

Appendix 1 - Biodiversity Enhancement for smaller scale developments – Aberdeenshire Council 2025

Please complete the tables below and submit with your planning application.

Planning reference and site address	
Proposed development	
Relevant Plans (add references, author and date)	
Advice taken in designing Biodiversity Enhancement? (consultant name)	
Date submitted	

It is essential to note that biodiversity enhancement is additional to any protection, avoidance, mitigation and compensation required for protected sites, habitats and species protected by legislation and by other local development plan policies and these issues must be considered separately to enhancement. Details of the policy background and of methodology for major development, schemes over 25 houses and over 1ha can be found in Planning Advice. See <https://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning-advice> PA2023-10 (revised) – Biodiversity Enhancement on development sites.

Scoring required:

- 5 points required per unit for standard housing schemes.
- 3 points per unit for affordable housing.
- 5 points per 0.25 ha for non-housing development.
- Schemes over 4 houses require measures from at least 2 categories.
- Schemes over 9 houses require measures from all 4 categories.
- Schemes over 25 houses and all other development over 1ha we strongly encourage use of a metric to assess and present Biodiversity Enhancement measures - refer to planning advice¹.
- If features, other than those protected by legislation and local development plan policies, are to be removed **points should be deducted** accordingly.

Planting proposals should refer to - Native species of tree and shrubs suitable for planting in Aberdeenshire



Native Trees and
shrubs suitable for planting

Relevant plans or documents (Landscaping Plans, Biodiversity Enhancement Plans BEP or similar relevant document) should be referenced in the tables below and should include details of proposals, locations and numbers/area of features, a programme for implementation, management, review and monitoring of proposed biodiversity enhancement.

¹ See <https://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning-advice/PA2023-10> (revised) – Biodiversity Enhancement on development sites.

	Number of Units/area	Target Score
Housing - number of proposed units - standard Housing		(Units x5)
Housing – number of proposed units – affordable housing		(Units x3)
Non-housing – Site area to nearest 0.25ha		(5 per 0.25ha)
Target Score - Total Required		
Features removed – Total point to deduct		Minus -
Actual Score Achieved – Total A, B C below		

MEASURES – A - Planting, B – Water, C- Homes for Nature and D Standard Requirements –
Selected from NatureScot guidance “Developing with Nature – Annex A”, which provides further detail on measures.
<https://www.nature.scot/doc/developing-nature-guidance>

A - Planting for Nature Planting and management to be detailed in Landscaping plan or other plan or report (secured by condition based on 06006)						
<i>Proposed measures</i>	<i>Developing with Nature reference where applicable</i>	<i>Points/minus points for removal</i>	<i>Details of proposal including plan reference, author and date</i>	<i>Points deducted for removal of feature</i>	<i>Points Total</i>	<i>DM Approval Yes/No</i>
Minimum 10m of mixed native species hedging - Must include 4 species minimum from species list above.	7	5 per 10m of hedge along boundary				
Trees, scrub and woodland 5 or more native trees. Must include species from species list above.	4	5				

Wildflower meadow , using locally sourced seed, predominantly locally native perennial species. 100m ² measure for areas of communal open space (housing schemes) or associated landscaping (non-residential schemes) only not individual plots/garden ground.	2	5				
Orchard Planting - 5 or more fruit trees.	3	5				
Living roof - on communal building/bike/bus shelter/EV charging shelter	5	10				
Green walls/screen/willow fence – over 10m length	6	5				
Total this section - A						

B - Managing with Water Design, planting and management to be detailed in Landscaping plan or other plan or report (secured by condition based on 06006)						
<i>Proposed measures</i>	<i>Developing with Nature reference where applicable</i>	<i>Points/minus points for removal</i>	<i>Details of proposal including plan reference, author and date</i>	<i>Points deducted for removal of feature</i>	<i>Points total</i>	<i>DM Approval Yes/No</i>
Nature enhanced SUDs features for non-residential schemes and schemes with communal space – must include native species planting.	19, 20, 21	10				

Swales, attenuation ponds, ditches, rain gardens (street scale), tree pits.						
Nature enhanced SUDs features for individual plots – include native species planting. Rain gardens and tree pits.	19, 20, 21	5				
Ponds for wildlife	22	10				
Rivers and burns restoration – 20m min of restoration. Restoring and reconnecting rivers and burns, natural flood management measures. See buffer strip guidance.	23	30				
Rivers and burns - riparian planting - 20m min of riparian planting. See species list above.		10				
Total this section - B						

C- Homes for Nature Design, installation and management to be detailed on site plan or other plan or report (secured by condition based on 06006)						
Proposed measures	<i>Developing with Nature reference - where applicable</i>	<i>Points/minus points for removal</i>	<i>Details of proposal including plan reference, author and date</i>	<i>Points deducted for removal of feature</i>	<i>Points total</i>	<i>DM Approval Yes/No</i>

In built swift nesting provision – min of 4 in-built boxes per unit. In areas with swift nesting activity - https://www.swiftmapper.org.uk/	13	5				
Swallow nesting provision in open barn/shed or under overhang, add swallow nesting cups in a row under cover. Min 4 cups.	13	2				
Homes for house martins – under shelter of eaves apex add house martin cups in clusters of min 4.	13	2				
Owl nesting provision in areas of suitable habitat – For barn owls a nest box within an open barn is best with an additional box at least 60m away in woodland where possible. Where's the best place for your Barn Owl nestbox?	14	2				
Wildlife walls/dry stone dykes – min 10m	16	5				
Scrapes/banks/earth and rock features – including underground hibernacula and bee/beetle banks. Only accepted if in landscaped area with scrub planting/wildflower grassland to ensure features are retained and to minimise disturbance. Must be together with measures 2 or 4.	9	2				
In-built bat boxes/bat bricks and bat slates – min 3 per unit.	15	2				
Total this section - C						

Measures expected to be provided in all developments (drains only where detailed below)			
Proposed Measure	NatureScot - Developing with Nature – reference where applicable	Details of measure including plan reference, author and date	DM Approval Yes/No
Wildlife permeable boundaries , including hedgehog holes. Shown on boundary treatment plan where relevant.	12		
Drain escapes and wildlife kerbs, or over the edge drains and swales – where drains are within 500m of suitable amphibian habitat and nature enhanced SUDs pond.	24		

For Planners Use

Planner				
Date of assessment				
Total Score Proposed				
Required plan/s submitted?	Yes	☐	No	☐
Standard Measures present?	Yes	☐	No	☐
Proposed enhancement measures acceptable?	Yes	☐	No	☐