estates staff looked at what they would like to see in the grounds and how new features could be maintained. The result was a masterplan to create a better environment for people and wildlife, improve existing paths and introduce new ones, provide seating and meeting places, and encourage people to use the grounds more.</p> <p>4.4 The paths have been designed to make best use of the site's natural features including a new wildflower meadows with viewpoints, including seats at regular intervals. A striking circle of wooden pillars can be used as an outdoor meeting place. The woods have been transformed by brashing</p>



	<p>overgrown trees (cutting off the dead lower branches of conifers to let more light onto the woodland floor), clearing undergrowth, and planting over 3,000 new trees.</p> <p>4.5 Interpretation panels in the hospital and at strategic points in the grounds provide a map of the paths and encourage people to explore. They also introduce some of the site's rich wildlife and explain how areas of grassland will be managed for wildflowers instead of being kept as close-mown grass.</p> <p>4.6 This Greening the NHS Estate project has transformed the hospital campus. It has created a network of routes that offer practical, attractive ways to get from one part of the site to another or peaceful places to take a break. Varied environments of woodland, meadow and grassland create interest in all seasons and are valuable wildlife habitats. Since local residents can use the site for walks and picnics, the campus is better integrated into the local community and the new routes offer active, healthy travel choices.</p> <p>4.7 Patients say the paths are "peaceful and therapeutic". Links are being made with respiratory, stroke and cardiac patients and clinicians to explore how outdoor sessions could be integrated into rehabilitation programmes.</p> <p>4.8 The project is very much in line with the Scottish Government's vision for a "health promoting health service", and is being used as a catalyst for strategic greening projects at other sites in NHS Ayrshire and Arran, including North Ayrshire Community Hospital and Crosshouse Hospital. The result is a shift in attitudes from the outdoor estate being viewed at best as a burden and at worst a liability, to an emerging view that the NHS estate is an asset that can be managed for health promotion and used for preventative, therapeutic and restorative benefits.</p> <p>4.9 NHS Greenspace is a cost effective way of increasing opportunities for therapeutic outdoor activities for patients, improving staff health, and strengthening the symbiotic relationship between health and the natural environment.</p>
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Ayrshire Central Hospital – developing the land

This project developed the land at the site, which linked community planning, and a wider initiative with our local partners. The NHS Greenspace, is part of the wider Green Health Partnership in North Ayrshire which feeds into the community planning, as well as nationally into our national health service program board.

We've carried out pathway development at the site, using woodland funding, and endowments, with the support of Mark Hamilton our consultant on planning. The new pathways were completed in 2019 which encompass the area around the facility. These are used by local residents, local staff, patients, Woodland View hospital for improvements to health and mental wellbeing. It links into the local park, forms a link into the national no7 cycle path, proving a seamless linking of the land. Funding from Sustrans helped here to develop this work.



SECTION 5: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Public Engagement

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Detail communications and education activities have you undertaken to inform or engage directly or indirectly with communities, young people and the public. This might include actions to raise staff, customer and public enjoyment and understanding of, and connection with, biodiversity and nature, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting volunteering;• Exhibitions and events;• School outreach;• Outdoor learning;• Citizen Science initiatives;• Provision of public education programmes;• Information hosted on your webpage;• Blogs and press releases.
Links to related resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas on volunteering outdoors.• Stats, stories, activities and inspiration to help bring nature and landscapes to life for young people and learners through education, including Beyond your boundary: easy steps to learning in local greenspace, and the Outdoor Learning Directory is a useful source of information and resources.• Ideas on citizen science activities that can increase public enjoyment, understanding and connection with nature.• Information on how to make more use of Scotland's outdoors as 'Our Natural Health Service'
Text Field	<p>Our Natural Health Service Steering Group</p> <p>5.1 NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Director of Public Health has been representing the territorial Boards in Scotland on the Our Natural Health Service Steering Group since its inception. This partnership is chaired by Scottish Natural Heritage and brings together partners from across the</p>



health and environment sectors in Scotland. It is focused around three key priorities of: NHS Greenspace; local Green Health Partnerships; and green infrastructure for wellbeing.

Community Planning Partnerships and Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs)

5.2 The Board supports and promotes Community Planning Partnership priorities in the three local authority areas in Ayrshire and is playing an active role in the developing LOIPs.

Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

5.3 NHS Ayrshire and Arran has not been actively involved in the development of the Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan. However, through close engagement with associated groups such as the Ayrshire Green Network the 'Greening the NHS Estates' project has benefited from knowledge and good practice exchange.

The Ayrshire Green Network

5.4 NHS Ayrshire and Arran is now a member of the Ayrshire Green Network and has presented to the Network on NHS greenspace developments in Ayrshire and Arran.

UHA /Alisa

5.5 NHS Ayrshire and Arran continues to work closely with the GEP to progress biodiversity related projects, notably the UHA/ Ailsa demonstration project detailed in Section 3. In particular, there are close working relationships with Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission (Scotland) in this project. However, close partnership links have also been made with Sustrans Scotland and South Ayrshire Council.

Ayrshire Central Hospital and Woodland View

5.6 At the Ayrshire Central site in North Ayrshire there is close partnership working with Forestry Commission Scotland, North Ayrshire Council and Sustrans Scotland and through the new North Ayrshire Active Communities Strategic Partnership which is co-chaired by North Ayrshire Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

5.7 Work is underway to explore the possibility of establishing a Green Health Partnership (GHP) in North Ayrshire which will be supported by the Our Natural Health Service partnership. This GHP will bring together health and environment sectors, amongst others, to further develop the green infrastructure in North Ayrshire, including NHS sites, and maximise their contribution to supporting health and wellbeing.

Workforce skills and training

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Detail activities that have been undertaken to support the development of your workforce, particularly in relation to skills relevant to biodiversity, nature, outdoor learning and community engagement in the natural environment.</p> <p>Activities might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff training, education and capacity building; • Hosting conferences, exhibitions and events; • Collaborative working with other organisations and sharing best practice.
Text Field	<p>Community Garden Projects</p> <p>5.8 The pursuit of numerous garden projects throughout NHS Ayrshire and Arran has resulted in collaboration with volunteer groups in the local communities. The participation and support resulting has enabled the promotion, development and maintenance of the gardens and greenspaces, for example, the Girvan Community Garden Volunteers, continuing local community involvement in the dementia friendly garden, East Ayrshire Community Hospital and the various 'Green Gym' projects.</p> <p>Breaking Ground Project</p> <p>5.9 NHS Ayrshire and Arran works in close co-operation with Breaking Ground, which has been operating at Eglington Country Park, North Ayrshire since 2011. Originally set up as a 'Green Gym' in 2009; the group is now self-sustaining with the Council Park Ranger Service taking the lead role.</p> <p>5.10 People with a range of health conditions from mild depression through to brain trauma and longer term difficulties are referred by their GP to the Green Gym. The aim of the group is to give people an opportunity to: learn new skills; meet new people; develop a regular routine; and improve their mental and physical wellbeing in an outdoor setting. Participants are encouraged to take part in warm up activities and to prepare their bodies for physical activity, helping to improve circulation and mobility whilst experiencing a diverse range of practical tasks from digging ponds, erecting fences, planting trees and shrubs to general garden tasks. Consequently, the project benefits health and wellbeing and the wider environmental/biodiversity aims.</p>



Identify any opportunities that are available to your staff to take part in practical actions

Guidance on completing this section	Activities might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteering days, for example with environmental Non-Governmental Organisations;• Participation in staff networks that aim to deliver on or promote objectives related to biodiversity or nature;• Opportunities for secondments to other organisations working on biodiversity and conservation.
Text Field	<p>Creation of 3 posts, all externally funded but work within the NHS Ayrshire and Arran</p> <p>Senior project officer post</p> <p>2 x Green health partnership posts, both in North Ayrshire.</p>

SECTION 6: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Describe any research activities that your organisation has undertaken to help develop understanding and awareness of biodiversity or nature

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Detail relevant research activities undertaken to raise awareness and understanding of nature and biodiversity, or to understand the way in which communities engage with the natural world. Where relevant, summarise the key changes that this research has supported within your public body.</p> <p>This might include research papers, surveys or reports undertaken by your organisation.</p>
Text Field	<p>Greening the NHS Estate: UHA/ Ailsa National Demonstration Project</p> <p>6.1 An evaluation plan is in place for the Greening the NHS Estate project which has been adapted from the GEP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This is overseen by an evaluation sub group of the Greening the NHS Estate Steering Group which is representative of Public Health, The Conservation Volunteers, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.</p> <p>6.2 At the demonstration site at UHA/ Ailsa two staff surveys have been carried out by Scottish Natural Heritage. The purpose of the surveys was to gauge reaction to the greenspace improvements which had been put in place and to help determine if staff attitudes and behaviours regarding use of hospital greenspace have changed since a baseline survey undertaken at an earlier stage of the improvement programme.</p> <p>6.3 A number of positive shifts were observed since in staff attitudes and behaviours regarding awareness and use of hospital greenspace including: greater awareness that the UHA/ Ailsa hospital grounds could be used for the enjoyment and well-being of staff, patients, visitors and local people; greater familiarity with the woods and greenspace around the hospital; and an increased frequency of visiting the hospital grounds for fresh air, relaxation and exercise.</p>



	<p>6.4 A proposal for in-depth interviews with key stakeholders is also in place which will be conducted by Forest Research in Spring 2017 and a footfall survey is planned for later in the year. Beam counters have also been installed on key paths to capture footfall data; and impact evaluations of specific interventions with patient groups such as Green Gym and Branching Out are being planned.</p> <p>6.5 Evaluation findings, as well as demonstrating the impact of changes on knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, are informing the development of further work on site in addition to identifying opportunities and barriers for mainstreaming the GEP principles on other sites.</p>
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What follow-up actions or monitoring have you undertaken to assess the impacts of the actions you have taken? How have you measured this? If you do not carry out any monitoring activities, please explain why.

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Where appropriate, you may wish to report on monitoring of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities relating to recording of engagement with or understanding of nature;• Your contribution in meeting national and international biodiversity targets;• Biodiversity related programmes or projects that you have delivered either alone or in partnership with others;• Implementation of relevant strategies or policies;• Organisational capability or development in relation to biodiversity or the natural world.
Links to related resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on biodiversity data, including obtaining and sharing data from Local Records Centres Biodiversity - where to find data.• The State of Scotland's Nature report provides a useful overview.• The National Biodiversity Network provides a single hub for biodiversity data management in the UK.• Biological Recording in Scotland is a useful source of information on surveys and biodiversity data management in Scotland.
Text Field	<p>6.6 Monitoring activities have been undertaken on our greenspace demonstrator site and a framework for monitoring and evaluation has been set up with a baseline of 2012.</p> <p>6.7 An improved environment for health which includes monitoring indicators such as improvements in cross boundary pathways for active travel, encourage community group use, providing functional links, creating managed woodland and greenspace increased art and bench installations, pathways for active travel. These work evidenced through project proposals and plans, landscape assessments and development reports, Woodland Management plans and photographic evidence that the work had been undertaken.</p> <p>6.8 Improved physical and mental health included increasing the use of the outdoor spaces by patients, visitors and staff. Increasing awareness of the greenspace for physical activity, increase the</p>



	<p>amount of health recovery programs outdoors, increase the number of patient engaged in outdoor treatments and rehabilitation, increasing the number of ward areas which overlook greenspace. These were evidenced by staff and patient surveys that were carried out, including monitoring of footfall at pathways across the estate. Beam counter data to record footfall, and data from wards on rehabilitation from clinical teams.</p> <p>6.9 Increased volunteering and employment Database – addressing the number of volunteering in path maintenance programs, numbers participating in employable schemes, numbers employed through Acorn social enterprise. These were evidenced by VASA database, Employable agencies databases and Acorn social enterprise.</p> <p>6.91 Sustainable Development and Biodiversity – greater use of the estate to meet biodiversity and climate change commitments, increasing the type and number of species, increased woodland areas, record the number of animals and plants, and increase the board's renewable energy developments. Evidence recorded through our Sustainable Development Plan.</p>
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SECTION 7: BIODIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Describe your organisation's main achievements for biodiversity over the reporting period and what you are most proud of (this can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events and actions).

<p>Guidance on completing this section</p>	<p>Examples of key achievements might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading or contributing to programmes or projects that directly support the key steps in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, or contribute to international Biodiversity targets; • Demonstrating national leadership or expertise in relation to biodiversity or nature; • Meeting your strategic aims in relation to biodiversity; • Completion of key projects with relevance to biodiversity or nature; • Funding achieved or delivered; • Volunteering days or time invested; • Provision of successful education or public engagement activities.
<p>Text Field</p>	<p>7.1 Ayr/Ailsa Greenspace Demonstrator Project for Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Overall, the NHS Greenspace Demonstration Project has shown how the contribution of greenspace assets to health and wellbeing, biodiversity and climate can be better realised through both large scale improvements as well as simple and small scale changes. The physical and behavioural changes which have been delivered have the potential to generate a wide range of benefits for people and nature including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Improved health and wellbeing through increased awareness and use by staff, patients, visitors and communities of the greenspace resource. • The Woodland planting, natural flood management and energy savings through changes to the microclimate and design of buildings contributing to NHS action on climate change. • Increased area of habitat and appropriate species selection and management, improving the biodiversity value of the NHS estate. • Improved active travel opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists. • Better communication and working between directorates, within NHS teams and between the NHS and other Scottish Government portfolios.



7.2 Surveys of NHSScotland staff before and after the greenspace interventions have recorded growth in the awareness of, and value placed on, greenspace. There has been an estimated 10% increase in use of the greenspace by staff at some of the sites with activities taking place including recreation, walking meetings, active travel, volunteering, and treatment and recovery programmes. Such an increase clearly shows the potential for this intervention to increase physical activity levels and improve wellbeing across this workforce.

7.3 Setting out our key indicators within our Sustainability Strategy which focus on biodiversity and greenspace. This plan will set out the goals which we are working towards over the next 3 to 5 years setting out clear direction of travel. The new Sustainable Construction Guide will re-inforce our requirement to ensure all new buildings and refurbishments are biodiversity net positive.



Looking ahead, what do you think will be the main challenges over the next three years?

Guidance on completing this section	<p>Challenges might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic and resource pressures;• Delivery of cross-cutting actions;• Preventing further loss of habitats and species;• Effective management of invasive non-native species;• Pressures for space;• Need to meet targets;• Encouraging enhanced partnership working.
Text Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenges for the next 3 years- Embedding biodiversity into core business function- Funding for the maintenance of pathways and woodland- Meeting the ACHI goals set for 2020- Providing evidence that we have indeed increased our biodiversity across the estate- Development of our strategy and communication this out to our staff and partners- Carrying out an assessment of the impacts of our service on local biodiversity- Providing space for the cultivation of food- Continue to promote the health benefits of greenspace activities- Provide open access to our greenspace to be used by community groups, and local residents



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