

Theme 3. Land Management	
Action	Partners
Identify and declare Local Nature Reserves at appropriate sites in the Borough and manage accordingly.	ANDBC
Commission conservation management plans for key Council owned sites detailing prescriptions to ensure the relevant features remain in good condition.	ANDBC
Encourage the concept of green walls/roofs where appropriate on new Council buildings.	ANDBC
Secure funding to commission a feasibility study exploring the potential of a local nature recovery network demonstration project on the Comber River (and its tributaries to connect fragmented habitat)	ANDBC, DAERA, Conservation and wildlife NGO's, Community Groups
Secure funding to commission a feasibility study to explore the options for habitat restoration and management at Laurel Bank and Crawfordsburn Glen.	ANDBC, DAERA, Conservation and wildlife NGO's, Local Community & Community Groups
Control excessive gorse growth <i>Ulex</i> sp. on the rocky higher ground of Whitespots Country Park. Thin planted trees at the site to create a more open and biodiverse environment.	ANDBC, DAERA
Commission management plan for Cloughey sand dunes outlining conservation actions to effect favourable condition	ANDBC, DAERA, Local Community Groups
Create and install features in existing and newly created meadows, to benefit invertebrates including bug hotels and beetle and bee banks.	ANDBC, UWT, Buglife, DFI Roads
Avoid removing deadwood from woodlands unless there is overriding health and safety reasons. Ensure this is incorporated into the management plans for all council managed woodlands.	ANDBC
Look at opportunities to create new ponds across the Borough at suitable locations	ANDBC, Local Community Groups
Restore the woodland and ponds habitats at Strickland Glen for the benefit of biodiversity	ANDBC, UWT, local community groups, schools
Erect and maintain existing and newly installed bat boxes within key Council-owned woodland and parkland sites where suitable trees and stone structures exist, and along river banks within close proximity to ponds, lakes and canals.	ANDBC, NI Bat Group
Restore or plant new native species-rich hedgerows for biodiversity with emphasis on connecting woodlands and other habitats. These hedgerows should act as demonstration sites for good practice hedgerow management.	ANDBC, UWT
Identify suitable sites to install swift boxes on Council buildings.	ANDBC, BTO, RSPB, NI Swift Group

Identify and erect barn owl nesting boxes key locations within the Borough	ANDBC, Ulster Wildlife
Continue to manage and monitor lowland meadows under the Council Rewilding Initiative and increase the extent of species-rich wildflower meadow habitat by creating new meadows and expanding the area of existing meadows, in both urban and rural locations	ANDBC
Reduce the frequency of amenity grassland cutting per year at selected Council amenity areas including around sports facilities.	ANDBC
Establish a network of native seed donor sites for habitat creation and restoration. Ensure that ENSCONET Seed Collecting Manual For Wild Species is utilised.	ANDBC, True Harvest Seeds, Ecosseeds
Encourage the use of local provenance seed by holding workshops on seed harvesting, collection and storage.	ANDBC, True Harvest Seeds, Ecosseeds
Reduce and ultimately cease the use of peat on Council-owned land.	ANDBC
Ensure all built structures and mature trees on Council owned sites are adequately scoped for the presence of bats prior to any works (even minor works such as limb / ivy removal) occur.	ANDBC
Explore the feasibility of grazing as a means of managing grasslands	ANDBC, UFU, NFFN, Local Farming Community
Explore the feasibility of providing wild bird cover for farmland birds	ANDBC, BTO, RSPB, Local Farming Community
Reduce, replace and where possible eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers on council land	ANDBC
Increase accessible woodland (% of population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m) towards UK average of 21.1% by 2032. Increase Woodland Creation (% population requiring new woodland to be able to access a 20ha+ wood within 4km) towards UK average of 12.1% by 2030	ANDBC, landowners, Woodland Trust
Ensure a collection of diverse tree colonies through the planting of native trees across the Borough.	ANDBC
Engage with all landowners in relation to the eutrophication issue at the ponds located in Whitespots Country Park	ANDBC, DAERA, Private Landowners
Provide funding to create community wildlife gardens with pollinator-friendly wildflower areas	ANDBC
Develop an ambitious planting plan starting with the planting of 160,000 native trees across the Borough with further increased planting to contribute to regional and national targets	ANDBC
Investigate the potential for incorporating buffer zones around ponds and rivers on council owned land.	ANDBC, DAERA, Community Groups
Commission a resurvey of SLNCIs in the Council area	ANDBC

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