

John Muir Way Greening Study

Green Action Trust

Action Plan



This report has been prepared by:



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Checked by: NJB
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This work was commissioned by the Green Action Trust on behalf of John Muir Way partners and has been financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER 2014–2020 Programme.

Introduction

As a national route named in honour of a great naturalist, the John Muir Way should offer an exemplary experience in bringing people and nature harmoniously together. The John Muir Way Greening Study aims to explore the potential for ecological and placemaking improvements to magnify the impact of the trail, particularly where this can also address environmental inequities in communities along the route.

The Brief for the Greening Plan is to deliver a coherent and practical plan for maximising the potential of the John Muir Way as a green corridor through central Scotland. It is founded on a full and detailed field assessment of the current condition of the route, issues affecting it, and potential opportunities for habitat and green infrastructure improvements. The plan will inform the development and funding of a programme of work.

The plan promotes the following key strategic aims of the John Muir Way :

- To enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity
- To create a linear, coast to coast green park and promote it as a key asset of the Central Scotland Green Network
- To encourage landscape improvement projects
- To engage communities and volunteers in route management and maintenance

Opportunities for improvement have been identified to meet the objectives of:

- Contributing to greening of the CSGN strategic active travel network
- Increasing connectivity within the CSGN strategic habitat network
- Supporting the Buglife B-Lines project for invertebrate diversity and abundance
- Increasing the quality and functionality of greenspaces
- Targeting activity to areas of environmental disadvantage
- Mitigating effects of the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

No private landowners have been consulted during this scoping study; at this stage the approach has been to merely identify opportunities and develop proposals ready for engagement during the next stage. It would be at this subsequent stage that appropriate landownership consultation would need to be considered and carried out where appropriate and within resources available. The inclusion of proposals in this scoping document does not imply any consent of landowner(s), the planning authority or other necessary regulatory consents.

This is a supplementary document which sets out an action plan for stakeholders to enact the proposals in the on-line GIS StoryMap, which is available to view at bit.ly/JMWGSstorymap

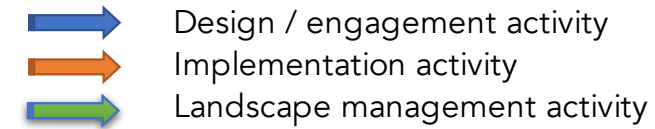
An outline specification for habitat creation and management actions has been produced to accompany these action plans.

For further information, please contact the Green Action Trust
www.greenactiontrust.org

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

Argyll & Bute Council

January 2022

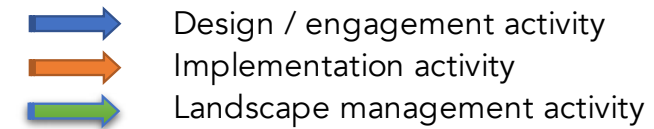


No.	Action Description	Potential collaboration or shared alignment of objectives for delivery	Potential for volunteer/training	Cost				Timescale		
				£1 - 10k	£10 - 50k	£50 - 100k	> £100k	Short term	Medium term	Long Term
Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Succession planting of cherry trees in the conservation area	Helensburgh Tree Group	Y	█				➔	➔	
2	Spring bulb enrichment to formal grass verges in the conservation area	Helensburgh Tree Group	Y	█				➔	➔	
3	Meadow enrichment of broader verge areas in the conservation area			█				➔	➔	
4	Broadleaved woodland corridor through coniferous forestry	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry		█				➔	➔	
5	Native mixed hedgerow planting to road and field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		█	█			➔	➔	
6	Native hedgerow tree planting to road and field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		█	█			➔	➔	
7	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges			█	█			➔	➔	
8	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			█				➔	➔	➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Improve wayfinding to and from the start and the railway station			█				➔	➔	
2	Establish a new start point for the JMW at the pierhead				█			➔	➔	
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Create fully-functioning swales within the conservation area					█		➔	➔	
2	Create wetland check dams in continuous forestry ditches	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry	Y	█				➔	➔	
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	A818 bypass route creation, through wet woodland	Developer obligations through Planning			█			➔	➔	
2	Enhance Gouk Hill viewpoint with seating and interpretation	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry			█			➔	➔	

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

West Dunbartonshire Council

January 2022

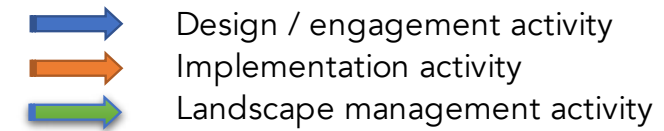


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Leven bridge tree planting	Landowner		■				➔	➔	➔
2	Broadleaved woodland corridor through coniferous forestry	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry		■				➔	➔	➔
3	Succession planting for mature trees along boundary features	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■				➔	➔	➔
4	Native woodland shelterbelt planting to connect woodlands	Scottish Forestry		■				➔	➔	➔
5	Native mixed hedgerow planting to road and field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■	■			➔	➔	➔
6	Native hedgerow tree planting to road and field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■	■			➔	➔	➔
7	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges			■	■			➔	➔	➔
8	Parkland tree planting at Duck Bay (incl. heritage exotic species)	Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh	Y	■				➔	➔	➔
9	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			■				➔	➔	➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Rebuild stone walls in disrepair	Landowner	Y		■			➔	➔	
2	A811 road markings to improve safety				■			➔	➔	
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Create wetland check dams in continuous forestry ditches	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry	Y	■				➔	➔	
2	Create wetland check dams in trackside ditch	Landowner		■				➔	➔	
3	Wetland habitat improvement to East Riverside	Landowner			■			➔	➔	➔
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Lomond Shores wetland habitat creation	Landowner				■		➔	➔	
2	Balloch Country Park grassland diversification		Y	■				➔	➔	➔

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority

January 2022

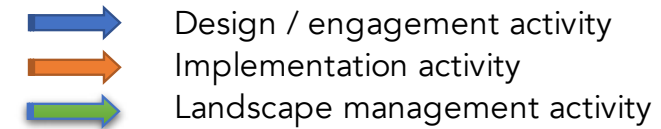


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Broadleaved woodland corridor through coniferous forestry	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry SG Farming and Rural Affairs SG Farming and Rural Affairs SG Farming and Rural Affairs Landowner	Y	█				➔	➔	➔
2	Native mixed hedgerow planting to road and field boundaries			█	█			➔	➔	➔
3	Native hedgerow tree planting to road and field boundaries			█	█			➔	➔	➔
4	Succession planting for mature trees along boundary features			█				➔	➔	➔
5	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges			█	█			➔	➔	
6	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			█				➔	➔	➔
7	Parkland tree planting at Duck Bay (incl. heritage exotic species)			█				➔	➔	➔
8	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			█				➔	➔	➔
9	Leven bridge tree planting			█				➔	➔	➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Rebuild stone walls in disrepair	Landowner	Y		█			➔	➔	
2	A811 road markings to improve safety			█				➔	➔	
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Create wetland check dams in continuous forestry ditches	Scottish Woodlands; Scottish Forestry Landowner Landowner	Y	█				➔	➔	
2	Create wetland check dams in trackside ditch			█				➔	➔	
3	Wetland habitat improvement to East Riverside			█	█			➔	➔	➔
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Enhance Gouk Hill viewpoint with seating and interpretation	Scottish Woodlands	Y		█			➔	➔	
2	Lomond Shores wetland habitat creation			█		█		➔	➔	
3	Balloch Country Park grassland diversification			█				➔	➔	➔

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

Stirling Council

January 2022

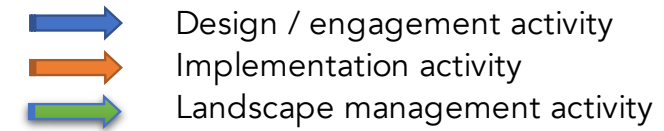


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Native mixed hedgerow planting to field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■	■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
2	Native hedgerow tree planting to field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■	■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
4	Native woodland shelterbelt planting to connect woodlands	Scottish Forestry		■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
3	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges				■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
4	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
5	Succession planting of native trees to replace dying ash trees in hedges	Landowner	Y	■				➔➔	➔➔➔	➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Improve wayfinding and path through Edenmill	Landowner		■				➔➔		
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Strathblane Park multifunctional landscape	Landowner	Y	■		■		➔➔	➔	
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Carbeth off-road route	Landowner	Y			■		➔➔	➔➔➔	
2	Dunglass tree planting and interpretation		Y		■			➔➔	➔	

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

East Dunbartonshire Council

January 2022

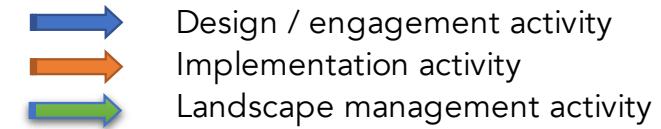


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Native mixed hedgerow planting to road & field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs; landowner		■	■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
2	Native hedgerow tree planting to road & field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs; landowner		■	■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
3	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges				■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
4	Woodland management to diversify species and stand structure	Scottish Forestry; landowner	Y	■				➔➔➔	➔➔➔	➔➔➔
5	Blossom and fruit tree planting	Landowner	Y	■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
6	Treatment of Japanese knotweed			■				➔➔➔	➔➔➔	➔➔➔
7	Management of acid grassland and heath	Landowner		■				➔➔➔	➔➔➔	➔➔➔
8	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			■				➔➔➔	➔➔➔	➔➔➔
9	Wetland scrapes and riparian tree groups in wet meadow	Landowner	Y	■				➔➔	➔➔➔	➔➔➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Remove fencing at Newbridge		Y	■				➔➔	➔➔	
2	Campsie Road trail marking and seating updates				■			➔➔	➔➔	
3	Strathkelvin Railway path; accessibility improvements				■			➔➔	➔➔	
4	Improve seating provision along canal				■			➔➔	➔➔	
5	Broad Burn pend & steps; accessibility & interpretation improvements				■			➔➔➔	➔➔➔	
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Redhills & Station Road; community growing space; woodland planting; meadow management & path/seating/natural play improvements		Y			■		➔➔	➔➔	
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Eastside & Canal Street, Kirkintilloch				■			➔➔	➔➔	➔➔

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

North Lanarkshire Council

January 2022

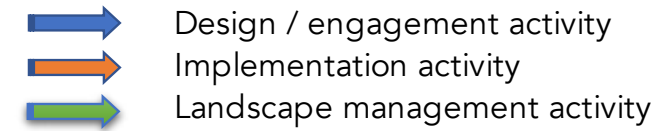


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Meadow enrichment of King Street picnic area	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■				➔	➔	➔
2	Native mixed hedgerow planting to field boundaries			■				➔	➔	➔
3	Native hedgerow tree planting to field boundaries			■				➔	➔	➔
4	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges	Landowner	Y		■			➔	➔	➔
5	Management of acid grassland and heath			■				➔	➔	➔
6	Native tree planting in tow path verge			■				➔	➔	➔
7	Meadow enrichment of canalside picnic/parking areas			■				➔	➔	➔
8	Remove alder & thicket along canal			■				➔	➔	➔
9	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			■				➔	➔	
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Access Improvements at Croy	Landowner		■				➔	➔	➔
2	Dullatur Marsh; interpretation panel renewal			■				➔	➔	➔
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Croy Hill entrance and way finding improvements					■		➔	➔	➔

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

Falkirk Council

January 2022

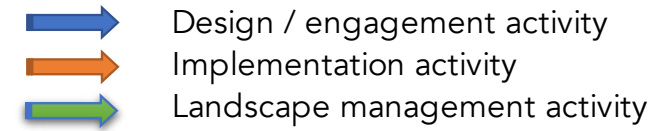


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Spring bulb enrichment to formal grass verges	SG Farming and Rural Affairs; Landowners	Y	█				➔		
2	Coppice management		Y		█			➔		
3	Woodland shelter belt planting		Y		█			➔	➔	
4	Native mixed hedgerow planting to road & field boundaries		SG Farming and Rural Affairs; Landowners		█			➔	➔	
5	Native hedgerow tree planting to road & field boundaries		SG Farming and Rural Affairs; Landowners		█	█		➔	➔	
6	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges				█	█		➔	➔	
7	Control rhododendron in Bantaskine Estate					█		➔	➔	➔
8	Meadow management of rural roadside verges				█			➔	➔	➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Path improvements at Bridge Street, Bonnybridge				█			➔	➔	
2	Improve wayfinding to and from the Radical Pend			█				➔		
3	Improve wayfinding at Falkirk High Station			█				➔		
4	Change route alignment at Kemper Avenue			█				➔		
5	Artwork at Bridgeness boundary walls			█				➔		
6	Fence removal along Westquarter Burn		Y	█				➔		
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Urban SuDS and tree planting at Falkirk High Station					█	█	➔	➔	➔
2	Swale and tree planting at Redding Industrial Estate			█				➔	➔	➔
3	Coastal species planters to walls at Bridgeness				█			➔	➔	➔
4	Fruiting hedge planting		Y					➔	➔	
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Bridge Street, Bonnybridge; habitat & path improvements					█		➔	➔	➔
2	Rough Castle grass management			█				➔	➔	➔
3	Urban SuDS and tree planting at Falkirk High Station						█	➔	➔	➔
4	Swale and tree planting at Redding Industrial Estate						█	➔	➔	➔
5	Bridgeness		Y			█		➔	➔	➔

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

West Lothian Council

January 2022

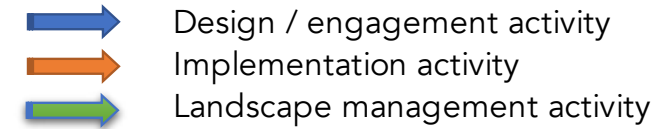


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Succession planting of native trees to replace dying ash trees along the Union Canal and River Avon Heritage Trail		Y	■				➔➔		➔
2	Spring bulb enrichment to formal grass verges in Linlithgow	Burgh Beautiful	Y	■				➔➔		
3	Grassland diversification into meadow management	Scottish Water		■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
4	Native mixed hedgerow planting to field boundaries	SG Farming and Rural Affairs	Y	■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
5	Native hedgerow tree planting	SG Farming and Rural Affairs		■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
6	Woodland planting to link between existing woodlands	SG Farming and Rural Affairs			■			➔➔	➔➔➔	
7	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges			■				➔➔	➔➔➔	
8	Control of invasive alien weed species	SEPA; SASA		■				➔➔		
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	New footway on B8029 approaches to the M9; bridge over burn at foot of Fishers' Brae						■	➔➔	➔➔➔	
2	Seating along route in Hopetoun Estate	Landowner			■			➔➔		
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Fisher's Brae	Scottish Water; Farm landowner					■	➔➔	➔➔➔	➔➔➔

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

City of Edinburgh Council

January 2022

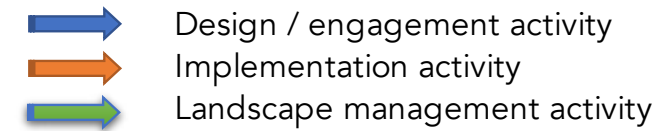


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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Succession planting of native trees to replace dying ash trees along the Water of Leith and the Union Canal, and other greenspaces	Friends of the Water of Leith Landowner Dalmeny Estate; SG Farming & Rural Affairs	Y	█				➔➔		
2	Spring bulb or Pictorial Meadow enrichment to formal grass verge areas		Y		█			➔➔		
3	Meadow enrichment of amenity grassland and verges		Y		█			➔➔		
4	Native mixed hedgerow and tree planting to pathside		Y	█				➔➔	➔➔	
5	Avenue and specimen tree planting in verge and lawn areas		Y	█				➔➔	➔➔	
6	Wetland scrapes in Davidson Mains woodlands		Y	█				➔➔		
7	Field edge habitat corridor strips on farmland		Y	█				➔➔	➔➔	
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	Seating at pathside in Dalmeny Estate	Dalmeny Estate		█				➔➔		
2	Planting of fruiting hedges in place of fence boundaries to Water of Leith Walkway	Friends of the Water of Leith	Y	█				➔➔	➔	
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	On-street raingardens and traffic controls to South Queensferry High Street	Scottish Water				█			➔➔	➔➔
2	Pollinator planters in Boroughmuir high school grounds		Y	█				➔➔		
3	GI and placemaking approach to future development adjacent to the Union Canal at Fountainbridge	Developer (through Planning)					█	➔➔	➔➔	
4	Rain gardens and active travel route at Causewayside	Scottish Water					█		➔➔	➔➔
5	Edible & habitat planting, active travel & public art at Bingham	Craigmillar Now	Y			█			➔➔	➔➔
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Newhalls Road, South Queensferry - GI and Placemaking						█		➔➔	➔➔
2	Clermiston - GI and Placemaking	Scottish Water					█		➔➔	➔➔
3	Silvan House - GI					█		➔➔	➔➔	
4	Baird Drive - GI and Placemaking	Scottish Water				█		➔➔	➔➔	

John Muir Way Greening Study Action Plan

East Lothian Council

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Theme 1 : Habitat Connectivity & Enrichment										
1	Coastal grass improvements in rock armour & grass areas		Y	█				➔	➔	
2	Spring bulb enrichment to formal grass areas in North Berwick		Y	█				➔	➔	
3	Meadow enrichment of broader verge areas			█				➔	➔	
4	Scots pine replanting	Scottish Woodlands	Y	█				➔	➔	➔
5	Native mixed hedgerow planting to field boundaries	SG Farming & Rural Affairs		█	█			➔	➔	➔
6	Native hedgerow tree planting to field boundaries	SG Farming & Rural Affairs		█	█			➔	➔	➔
7	Orchard tree planting	Gullane Village Association	Y	█				➔	➔	➔
8	Meadow enrichment of rural roadside verges				█			➔	➔	
9	Understorey planting to existing woodland belts	SG Farming & Rural Affairs; Scottish Woodlands	Y	█				➔	➔	
10	Planting project: coastal grasses to top of tank defences		Y	█				➔	➔	
11	Meadow management of rural roadside verges			█				➔	➔	➔
Theme 2 : The Trail Experience										
1	New cycle route alongside A198	Transport Scotland					█	➔	➔	
2	Remove fences at Invereil House		Y	█				➔	➔	
3	Interpretation improvements in Dunbar			█				➔	➔	
Theme 3 : Green Infrastructure										
1	Improved route through Seton harbour & adjacent car park					█		➔	➔	
2	Village planter / hanging basket improvements	Gullane Village Association	Y	█				➔	➔	
Theme 4 : Priority Sites										
1	Fisherrow; coastal grassland, scrub & tree planting. Link with Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme	Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme					█	➔	➔	➔
2	Yellowcraig to Invereil path realignment	Landowner	Y	█				➔	➔	➔
3	Becky's Strip habitat improvements	SG Farming and Rural Affairs	Y		█			➔	➔	➔
4	Wamphray Farm habitat improvements	SG Farming and Rural Affairs			█			➔	➔	➔
5	Dunbar sea front viewpoint	The Ridge SCIO, Sustainable Dunbar	Y			█		➔	➔	➔
6	John Muir Birthplace Museum placemaking	The Ridge SCIO, Sustainable Dunbar	Y				█	➔	➔	➔

This is a supplementary document to support information in the GIS StoryMap which is available to view at bit.ly/JMWGSstorymap

For further information, please contact the Green Action Trust www.greenactiontrust.org



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