

## THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORTING TEMPLATE: LEVEL ONE 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

<p><b>Text Field</b></p>	<p>At HES we want to use the past to make a better future. We want the historic environment to make a real difference to people’s lives: to our health, to our economy, to our culture, to our environment. We want heritage to involve everyone so that we all benefit. We are a charity and public body leading the way in protecting, understanding and sharing Scotland’s historic environment, for today and for the future.</p> <p>What we do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We care for more than 300 sites of national importance across the country (‘Properties in Care’) and are the largest operator of paid visitor attractions in Scotland.</li> <li>• We look after internationally significant archives and artefacts.</li> <li>• We are at the forefront of investigating and researching the historic environment and addressing the impacts of climate change on its future.</li> <li>• We protect our historic places through designations and consents, promote their sustainable development, and provide millions of pounds each year to local communities to repair and revitalise their historic environment.</li> <li>• We provide advice and guidance about the historic environment, and offer a wide range of training and learning opportunities. We have a statutory role in the planning process.</li> </ul> <p>In every aspect of our work we strive to follow our five organisational values</p> <p>– we are collaborative, professional, innovative, open and respectful.</p> <p>At HES we want to use the past to make a better future.</p>
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We want the historic environment to make a real difference to people's lives: to our health, to our economy, to our culture, to our environment. We want heritage to involve everyone so that we all benefit.

As a Non-Departmental Public Body with charitable status, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is overseen by a Board whose members are collectively responsible for the governance of the organisation. The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC) advises our Board and supports the Accountable Officer, our Chief Executive Alex Paterson, on financial stewardship and accountability, risk control and governance. The Senior Management Team is responsible for the day-to-day running of HES and is led by our Chief Executive. Each Director heads up one of eight directorates – Heritage; Conservation; Commercial and Tourism; Communications and Media; Corporate Services; Finance; Development and Partnership; and People.

Our activity supporting biodiversity is spread across the organisation and no one director currently has oversight of this area. However, we do have a Natural Heritage Adviser in our Commercial and Tourism Directorate and a Landscape Manager (a new post established in 2018) in our Conservation Directorate, both of whose responsibilities are specific to the HES Estate. We also have a Climate Change Team, based in our Conservation Directorate, who support climate change related activity across the organisation and lead on our Public Bodies Climate Change Duties and Biodiversity Reporting.

There are many opportunities across our operations to support biodiversity whilst fulfilling our role as the lead public body for Scotland's historic environment. The management of Properties in Care has opportunities for supporting biodiversity improvement and understanding. Properties in Care can be special for biodiversity; many have been protected from development, particularly agricultural improvement, which has allowed the preservation of local habitats and species. Many sites therefore support populations of rare birds, bats, amphibians and many invertebrates as well as providing important wildlife corridors which allow plants and animals to migrate as part of normal activity and to spread as a result of pressure from development and climate change. Our Scheduled Monument Consent process includes a section on wildlife to ensure proposed works do not affect European Protected Species, and to ensure that adequate mitigation is put in place.

Our Ranger Service, based at Holyrood Park, Linlithgow Peel and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, undertake site management, education and interpretation at these and other sites, and a large proportion of their work is related to biodiversity. Our Natural Heritage Adviser supports staff and others on biodiversity



	<p>issues relating to site management, interpretation and education, and we have over 100 HES staff formally recognised as Green Champions, undertaking local initiatives to promote sustainability and good environmental practice across our sites.</p>
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## 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

<p><b>Text Field</b></p>	<p>We work with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other partners, including local authorities and public bodies, on 'Landscape Partnership' and 'Great Place' schemes. These projects make a huge difference to landscapes and the communities who live and work in them, and to visitors. Over the past three years, we have been actively involved in several landscape partnerships, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (Main Partner)</li> <li>• The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (Partnership Board member)</li> <li>• Garnock Connections (Advisor)</li> <li>• The Leven Programme (Main Partner)</li> <li>• Tay Landscape Partnership (Main Partner)</li> </ul> <p>We have worked with Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) to develop a protocol for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and European Protected Species within the consenting regimes we administer. In a recent case, this led to an application for Scheduled Monument Consent being partially refused on the grounds of the presence of a protected species, with the applicant being advised on the protected species assessment process. We are in the process of integrating these protocols into our Grants and Investment Programme, which is currently under review.</p> <p>We work with a number of public bodies to promote landscape issues and protect our special landscapes. One key partnership is with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage). As the two lead heritage bodies in Scotland, we both have an important role in landscape issues. In October 2019, we published our joint statement on landscape, <a href="#"><i>People, Place and Landscape: a position statement from Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland</i></a>, which sets out our common position on landscape. It explains how we work together to consider all landscapes in Scotland. It recognises that all of our landscapes have cultural and natural elements. This follows the approach set out in the European Landscape Convention. We recognise that</p>
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Scotland's landscapes are highly valued nationally and internationally. Our landscapes provide a wide range of benefits to people – from health and well-being to inspiration for the creative arts. The statement is in line with [Our Place in the Time](#), Scotland's strategy for the historic environment. It also reflects the challenges and opportunities set out in the [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#).

We published a two year [Action Plan](#) in December 2019, which sets out the main areas of work required to deliver the joint *People, Place and Landscape* Position Statement. It includes a mixture of on-going work and new activity which will be taken forward as opportunities and resources allow. The plan does not include all of the landscape work undertaken by each organisation, such as advice to local authorities and Scottish Government through our engagement in the planning system and its co-ordination through the key agencies group. Delivery of this Plan will be progressed within the framework of the Programme for Government and its priorities, in particular addressing the Climate Emergency, delivering inclusive growth and applying the place principle. The plan will be updated annually.

HES sits on the National Peatland Forum, supporting delivery of the National Peatland Plan. We have worked in partnership with Peatland ACTION to support the protection of cultural heritage during peatland restoration and plan to deliver training to Peatland ACTION participants in 2021. HES has entered into discussion with our sister bodies, Historic England and CADW (Wales) on the integration of cultural heritage into the Peatland Code to better represent historic environment interests in publicly or commercially funded peatland restoration.

Along with NatureScot, we have Observer status on Scotland's Landscape Alliance, which is led by National Trust for Scotland and the Landscape Institute Scotland.

HES has also worked in partnership with MarineScotland, NatureScot, SEPA, the Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC) and Marine Science Technology Scotland (MASTS) on [Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020](#), which will inform the review in 2021 of the National Marine Plan. The Marine Assessment reports on the progress towards 'clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people'.



HES published our first [Litter Prevention Action Plan](#) in 2018. This explains how we will contribute to delivery of Scottish Government's "Towards a Litter-free Scotland: a strategic approach to higher quality local environments" which outlines three cornerstones of intervention to tackle litter - information, infrastructure, and enforcement. Our work in this area includes tackling flytipping, littering and dog fouling on HES sites. This is important in protecting wildlife (especially against plastics ingestion) and creating more sustainable habitats. We are a member of the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) due to our active engagement on these issues and on heritage crime.

On our own Estate, we have continued implementation of meadow management and altering grass cutting regimes at sites, now including the Ring of Brodgar, Dryburgh Abbey, Edzell Castle, Spynie Palace and Doune Castle. We have continued to time works to avoid conflict with wildlife, for example roosting bats and nesting birds. We have also continued to erect bat and bird boxes. At Threave Castle, we have worked in partnership with NatureScot and National Trust for Scotland (NTS) to protect a pair of peregrine falcons that have been returning each year. This involves parts of the site being closed to visitors during the nesting season to avoid disturbance, and staff monitoring bird behaviour closely. We also work with the NTS osprey viewing facility to raise awareness of the nesting birds.

Our Landscape Manager has undertaken gap analysis and developed recommendations for actions including increasing biodiversity on sites through appropriate site management. She has also created a baseline database for landscape in terms of both natural and cultural heritage designations and understanding what we have on the estate. Three Landscape Conservation Management Plans have been developed for Doune Castle, Caerlaverock Castle and Melrose Abbey. These plans look at the significance of the landscape of the sites including ecological and environmental sensitivities and importance, and accordingly make recommendations to improve biodiversity through a series of landscape management actions for each of the sites.

Our Monument Conservation Unit remove Invasive Non-Native Species in the course of their work. An example would be the removal of invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* from Castle Campbell with a rope team in difficult topography; this had been acting as a massive seed source, distributing seeds into the surrounding Site of Special Scientific Interest. We planted up a redundant 230 square metre of bed at Blackness Castle



showcasing coastal and thistle species, which will be maintained by volunteers and will provide additional nectar sources for foraging insects with the aim to improve and support biodiversity.

We have continued tree and hedge planting and maintenance where appropriate. Our Landscape Manager has also been delivering tree awareness workshops to increase HES staff understanding of the importance of ancient and veteran trees on the Properties in Care, the importance of these trees to landscape setting, carbon sequestration, cultural heritage and biodiversity; and how these important biodiversity assets can be protected. To date over 50 monument conservation unit staff have been trained in Tree Awareness, with plans to extend the training to other directorates within HES.

Awareness of the importance of Natural Capital has increased across HES, with a Natural Capital Seminar and Roundtable for staff supported by the National Forum on Natural Capital taking place in June 2020. The aim of this was to increase understanding and awareness of natural capital amongst staff and its consideration in HES' internal decision-making processes.

Our Ranger Service's activity, which includes volunteers, involves practical activities to support biodiversity. An example would be the work at Holyrood Park to insert fire breaks and remove some gorse, to allow mosses and other plants to thrive. In particular, this supports the rock rose which is the food of the northern brown argus butterfly caterpillar (a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species). Our Ranger Service have also continued to contribute to delivery of local and national Biodiversity Action Plans such as the Edinburgh City Biodiversity Action Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Plans such as the Edinburgh Adapts Action Plan. This includes ensuring our sites continue to act as corridors for species to migrate through and altering grass cutting regimes and meadow management. The work towards delivering actions in the Edinburgh City Biodiversity Action Plan included rediscovering a moss in Holyrood Park which is not known to grow anywhere else in the UK as well as rediscovering the stonecrop fanner, a micromoth which remains extant only within Holyrood Park. The Ranger Service also partnered with Butterfly Conservation to set up a dedicated grayling butterfly transect, for this scarce and declining butterfly.





## 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.

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>Our progress towards mainstreaming biodiversity is reflected in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Scheduled Monuments Consents Policy</a>, published April 2019</li><li>• <a href="#">Historic Environment Policy for Scotland</a>, published 2019, which takes a holistic view of the historic environment as both natural and cultural.</li><li>• Managing Change in the Historic Environment series of guidance notes, including that on <a href="#">Gardens and Designed Landscapes</a>, updated edition of which was published in February 2020.</li><li>• Our new <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a>, launched in February 2020 includes Biodiversity and Landscape as a core theme.</li></ul>
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## 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><b>Text Field</b></p>	<p>HES has been a core partner in Dynamic Coast: Scotland’s Coastal Change Assessment since inception and sits on the Steering Group. The latest phase involves a series of ‘Supersite’ case studies that are assessing the potential for nature-based solutions to coastal management. These include a case study in the Bay of Skaili that includes Skara Brae, which is managed by HES, a scheduled monument and part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.</p> <p>The dune stabilisation works carried out previously at Links of Noltland continue to protect this prehistoric site from further coastal aeolian erosion. An Adaptation Scotland case study on this project is available at <a href="https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/how-adapt/case-studies/protecting-prehistoric-remains-historic-environment-scotland">https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/how-adapt/case-studies/protecting-prehistoric-remains-historic-environment-scotland</a></p> <p>Biodegradable hessian was recently used at New Abbey Corn Mill as an innovative way of filtering out crassula from a watercourse.</p> <p>The long grass at the King's Knot, Stirling, a result of the suspension of regular maintenance work such as grass cutting due to COVID-19 restrictions during 2020, has provided an opportunity to trial an innovative approach to manage the historic landscape.</p> <p>Scything, a traditional method of grass cutting using a curved blade which dates back to ancient times, offers a way to carefully manage the unique historic environment of the King's Knot. The area formed part of the royal gardens associated with Stirling Castle from the early 17th century and is now protected as a Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>Scything also presents a greener alternative to mechanical methods of grass cutting, and can contribute to biodiversity as it is less disruptive and damaging to wildlife. We hope that this work at the King's Knot will be a useful exercise to help us determine how these alternative methods of landscape management can fit within</p>
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	<p>our wider programme of conservation and maintenance moving forward. Pilots have also begun at Dryburgh and Melrose Abbeys.</p>
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**What steps has your organisation taken to incorporate biodiversity outcomes into partnership initiatives, wider strategies or initiatives of relevance to climate change?**

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>Ecosystem services and natural capital accounting provide potential opportunities for the management of the historic environment. This is the focus of a newly formed working group within HES. We have recently undertaken an initial meeting with NatureScot's Natural Capital Manager on incorporating the historic environment into the Natural Capital Asset Index.</p> <p>We are part of a JNCC project (along with Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and NatureScot), enhancing the Sentinel-1 and -2 analysis-ready data ARD web service to detect and monitor landscape change. This is being piloted in eight areas across the UK. Users will be evaluating its use for monitoring the condition of habitats and historical landscape features in protected sites and the wider landscape. This will then inform future development of the service, with the potential for efficiency savings and improved policy delivery through better targeting of survey and management resources.</p> <p>HES has worked in partnership with Scottish Canals following a breach of the Union Canal (which is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979) at Muiravonside, due to severe weather in 2020, which has impacted on wildlife living in the canal.</p>
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Looking ahead, what do you think will be the main climate change related challenges for biodiversity over the next three years?

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>We have detailed planned actions in the Biodiversity and Landscape section of our <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a>, published February 2020. We will build upon existing work on biodiversity and landscape management, delivering actions set out in <a href="#">People, Place and Landscape: a position statement from Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland</a> (published October 2019) and our <a href="#">Biodiversity Delivery Statement</a> (published April 2018). We will meet or exceed relevant targets of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, as well as expanding and increasing partnerships and involvement of others across the organisation. Biodiversity and landscape will be taken into account in all relevant decision-making and embedded in corporate targets. We will improve understanding of the effects of climate change and climate change mitigation on biodiversity and landscape through ongoing surveys, monitoring, research and collaboration. This will in turn inform our advice and guidance. We plan to collate all necessary data relating to biodiversity and landscape in a GIS to improve the management of biodiversity risks associated with environmental hazards. Action will be taken to maintain and improve biodiversity at sites in our care in the context of a changing climate. We plan to develop green infrastructure to increase resilience and reduce negative environmental impacts at our sites, related to the increased risk of flooding, erosion and other events exacerbated by climate change.</p>
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## SECTION 5: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### Public Engagement

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>Our Green Champions network continues to flourish and many of our green champions are taking positive action to support biodiversity and engage with the public on the topic. This includes established wildflower meadows at Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys; a wildlife spotter at Urquhart Castle; an ongoing survey of all plants, animals and insects that might be seen at Stirling Castle and staff at many other sites who share their local knowledge with visitors.</p> <p>Our Ranger Service continue to engage with hundreds of groups across a wide spectrum including uniformed organisations, school groups, university and community groups and groups with additional support needs, reaching thousands of individuals. We run a programme of volunteer activities for groups and individuals, encouraging them to become involved in conservation surveying and habitat management. The programme includes Volunteer Rangers, wildlife survey volunteers and Junior Rangers. Activities for the Junior Rangers include bat box building and owl pellet dissection. The Ranger Service also use social media, print (posters and leaflets) and public guided tours to engage the public on biodiversity in the historic environment.</p> <p>More than 80% of scheduled monuments are located on agricultural land and are affected by land management practices. No specific funding for management works on scheduled monuments is available via the Scottish Rural Development Programme's Agri-Environment Climate Scheme. However, a number of management options and capital items have the potential to offer dual benefits to both the environment and the long-term management of scheduled monuments. Our Heritage Management Field Officers are responsible for monitoring risk and condition of scheduled monuments, including liaising with landowners and land managers. In their work, they also raise awareness of the Scottish Rural Development Programme, which has a focus on biodiversity but also rewards positive impact on cultural heritage.</p>
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### Workforce skills and training

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>Staff processing applications for scheduled monument consent have received training on the screening for protected species and places within the process.</p> <p>Our annual Green Champions conference, which includes presentations and interactive workshops, regularly touches on biodiversity and the natural environment, with updates from the Champions themselves a high point. At our 2020 conference, which was delivered online for the first time, we had a presentation on the work HES is doing to support delivery of the objectives in the National Peatland Plan.</p> <p>Our Landscape Manager has run a series of staff training events on good practice in the management of trees, as described in Section 2 above. A pilot mini-workshop session was conducted at our annual Green Champions conference in 2019.</p>
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### Identify any opportunities that are available to your staff to take part in practical actions

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>All staff are eligible to join the Green Champions Network; currently about 10% of our staff are Green Champions. Local staff are invited to participate in litter picks around their workplace when these are planned, helping to reduce hazards to wildlife.</p>
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## SECTION 6: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

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

<b>Text Field</b>	<p><b>Natural Capital Research</b></p> <p>In our new internal Natural Capital working group, we have begun the work identified for action in our People, Place and Landscape Action Plan. We are developing approaches on Natural Capital that better capture the contributions made by the natural and cultural elements of landscape. We have also begun to develop and assess the application of ecosystems services methodologies to the natural and cultural elements of landscape.</p> <p><b>Statements of Natural Heritage Significance</b></p> <p>Our Natural Heritage Adviser is currently writing Statements of Natural Heritage Significance for all our Properties in Care, to complement the existing Statements of Cultural Significance. These report on key species with importance to biodiversity, as well as helping to inform the management of the site to help boost biodiversity. We have developed and improved the depth and detail of existing surveys such as Statements of Natural Heritage Significance to further improve understanding of biodiversity at Properties in Care.</p> <p><b>Protecting rare species and habitats</b></p> <p>Our Commercial and Tourism and Conservation Directorates have worked together to ensure that the Statements of Natural Heritage Significance integrate with the Risk Management programme and the Properties in Care Asset Management System programme. This has resulted in a redesign of the statements to include the information required to manage the properties. The information included within the updated statements for each property now includes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• within, or near, a designated site of natural importance</li><li>• presence, or possible presence, of European Protected Species</li></ul>
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- presence, or possible presence, of species protected under UK legislation
- presence of habitats or species noted within local or natural Biodiversity Action Plans
- presence of archaeophytes and more recent historical species that evidence the history of the site
- presence of historic land/species management that are part of the history of the site, for example heritage trees or coppice management
- information on how the site can contribute to increasing biodiversity on a local or national level where possible

This information can inform the management of the sites, ensuring legal requirements are upheld, highlighting opportunities to improve biodiversity, and informing site interpretation.

Surveys have taken place at 300 (92%) of the 324 Properties in Care that are scheduled for survey. 240 statements have been put into the new format in an ongoing process.

Specialist wildlife surveys have been carried out at HES properties by licensed surveyors to inform the Statements of Natural Significance process, to include:

- Bat surveys at Dunfermline Abbey, Doune Castle, Tantallon Castle, Crichton Castle, Mavisbank Estate, Inverlochy Castle, Doune Castle, Linlithgow Palace and Loch
- Wildlife at water/wetland sites, including otter, water vole, amphibians, including Great Crested Newts and Natterjack toads, at Caerlaverock Castle, Lochmaben Castle, Bon Awe Iron Works Castle Campbell and Duffus Castle
- Caerlaverock Castle and woodland including bryophytes: mosses and lichens.

Our Ranger Service also oversees wildlife surveys and monitoring, undertaken with volunteers, including Invasive Non-Native Species within Holyrood Park, Linlithgow Peel and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. This includes continued monitoring of the sticky catchfly reintroduction and maiden pink translocations in Holyrood Park as well as wetland birds, Himalayan balsam, adder's-tongue fern, plume moth,



	<p>bumblebees and butterflies. The Ranger Service has also partnered with Buglife Scotland to facilitate surveys for the bordered brown lacewing, a rare insect known from only two locations within Scotland, including Holyrood Park. 14 specimens were discovered.</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.**

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>HES collates data on an annual basis to inform our Sustainability Report, which is published as an annex to our Annual Report and Accounts and includes a section on Biodiversity.</p> <p>The Ranger Service is involved in Local Biodiversity Action Plans, a wide range of surveys to assist those Plans and share that data with local and national organisations. This information informs our understanding and management of these properties. We have positive links with local organisations and groups leading to partnership project working that encourages work to enhance species and their habitats.</p> <p>As part of their monitoring of Scotland's 8000 scheduled monuments on a cyclical basis, our Heritage Management Field Officers note and monitor landuse within the scheduled area.</p> <p>HES is a member of the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and actively monitors its sites for heritage crime, littering, flytipping and dog fouling.</p>
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**Does your monitoring show any significant trends or highlight any areas of concern?**

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>We currently lack a methodology or mechanism for monitoring biodiversity on the HES Estate beyond the ranger-supervised areas of Holyrood Park, Linlithgow Peel and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.</p> <p>We have noted a reduction in certain species at some sites that we manage, for instance an absence of hares in Holyrood Park. However, we have noted a positive increase in butterfly species and identified rare moth species in Holyrood Park.</p> <p>Water quality at certain sites, such as Linlithgow Loch and New Abbey Corn Mill, is a concern; the problem is nutrient enrichment of the water leading to algal bloom. Sources of this problem include water sources that we do not have control of. We have been working in partnership with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Scottish Water, local authorities, NatureScot and community stakeholders on these issues.</p>
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**Have you added any data collected to the National Biodiversity Network or your Local Records Centre?**

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>HES shares data with The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) and similar Information Centres around the country as well as charities such as the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), Butterfly Conservation, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust.</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).

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>Our main highlights over the reporting period are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mainstreaming biodiversity and landscapes in our Climate Action Plan.</li><li>• Continued evolution of partnership working with Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RGE), NatureScot and local special interest groups (e.g. local chapters of Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and Butterfly Conservation)</li><li>• Involvement in landscape partnerships, including Inner Forth Landscape Initiative and The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership.</li></ul>
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**Looking ahead, what do you think will be the main challenges over the next three years?**

<b>Text Field</b>	<p>We have identified our main challenges over the next three years as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mainstreaming the historic environment and biodiversity together, maximising on co-benefits in the context of diminishing budget.</li><li>• Delivering the ambitious actions contained in the Biodiversity and Landscape theme of our new Climate Action Plan in the context of economic and resource pressures.</li><li>• Continued effective management of invasive non-native species such as rhododendron, Himalayan balsam and mink.</li><li>• Pressure for space – the increasing popularity of spaces and sites that we manage presents a challenge in balancing accessibility with natural and cultural heritage conservation. For instance, high density housing being built around Holyrood Park and growing tourism has led to increasing numbers using the park recreationally.</li><li>• Improving monitoring of biodiversity across our Estate.</li></ul>
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