

NHS Grampian Biodiversity Impact Statement 2017

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a Biodiversity Duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in carrying out their functions. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was published by the Scottish Government in 2004 and contains 5 strategic objectives, including:

- Reversal of biodiversity loss
- Increasing awareness and engagement
- Restoring and enhancing through planning, design and practice
- Providing a management framework for including biodiversity in all decision making
- Encouraging a wider availability of knowledge

The Biodiversity Duty states that, in exercising any functions, public bodies should further the conservation of biodiversity as far as is consistent with the exercising of those functions.

NHS Grampian has sustainability team which responsible for leading on biodiversity and champions it as part of its role.

The main NHS Grampian health campus at Foresterhill has a large collection of mature broadleaf trees. Recent developments within the site has placed great pressure on the need for parking and pedestrian walkways, we have however maintained large areas of parkland along with a fresh air garden to the front of the original hospital. In addition to which NHSG has recently been awarded funding to undertake “Greenspace” project on the west side of the Foresterhill Health campus, with aims to develop this across other sites.

Across the Foresterhill Health campus site there are bird boxes installed which are in place to encourage the nesting of native birds within a suitable habitat. There has also been recent planting of deciduous trees to ensure continuous ecological overlap in the age structure of the woodland species and associated fauna and flora across the site to increase the overall ecological role of the site as a green corridor.

NHS Grampian has taken an active role in reducing the amount of non-native species on the Foresterhill site and alerting the council when required.

The Foresterhill site has a new therapeutic roof garden which can be accessed by everyone on the site, which plays a significant role to patients who are otherwise unable to access gardens.

The Roxburgh site has undertaken landscaping and re-naturalising of otherwise unused grounds to both enhance the patient and visitor experience through the development of increased areas of greater biodiversity achieved through the planting of new native species, grounds maintenance and wildlife encouragement.

Garden areas throughout NHS Grampian have been set aside for the benefit of all, in some areas these are enclosed and used exclusively by the patients, especially the elderly and those with mental health issues.

The ongoing maintenance of these gardens is carried out by NHS Grampian staff with the support of local charities which encourage those with special needs to be actively involved in the ongoing development of the garden areas.

Along with the green areas, we have small colonies of bats which are protected by law and left undisturbed to roost, allowing the colonies to develop and grow naturally.

All development works which are carried out, are done in an ecological and environmentally responsible manner, to ensure the least possible level of disturbance to both the local flora and fauna. In addition wherever possible the further development of the “green” environment.