



Scottish
Wildlife
Trust



Saltmarshes
are **coastal
wetland
habitats** that
are flooded and
drained by the
tides



Saltmarshes
in Scotland
cover an area
equivalent to
**11,000 football
pitches**

Saltmarshes



Scotland's
saltmarshes
lock up **over
7,000 cars'**
worth of carbon
each year



The habitat
**protects
coastlines** from
erosion, flooding
and storm damage
and **improves
water quality**



Saltmarshes
are home to
**curlews,
redshanks
and
periwinkles**

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Seagrass habitat covers an area of Scotland's seas equivalent to almost **15,000 Olympic swimming pools**



Seagrasses are flowering plants that form **underwater meadows** in shallow coastal seas

Seagrass Meadows



Seagrass meadows store carbon up to **35x faster** than tropical rainforests



The habitat **protects coastlines** from storm damage and **improves water quality**



Seagrass meadows are home to **seahorses, oysters** and juvenile **Atlantic cod**

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The remaining fragments of rainforest in Scotland only cover an area the **size of Edinburgh**



A globally rare habitat, Scotland's rainforest is a type of **coastal temperate rainforest**

Temperate Rainforests



As with other woodlands, spending time in this habitat can **reduce stress and improve wellbeing**



A small area of Scotland's rainforest equivalent to 1.5 football pitches can contain **over 400 species of plants**



Scotland's rainforests are home to **lichens, pied flycatchers and pine martens**

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Scotland's coastal waters contain 30% of all maerl beds in north-west Europe, some of which are **over 1,000 years old**



Maerl is a **purple coral-like seaweed** that forms spiky underwater carpets on the seabed

Maerl Beds



The idyllic **white sand beaches** of West coast of Scotland are made of fragments of dead maerl



Maerl beds in Scotland are an important underwater carbon store, absorbing the equivalent of **10,000 trees** each year



Maerl beds are home to **scallops, edible crabs** and **octopuses**

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Hedgerows provide shelter and shade to livestock, nesting sites for songbirds, and **food for wildlife and people**



A diverse mix of woody shrubs, native hedgerows were traditionally used as **field boundaries**



Native Hedgerows

Hedgerows help to **increase crop yield** by improving soil quality, and reducing erosion and wind damage



Hedgerows can reduce the amount of pesticides and fertilisers needed, helping to **control pests naturally**



Hedgerows are home to **hedgehogs, song thrushes and bumblebees**



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Trees reduce erosion of the soil from wind and rain and **reduce flooding impact**



When trees are included and used in farmland it is known as **agroforestry**

Farmland Trees



Trees **provide shelter** for animals from the sun and rain



They **improve the nutrients** in the soil, which increases crop yield and the amount of grass available to livestock




Farmland trees are home to **tawny owls, woodpeckers and red squirrels**

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Scotland's peatlands store **1.7 billion tonnes of carbon**; the same as 140 years' worth of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions



Peatland covers **20% of Scotland's land** but 80% of Scotland's peatlands are degraded

Peatlands



A wet healthy bog also **reduces the risk of wildfire**



Healthy functioning peatlands help to **clean our water** and **reduce the risk of flooding**



Peatlands are home to **carnivorous sundew, marsh fritillary butterflies** and **golden plovers**

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Riverside trees help to regulate a river's temperature, benefitting species such as **trout, salmon and fresh water pearl mussels**

Riparian woodland is where woodland grows **next to or near a river or loch**



Riparian Woodlands



This habitat is important to regulate the flow of water, helping **reduce flood risk**



Riparian woodlands **improve water quality** and the tree roots stabilise the river banks, reducing erosion



Riparian woodlands are home to **otters, badgers and kingfishers**

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Edinburgh has more trees than people. The **carbon stored in these trees** is heavier than 1,500 blue whales

Urban trees **cool the air** acting as a natural air conditioner, while also **providing shade**

Urban Trees

Trees in towns and cities can remove **100s of tonnes of pollution** from the air we breathe

Glasgow's urban trees intercept 400 Olympic swimming pools of rainfall each year, **reducing flooding** and **runoff pollution**

Urban trees are home to **robins, pipistrelle bats** and **treecreepers**

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One metre² of a green roof can absorb **5kg of carbon each year** and reduces carbon lost from heating and cooling buildings



A green roof or wall is **covered with growing vegetation** like grasses or moss

Green Walls and Roofs



They act as **stepping stones** for wildlife to travel through the city



Green roofs and walls **reduce noise** by absorbing loud city sounds and can **reduce local temperatures** by between 0.3 and 3°C



Green walls and roofs are home to **red admiral butterflies, ladybirds and hoverflies**

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