



# **NHS Shetland Biodiversity Activity Report**

## **2011 – 2014**



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## **1. Background**

1.1 A duty to further the conservation of biodiversity was placed on all public sector bodies in Scotland in 2004. This biodiversity duty is about connecting people with the environment and managing biodiversity in the wider environment all around us, not just in specific protected sites. The duty recognises that all public bodies have a role to play in supporting and enhancing biodiversity, including direct action, awareness raising and education. By supporting the work of the Scottish Biodiversity Forum and the implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy public bodies can contribute to this agenda.

1.2 The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (commonly known as the WANE Act) came into force on 01 January 2012 and introduced a requirement for all public bodies to make publicly available a report on their compliance with biodiversity duty. For public bodies already established on that date, which included NHS Shetland the first reports were due to be prepared and published by 01 January 2015 this document serves that purpose.

1.3 Shetland is famed for its varied and rich natural heritage. It has 2 national nature reserves, a wealth of wildlife and plants some of which are exclusive to Shetland. In addition, due to its unique geology Shetland has been granted Geopark status. The NHS Shetland estate is relatively small and sits within this already rich natural heritage, making it difficult for NHS Shetland to proactively enhance biodiversity. This means that NHS Shetland's efforts mainly concentrate on mitigating the negative impacts of policies and actions in order to conserve biodiversity. At the same time it is recognised that biodiversity plays an important role in promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing and to this end NHS Shetland works with partnership agencies on outdoor activity and access in line with the locally developed Active Lives Strategy.

## **2. Governance**

2.1 There is no formal group set up within NHS Shetland to manage biodiversity, however, it is covered within the remits of the Estates and Health Improvement Departments. Individuals from both these departments are aware of, responsible for and apply the bio-diversity duty to their work as relevant, meeting on an occasional basis to discuss current and future actions. Individuals involved are:

- Interim Head of Estates and Facilities
- Supervisor Estates Department
- Health Improvement Manager
- Senior Health Improvement Advisor
- Health Improvement Practitioner (Physical Activity Lead)

## **3. NHS Shetland Biodiversity Activities 2011-2014**

3.1 NHS Shetland Biodiversity activities 2011 -2014 are listed below:

- Installation of footpath between NHS Shetland Board Head Quarters/Montfield Support Services Premises and public footpath through listed wooded area.
- Feasibility study undertaken into potential provision of outside patio area with seating at the Gilbert Bain Hospital site for use by patients, their visitors and staff. The conclusion was that it was not viable due to the impact of reducing car parking space, which was already limited and the lack of any other suitable space on the campus.
- Consideration of community allotments at Brevik House Site but was not viable as building and site was scheduled for disposal
- NHS Shetland and National Trust for Scotland liaised to consider the impact of the provision of the Health Centre on the natural environment in Fair Isle
- Partnership project undertaken with local charitable organisation to improve the external environment of the Lerwick Health Centre
- NHS Shetland has worked with the local authority to help community groups to identify and raise awareness of the health benefits of allotments which helped to secure funding for the provision of allotments (i.e in Sandwick)
- NHS Shetland are in partnership with Resource Efficient Scotland