

# Biodiversity and Development

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49% of species have **decreased** in abundance

24% **decline** in average species abundance

14% **decline** in average species distribution

11% of species are **threatened**



# Experience pre-NPF4

## SPP (2014)

*194 The planning system should ...*

- ***seek benefits for biodiversity*** from new development ***where possible***, including the restoration of degraded habitats and the avoidance of further fragmentation or isolation of habitats;



## NatureScot review

### 1) Proposed measures

- ❖ 120 post-2015 housing applications
- ❖ over 20 houses or 4 blocks of flats, across Scotland

### 2) Implemented measures

- ❖ 44 completed housing developments
- ❖ 7 Central Belt authorities

## Proposed measures – Planting for nature



- ❖ 98 / 120 use amenity plants that would support pollinators
- ❖ 46 / 120 state a goal of supporting pollinators
- ❖ But 72 / 120 contained non-native invasive species

## Proposed measures - Homes for nature

Bat boxes  
20/120

Bird boxes  
7/120

Swift boxes  
13/120

Insect hotels  
2/120





# Implemented measures – Woodland and Tree planting



## Woodland

- ❖ 11 / 28 sites planted as planned
- ❖ 14 / 28 sites missing >50% planting
- ❖ 12 / 20 planted sites >50% in good condition

## Street / Open space trees

- ❖ 11 / 43 sites planted as planned
- ❖ 10 / 43 sites missing >50% individual trees

## Construction impact

- ❖ 14 / 44 sites evidenced damage to trees





## Policy 1 Tackling the climate & nature crises

*When considering all development proposals **significant weight** will be given to the global climate and nature crises.*

- 3 Biodiversity
- 4 Natural Places
- 5 Soils
- 6 Forestry, woodland & trees
- 9 Brownfield & vacant land
- 14 Design, quality & place
- 18 Infrastructure first
- 20 Blue & green infrastructure

## Policy 3 Biodiversity

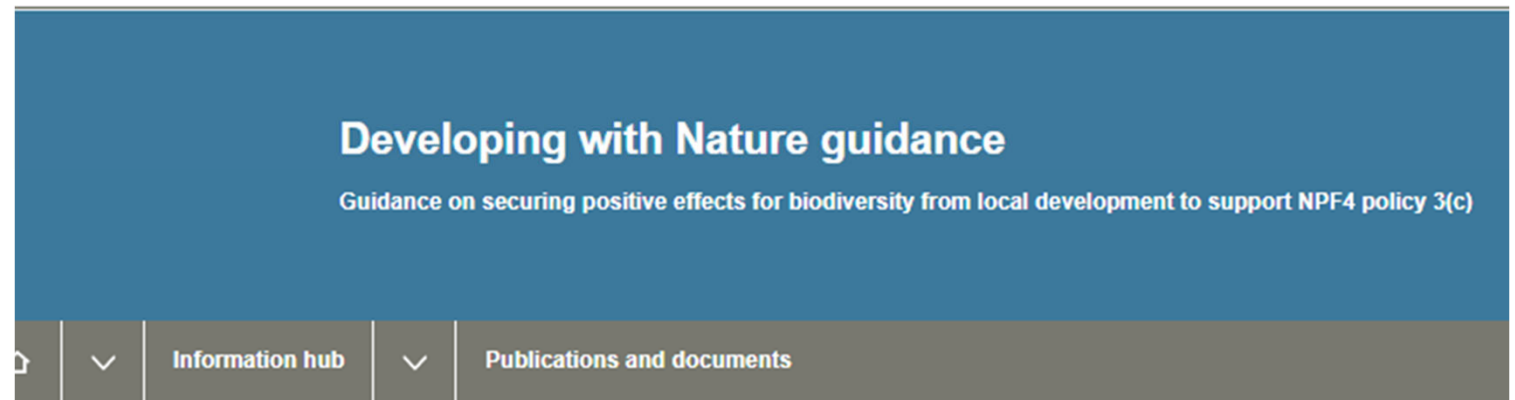


LDPs - protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity

- a) Development will contribute to enhancement
- b) National / major / EIA development – provide significant enhancement and leave in a demonstrably better state than without intervention
- c) Certain local developments – include appropriate measures
- d) Adverse impacts minimised, taking account of need to reverse loss, safeguarding ecosystem services and building resilience

## Policy 3c

*Proposals for local development **will include appropriate measures** to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with **national and local guidance**. Measures should be **proportionate to the nature and scale of development**. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.*







## Ensuring a nature rich approach

1. Apply the mitigation hierarchy
2. Consider biodiversity from the outset
3. Provide synergies & connectivity for nature
4. Integrate nature to deliver multiple benefits
5. Prioritise on-site enhancement before off-site delivery
6. Take a place-based & inclusive approach
7. Ensure long term enhancement is secured



# 24 Appropriate Measures

## PLANTING

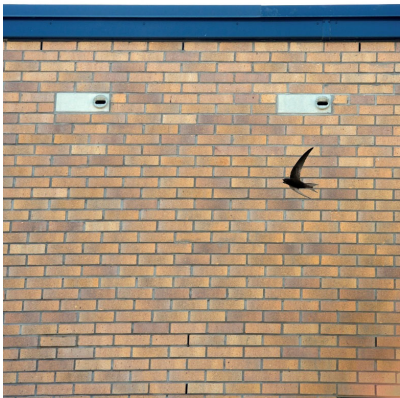
- 1 Pollinator plants
- 2 Meadows
- 3 Orchards
- 4 Trees & scrub
- 5 Living roof
- 6 Green wall
- 7 Hedgerows

## HOMES

- 8 Log & leaf piles
- 9 Hibernacula
- 10 Bees
- 11 Bugs
- 12 Hedgehogs
- 13 Small birds
- 14 Owls
- 15 Bats
- 16 Wildlife wall
- 17 Wildlife tower
- 18 Lighting

## WATER

- 19 Rain garden
- 20 Swale & ditch
- 21 SuDS pond
- 22 Wildlife pond
- 23 Rivers & burns
- 24 Drain escape





# Appropriate measures content

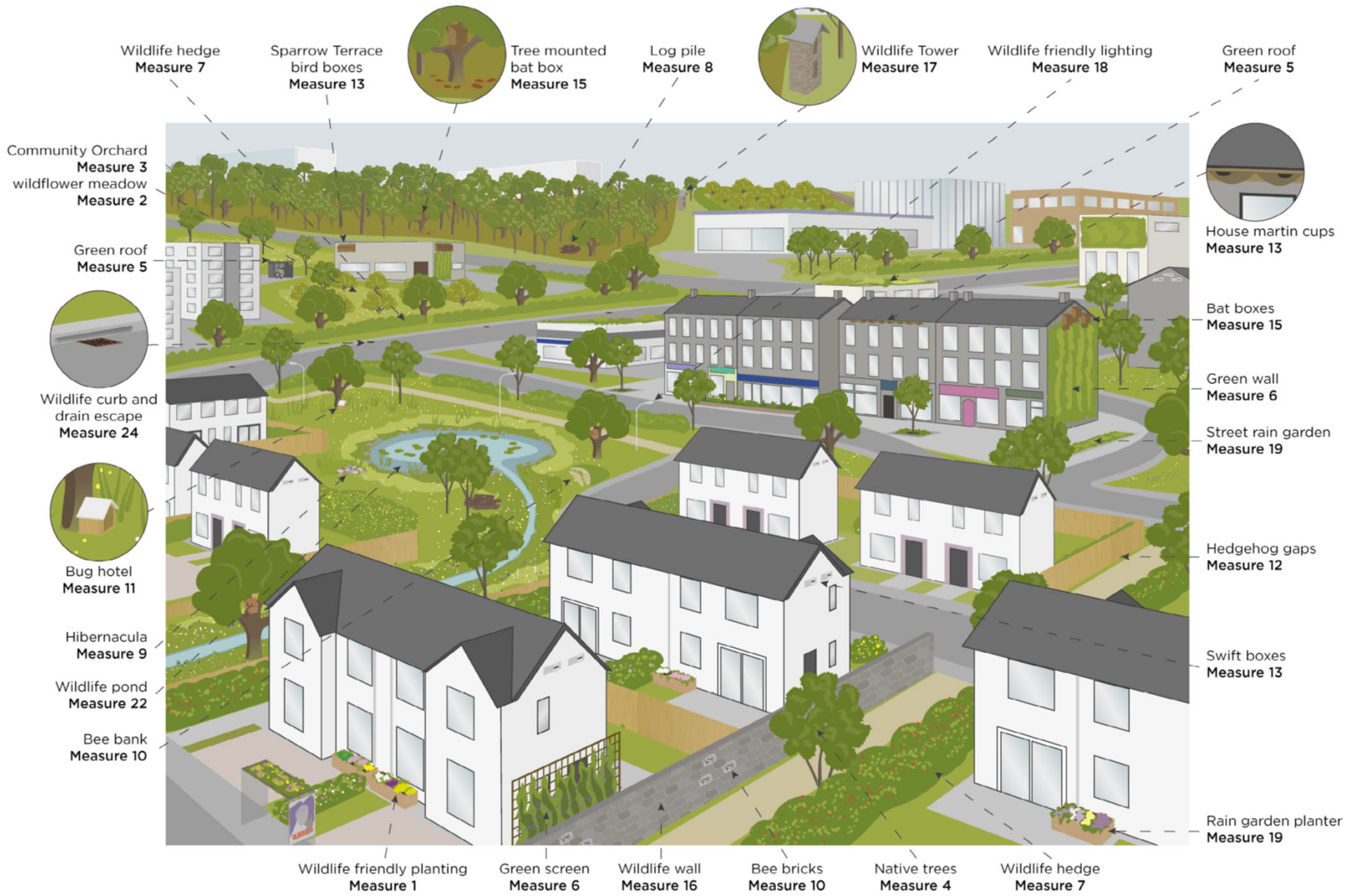
- ❖ Description
- ❖ Nature benefitted
- ❖ Key requirements (to be successful)
- ❖ Future management needs
- ❖ Complementary measures
- ❖ Nature notes
- ❖ Sources for further information





## ANNEX C: EXAMPLE TEMPLATE FOR DEMONSTRATING DELIVERY OF POSITIVE EFFECTS

ACTIONS CONSIDERED	MITIGATION: Measures included as mitigation to avoid and minimise impacts	ENHANCEMENT: Measures included to enhance biodiversity (or explanation for not applying)
Protection and enhancement of existing habitats on or adjacent to the site		
Creation of new habitat on the site		
Protection and enhancement of connectivity through the site and with its surroundings		
Protection and enhancement of existing species on or adjacent to the site		
Avoidance, control and removal of invasive species from the site		
Protecting wildlife from negative interactions with people and / or infrastructure		
Promoting awareness and encouraging further actions for nature		
SUMMARY: Positive effects that will be delivered		



# Challenges?

1. Supporting framework & guidance
2. Capacity & skills
3. Implementation
4. Future Management

