Positive change through environmental regeneration

Our priorities for action in Parliament

We believe high quality natural infrastructure and planning strategies that embrace and repair our environment are key to unlocking Scotland's future, founded on fairness, equality, and sustainability.

Blue-green networks and quality natural infrastructure should be a central component of our green recovery and will:

- Promote improved health and wellbeing outcomes
- Accelerate progress towards net-zero and increase resilience to our changing climate
- Create a vibrant visitor experience and make Scotland a better place to live and work
- Protect and enhance biodiversity
- Provide opportunities for employment and enterprise across the economy.

Unlike many technological interventions, well planned, designed and delivered natural infrastructure can achieve all of these outcomes at the same time. These multi-functional solutions are genuine win-wins but they can be complex and difficult to achieve. We can maximise success by focusing on place, enhancing a sense of belonging, and taking locally appropriate action which reaches and involves all who have an interest in the future of that place.

Blue-Green networks are often fragmented and only partially effective. We need to recognise the central part that will be played by the green environment as a component of a successful 21st century country. Natural infrastructure costs less than complex engineering solutions, enhances habitats while supporting biodiversity which contributes to climate resilience. To maximise and realise these benefits, we must embed natural infrastructure and blue-green networks into all policy areas – and deliver better on the ground across Scotland.

Our priorities:

1. Continuation of the Central Scotland Green Network as a national priority and national roll out of the approach across Scotland
2. Support for wider strategic natural infrastructure and green network initiatives across Scotland
3. Political support (nationally, regionally and locally) for delivering the Town Centre Action Plan Review Group and the Vacant and Derelict Land Task Force recommendations. Widespread implementation will transform environmental outcomes.
About Green Action Trust

The Green Action Trust (GATrust) is the trusted delivery partner focussed on environmental and regeneration outcomes for Scotland.

We work with a range of private, public and third sector partners across Scotland to turn ideas into tangible change, to build more sustainable communities and a greener country.

We plan, collaborate and deliver positive action across the country to achieve Scotland's climate change ambitions, as well as identify and deliver opportunities for improving greenspaces in both urban and rural settings. We are specifically responsible for the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network Plan, the largest green infrastructure project in Europe.

Our sector-leading expertise allows us to make a significant contribution to building a better country through:

- Climate change action
- Environmental and urban regeneration
- Green infrastructure development and delivery
- Green active travel
- Productive use of vacant and derelict land
- Woodland creation and management
- Habitat creation and management
- Community greenspace development

We are therefore ideally placed to support meaningful action on natural infrastructure and blue-green networks: bringing to the table both policy expertise, a grant fundholding track record as well as practical implementation skills and proven credentials on project delivery.

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