



# Foreword

*Edinburgh is a beautiful and wildlife-friendly city. Nearly 40 per cent of Scotland's Capital can be classed as natural greenspace or nature area, and Edinburgh is home to some of the UK's rarest and most charismatic animals and plants. There are badgers on Corstorphine Hill, barn owls in Craigmillar, great crested newts near Dalmeny, otters and kingfishers along the Water of Leith, rock whitebeam grows in Holyrood Park, and the tiny sticky catchfly clings to the cliffs supporting Edinburgh Castle. The list goes on and on.*

*Unfortunately, many of these species are finding it increasingly difficult to survive within the city and surrounding countryside due to the loss of habitats to development, pollution, chemical use and changes in land use practice. That is why the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan is so important. It identifies the wildlife habitats and species at risk from these pressures, and sets out a range of practical actions to help conserve Edinburgh's green spaces and their wild inhabitants for the future.*

*I am proud to support the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan and give hearty encouragement to the many organisations and individuals who continue to work to keep Edinburgh beautiful for all its inhabitants, be they furry, feathery, flowery, scaly or slimy!*

*Edinburgh is a grand and green place full of wonderful wildlife. Let's keep it that way.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'David Bellamy'.

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