



Central Scotland Green Network



PROJECT OVERVIEW

This multi-faceted green infrastructure implementation project makes a real contribution to a number of CSGN themes and represents the CSGN in action.

The vision was for a well-connected, well-maintained, multi-functional and valued network of open spaces throughout Livingston South.

These would provide a wide variety of recreation and leisure opportunities for all members of the community as well as enhancing the biodiversity of the area and ensuring that future maintenance is more sustainable.

CSGN CASE STUDY:

LIVINGSTON SOUTH BLUE-GREEN NETWORK

The Livingston South Blue-Green Network (LSBGN) project was born from a desire from a number of community groups within the town.

With a track record of award-winning projects under their belt, their aim was to enhance the quality and improve the connectivity and functionality of the 'Greenways' throughout the Livingston South area for the benefit of people and wildlife.

The project aimed not only to enhance the 'green' elements of urban landscape but also to improve and reconnect them with the 'blue' network of ponds, wetlands and urban drainage systems scattered along the length of the river corridors.

The LSBGN project has delivered a portfolio of environmental improvements that together create more robust and sustainable spaces in Livingston.



HOW IT DELIVERS CSGN OUTCOMES

These improvements have created an urban landscape that can adapt to climate change, including a new SUDs wetland to improve water quality and alleviate flooding, and new woodland planting in areas that suffer from poor drainage and flooding. These will increase habitat connectivity between existing woodland and shelterbelts.

The woodlands also form part of a diverse habitat mosaic supporting biodiversity, including wildflower meadows and wetlands.

New and upgraded paths have greatly improved the access network throughout Livingston South and publicity about the work has raised awareness of the recreation potential of the green network. The path improvements are encouraging and enabling more people to explore the area which will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

PARTNERS

The Green Action Trust, West Lothian Council and Woodland Trust Scotland have worked in partnership with three community groups as part of the LSBGN Steering Group. These groups are Bellsquarry Woodland Work Group, Dedridge Environment Ecology Project and Murieston Environmental Group.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Management of neglected and over-mature urban shelterbelts including under-planting with native trees to improve species diversity
- Creation of new pockets of native woodland and hedgerows to create and strengthen habitat networks, soften the transition between the urban and green corridor, reduce surface run-off and shelter football pitches
- Creation of a new wetland on the Dedridge Burn at Bellsquarry to mitigate the effects of pollution and flooding downstream and to create new wetland habitats for wildlife
- Path upgrades along the Murieston Greenway Corridor including drainage and surfacing works and the installation of a new flight of steps
- Creation of new paths through Bellsquarry Wood

