

Biodiversity

Date: 29/01/2026

Green
Tourism

Green
Meetings



Funded by
UK Government



The webinar will cover the following areas:

- Introduction
- Planting & maintenance for Biodiversity
- Habitats and Refuges for Wildlife
- Conservation of Wildlife and Biodiversity
- Biodiversity Education and Information
- Supply Chain for Biodiversity



Biodiversity in Fife

- 10,000 recorded species of animal and plants.
- 170 Km of coastline, and the Isle of May.
- 510 hectares of ancient woodland.
- 2 x National nature reserves.
- 7 x Local nature reserves.
- 150 x sites designated for natural heritage value.



What is biodiversity

Biodiversity is defined as “the variety and variability of life on Earth”

It is a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.

Variation within these three categories is the basis of evolution, the more diverse the gene pool, the “fitter” the species. The more variation within the species, the easier it can adapt to utilise habitats.



Connectivity in nature

Nature is a web, in which everything is connected, and any loss or reduction of habitat or species affects this connectivity and diminishes the gene pool, the natural world, and in turn, can influence human existence and biodiversity.



Planting for Biodiversity

Planting for biodiversity can take many routes, from large-scale tree and hedge planting to small tubs, planters, and hanging baskets if space is limited. This can involve the planting of shelter belts, berry-bearing shrubs, and pollinating flowers.



Planting in urban areas

Your business being in an urban setting does not mean that you cannot contribute to providing “stepping stone” areas of planting that will benefit insect populations.

This in turn will provide food for birds and other animals.



Maintenance for biodiversity

Maintenance for biodiversity involves making sure that any actions that you undertake benefit or at the very least do not harm or degrade biodiversity.

This includes mowing regimes, we are all familiar with no mow May, or the legal requirement not to cut trees and hedges during nesting season, trying to undertake maintenance with minimum disturbance.



Wildflower meadows and No-Mow May

Consider turning some of your lawn areas into wildflower areas. This will not only save man hours and money but also provides a more interesting lawn with great benefits for nature.



Habitats and Refuges for Wildlife

Creating habitats and refuges for wildlife helps to establish and bolster species diversity and abundance in the area where you operate.

This could be as simple as providing a source of food or water up to establishing large-scale habitat creation projects.



Bug boxes and log piles

These are one of the possibly easiest and most cost-effective ways that you can provide shelter for many different species.

This includes not only insects but small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and small birds, such as wrens, robins, and hedge sparrows.



Dead hedges and bug snugs

You can make these as large as your grounds and garden cuttings allow and are a great way to utilise annual cuttings from shrubs and branches from wind damaged trees.



Habitats creation with no gardens or grounds

Having no gardens or grounds at your premises should not stop you being able to provide food, water or shelter. Every building has windows, windowsills, walls, roofs and eaves. These can all be utilised to offer the basic needs for visiting wildlife.



Conservation for Wildlife and Biodiversity

If there is still no way that you can see how your business can support conservation for wildlife and biodiversity.

There are still ways that your business can get involved. By supporting national and international conservation bodies you can help protect nature throughout the UK and beyond.



Conservation for Wildlife and Biodiversity

There are many conservation organisations that you could support.

Opposite is just a few of the main ones but choose one that aligns with your interests and ethos.



Conservation for Wildlife and Biodiversity

You may think going by the headlines that wildlife conservation is not achieving anything or does not affect you in your business.



Monitoring and Recording Biodiversity

The RSPB's Great Garden Birdwatch having taken place last weekend with over 590,000 taking part last year and counting 9.1 million birds there is a growing trend in members of the public getting involved with wildlife surveys of all kinds.

Big Garden
Birdwatch



Our insects are in decline
and need your help

Download the free
#BugsMatter app for
the summer survey



Biodiversity education and information

Having signage in your gardens or grounds is a great way to explain to your guests not only what you are doing to benefit nature, but also why.

All you need is some simple, well-designed, weather-proof signage with a couple of lines of information and a QR code that they can click on if they want a deeper delve into what you are doing.



Biodiversity education and information

Having some field guides and books available for guests to use and read is always a good idea.



Supply Chain For Biodiversity

What is green procurement.

It involves evaluating your supply chain and looking at where the products are from, what they are made of and what happens to them once they have been used.

Protecting biodiversity is essential for the long-term sustainability of our planet.

- Conduct biodiversity assessments: look at the impact your supply chain has on ecosystems.
- Preserve natural habitats: Identify ways to minimise disruption to habitats during sourcing, production, and transport.
- Support sustainable agriculture: Prioritise suppliers who practice sustainable agricultural methods
- Responsible land use: promote responsible land use practices, such as regenerative farming.
- Reduce pollution and waste: Implement measure to minimise pollution and waste generation.
- Engage local communities: Collaborate with local communities, indigenous groups and conservation organisations.
- Support restoration initiatives: Contribute to ecosystem restoration projects as part of your commitment to biodiversity conservation

Supply Chain For Biodiversity

The products and produce you use within your business can have a massive impact on biodiversity both at home and abroad. Many ingredients and products such as palm oil, sugar, plastics, and digital electronics are significant contributors to both habitat loss and pollution.

Where possible, ensure any product or produce you purchase are sustainably, responsibly, and ethically produced.



Supply Chain For Biodiversity

Palm oil

- Palm oil is said to be found in 50% of supermarket products
- Its production destroys rainforests and biodiversity
- Many products that use palm oil aren't clearly labelled.
- Palm oil and its derivatives can appear under many names.
- When buying look for products with RSPO certification
- Look on websites like <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/>
- Ocado has a palm oil free shop, listing 1,648 products

Certification/green labels

- When making purchasing decisions try to look for green labels and certifications
- These cover everything from soaps, toiletries, food, and building materials.
- Food: LEAF Marque, Marine Stewardship Council, etc.
- Organic products: Soil Association, Organic Farmers & Growers
- Timber & Packaging: Forest Stewardship Council, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
- Other Examples: Fairtrade, The Rainforest Alliance

Things to consider to help biodiversity

- Plant native where possible.
- Consider light and noise pollution.
- Supporting local conservation efforts.
- Support any existing species that you have.
- Provide habitats and protect existing ones.
- Maintain gardens and grounds with a focus on biodiversity.
- Try to limit the use of chemicals whether fertilisers, pesticides, or herbicides.



Useful Resources

There are many national bodies that you could contact for more information.

There is at present no swift group established in Fife, however I have included a link to the Facebook pages of the Tayside and Edinburgh groups.

https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghSwifts/?locale=en_GB

https://www.facebook.com/TaysideSwifts/?locale=en_GB

- [Bat Conservation Trust](#)
- [British Trust for Ornithology](#)
- [Buglife](#)
- [Bumblebee Conservation](#)
- [Butterfly Conservation](#)
- [National Biodiversity Network](#)
- [NatureScot](#)
- [RSPB - The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds](#)
- [Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels](#)
- [Scottish Wildlife Trust](#)
- [www.swift-conservation.org](#)

Fife Council - Knowledge

You will find an array of useful
resources

[Local Biodiversity Action
Plan](#) (LBAP)

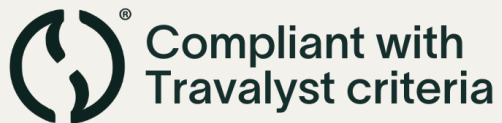
[Fife Nature Records Centre](#)

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/grasslands>

- [CLEAR Buckhaven & Methil](#)
- [EATS Rosyth](#)
- [Fife Amphibian and Reptile Group](#)
- [Fife and Kinross Bat Group](#)
- [Fife Coast and Countryside Trust](#)
- [Friends of Riverside Park](#)
- [Greener Kirkcaldy](#)
- [The Ecology Centre](#)

Green Tourism Certification

- Internationally Recognised
- 28+ years experience of best practice in sustainability
- 18,000+ assessments
- 2,900+ / 56+ Countries
- All types and sectors
- 50% Micro-Small Business
- 50% Medium-Extra Large Businesses



- Independently Certified
- Third Party Assessment
- Continuous Improvement
- Regularly Reassessed



Funded Membership Offer

- Fully funded year-one Green Tourism or Green Meetings memberships available for the first 15 businesses to apply successfully
- Then 50% and 25% discounts in years 2 and 3 respectively
- No Registration Fee
- Significant savings: standard membership is £165 - £705 + VAT depending on business size

Fife Council

Funded Green Tourism membership offer for businesses within the Fife Council area

Are you a hospitality business or in the meetings and events sector in the Fife Council area?
This is your chance to gain a globally recognised sustainability certification for Free.

What's the deal?
Thanks to funding from Fife Council, we're offering fully funded year-one membership of Green Tourism to the first 15 visitor economy businesses to apply successfully - plus 50% and 25% discounts in the second and third years respectively.
Membership allows businesses to achieve certification in Green Tourism or Green Meetings at Bronze, Silver, or Gold level.
• Terms and conditions apply - see below
• Standard membership typically ranges from £157.50 to £682.50 (+ VAT) depending on business size, plus a £75 registration fee (+VAT). This means you'll save anywhere between £232.50 to £757.50 in your first year alone.

Join Green Tourism and earn a world-leading sustainability certification

Benefits to joining Green Tourism

- Evidence your sustainability commitment to customers and buyers
- Identify areas for sustainability improvement, potentially saving you resources and reducing costs
- Get expert sustainability support
- Access marketing resources to help promote your achievements
- And feel good about contributing to a better future for the Fife Tourism Economy.

Fife

Green Tourism

The project is fully funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Apply now

Click below to complete the online form, selecting 'submit' to receive your invoice for £0.

[Apply online ->](#)

Free GreenCheck Call

- FastTrack Pre-Assessment
- 30 Key Sustainability points
- Potential to achieve Bronze based on information provided
- 12 months to complete full assessment



Fast Track GreenCheck™

Are you ready for a Green Tourism Award?


Having a Green Tourism Certification means you can evidence your businesses sustainability credentials, so you can be confident in talking about sustainability to promote your business and show that you are working to care for People, Places and our Planet.

And by completing Fast Track to Green Tourism you could be on track to achieve at least a Bronze Award.

Simply answer all the criteria measures that apply to the things you do in your business and use the additional information boxes to provide more evidence of your actions and activities. The more detail you give us the better.

Let's get going today!

[Get started](#)



Green Tourism BRONZE Green Tourism SILVER Green Tourism GOLD

[← Take me back to Green Tourism](#)

01 Green / Sustainability Policy

Tell us about your Green / Sustainability Policy, where is it on display?
(tick all that apply)

- Our policy is on our website
- Our policy is on display in our business for customers to see

03 Awareness / Training

Tell us what you have done to increase green awareness in your business.
(tick all that apply)

- All our team are aware of green issues / have had green awareness training
- We ensure we keep the team up to date with green issues and have regular communication / meetings to review our progress

Please provide details in the text box and if applicable include any relevant weblinks.

additional information

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Thank you for your time

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