

— THE OFFICE OF THE —
SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER

BIODIVERSITY REPORT 2011-2014

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in the course of carrying out their responsibilities. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 places a further obligation on public bodies to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions taken to comply with the biodiversity duty.

Biodiversity should be considered under the following headings :

- Governance - providing clear leadership and management on biodiversity
- Action - taking action to protect and enhance biodiversity
- Mainstreaming - integrating biodiversity into corporate projects, plans and strategies
- Monitoring- recording data and reporting trends
- Partnership - developing effective partnership working
- Communication - raising awareness and building capacity.

The Scottish Road Works Commissioner is an independent regulator which was set up in 2008 under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. The purpose of the Commissioner and the Commissioner's Office is to improve and monitor national performance in road works.

As a public body, the Office of the Scottish Road Works Commissioner is required to report on its contribution to Scottish Biodiversity over the last three years (2011-2014). This is the report of the Office of The Scottish Road Works Commissioner (OSRWC).

OSRWC CONTRIBUTION TO SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY DUTIES 2011-2014

The OSRWC is a small office and the business carried out supports the road works community in Scotland. The office operates from within a Scottish Government building and does not hold any land or gardens. However, the OSRWC aims to contribute to Scottish Biodiversity and to the Scottish Governments aim to *“conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and well-being of people of Scotland, now and in the future”*.

GOVERNANCE

The OSRWC comprises of the Commissioner and 6 members of Staff. It is a Significant Other Public Body and is sponsored and supported through grant-in-aid by the Scottish Governments Enterprise, Environment and Innovation Directorate. The OSRWC contributes through its governance in the following ways:

- Seeks to minimise the impact on biodiversity when developing new policies and procedures*.
- Seeks similar standards and principles towards bio diversity conservation from all third parties involved in our business – suppliers, vendors and contractors.

*In 2015-16 a full policy review is being undertaken.

ACTION

The Office is based in Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive in Edinburgh and therefore many of the operational issues that support the biodiversity agenda are controlled by the Scottish Government however, as a small office and team, the following action has been taken:

- Staff are encouraged to walk and cycle to/from work where possible, currently 33% of OSRWC regularly cycle to work.
- Staff are encouraged to think about their travel choices for meetings and appointments during the working day, making use of public transport by default.
- The OSRWC offers a Cycle to Work scheme

MAIN STREAMING

The OSRWC believes that a commitment to Scottish biodiversity should be included in the on-going work of the office where possible. The OSRWC is reviewing its Corporate Plan and Communication Plan in 2015 and will consider biodiversity in this review. Inclusion shall be reported during the next reporting cycle.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The OSRWC works closely with the Road Works Community in Scotland to facilitate knowledge sharing and the promotion of good practice. The OSRWC encourages economy, efficiency and sustainability as a matter of course and supports the advancement of technology and undertaking research to reduce disruption.

COMMUNICATION

Communication and engagement is a key mechanism used by the OSRWC to pass on good practice in order to achieve our sustainability targets.

FUTURE PLANNING

As highlighted previously in this report, the OSRWC is going through a period of change in terms of strategic direction and day to day operation. In order to progress the developing vision of the OSRWC, "Compliance Communication and Quality - All round improvement of road works in Scotland", significant interaction with stakeholders and partners is required. In line with duties under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011, the OSRWC intend to protect Scotland's Biodiversity by progressing the following areas.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- Continue to encourage sustainable travel
- Continue to offer cycle to work scheme
- Consider biodiversity in policy review
- Consider sustainable sources of stationery

WIDER REMIT

- Encourage replanting of verges after works
- Encourage partners and stakeholders to make use of recycled aggregates for re-in statements.
- Encourage stakeholders to consider their role in biodiversity when undertaking road works for vegetation maintenance.

Report No.	Version	Date	Review Date
2015 - 1	1.0	June 2015	December 2017