

Easy Living



East Lothian



Opportunities to improve landscapes



Education Information Awareness



Teaching Guide

Biodiversity
and The Curriculum for Excellence

Biodiversity. What is the future?



This is the first in a series of articles about biodiversity, written by environmentalists and published in the international Year of Biodiversity. Previous articles have discussed biodiversity in the wider countryside, community initiatives and the role of nature reserves. In this article, Stuart Macpherson, Biodiversity Officer with East Lothian Council, looks things together with a look at how the biodiversity processes will affect East Lothian in the coming years. This is not the complete story, but a realistic look at the positives and challenges that are already being felt, but if you enjoy the countryside, or fear some of the impacts of nature development, read on.

Stuart Macpherson, Biodiversity Officer with East Lothian Council, concludes his series of articles.

You may be surprised to hear that East Lothian has an ecological footprint. This is an assessment that measures how much nature we use in our daily lives, including food, energy, clothes and other goods. The footprint of our planet is growing so fast that we are using more resources than the Earth can regenerate. In fact, we are using more resources than the Earth can regenerate in 1.2 planet Earths. If that is not alarming enough, the ecological footprint report says that in 1970, resources used globally far exceeded the Earth's ability to regenerate resources. In other words, for the last 25 years humans have been living on an ecological overdraft. As we have more and more economic difficulties, we will have to make do with less.

East Lothian Council and the Government Biodiversity Unit have a target to reduce the total ecological footprint by 80 per cent over the next 10 years. Quite a challenge, but one that will require a reduction in resources used as well as an additional generation of environmental initiatives.

The reality is that making it work often seems a luxury. However, the value of biodiversity is recognized sufficiently that the term 'ecosystem services' has been coined. These are the services that other organisms, such as the natural world, provide and which we rely on for our well-being. This is a wealth of assets in which we need to invest.

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The River Tyne, Tyndrum Bridge and Lancelotti Links, but are there good ecological links between them?



Wildlife Sites need to be Bigger Better J-o-i-n-e-d Va£u€d



