

**Please be aware that this event is being filmed**

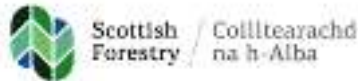
for promotional purposes by the  
North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership  
Footage will be used to make promotional videos which  
will be put on our website  
([www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk))  
to encourage others to reconsider their approach to  
managing grass areas.



# NORTH EAST SCOTLAND Biodiversity *Partnership*

## Management of Amenity Grassland and Verges for Biodiversity and Reduced Costs

Funding Partners:



Local Biodiversity Coordinator

Alex Stuart

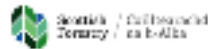
## Housekeeping

- Filming
- Fire
- Toilets

Welcome!

## The Partnership

- Established 1996
- Members from: Local government, environmental organisations, wildlife charities
- Aim to promote, protect and improve our local biodiversity
- Collaboration at the heart of our working



# The Bad News

Unprecedented declines in our pollinating insects

- Habitat loss
- Habitat fragmentation
- Pesticide use
- Climate change

## 1/3 of British bees and hoverflies are in decline

(Powney, G.D., Carvell, C., Edwards, M. et al. Widespread losses of pollinating insects in Britain. *Nat Commun* 10, 1018 (2019) doi:10.1038/s41467-019-08974-9)

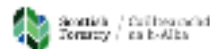
Unprecedented declines in our species-rich grassland, also known as flower-rich grassland

**Plantlife: “It took around 6,000 years to create the species-rich grassland for which the UK is globally famous. Yet in less than a century we have lost 97%... and counting...”**

(<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/campaigning-change/meadows>)

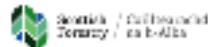


<http://legacy.discoverwildlife.com/sites/default/files/pdf/BBC%20Wildlife%20Magazine%20British%20pollinators%20poster.pdf>



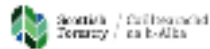
# What needs to be done?

- Create and restore areas of flower rich grassland
  - These habitats supply pollinating insects with food and homes
- To be connected
  - Areas of flower rich grassland need to be connected to form networks (e.g. Buglife's b-lines project →)
  - Allows our insects access to new areas and stop populations becoming more vulnerable by being cut-off and isolated
- **To start now!**



# The Good News

- **We can reverse declines of our species rich grasslands!**
  - Change management techniques – homes, parks, businesses, roads
- **Increased numbers and diversity of pollinating insects**  
(including predator control of agricultural pests and pollinating services for food crops – estimated £43 million)
- **Benefits for other animals**  
(1/5 of all priority species for conservation action are associated with grassland habitats)
- Grassland soils contribute to:
  - **carbon sequestration** (acid grasslands and dry grassy heaths outperform habitats like woodlands)
  - **reduced flooding** (more effectively than improved grassland)
  - **improving air + water** (biodiverse grasslands lock up more pollutants, reducing impacts to air and water)
- **Reduced costs** (money, time and energy) from areas kept as close mown grass



Close mown rye grass that supports few insects and very few plant species



Flower rich grasslands that support an abundance of life

