



## NESBiP Update - November 2024 🍄

Dear Biodiversity Hero,

I hope you've all been enjoying autumn as much as I am - despite it being a mild one. I spent the day walking along the River North Esk last weekend and saw salmon jumping for the first time! An amazing experience, a wildlife bucket list tick. This is the walk I did for anyone who might be interested in doing the same: [Edzell and North Esk Circular, Angus, Scotland - 24 Reviews, Map | AllTrails](#).

I hope you enjoy NESBiP's November update, feel free to share it with your friends and colleagues.

Happy reading 📖,  
Abbie Ferrar  
NESBiP Biodiversity Coordinator

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### **North East Big 5 - Renewal** ❤️

Have you submitted your North East Big 5 nomination?

🔗 <https://forms.gle/RN7924XDMUuV4Eke8>

Your nomination of a North East Big 5 should look at the following criteria:

1. Characteristic of North East Scotland
2. Of conservation concern
3. Where local action can help

### **NESBiP Awareness & Innovative Forum** 🐸

Theme: Ponds

Date: Wednesday 27th November

Time: 7:00 - 8:00pm

Booking link 🔗 [NESBiP Awareness members' forum - Ponds at Online event tickets from TicketSource](#)

The forum discussion series is free and open to all Awareness members. Registration is required and the joining link will be forwarded shortly before the forum date.



### **ECHO Project - Soil Ambassadors** 🌱

Scientists at The James Hutton Institute are leading a nationwide soil sampling campaign to help a major European project, ECHO to collect a total of 16,500 samples across Europe.

The project is looking for soil ambassadors to help. Read to learn more [🔗 Hutton hunts for soil ambassadors across Scotland to help dig deep - James Hutton Institute.](#)

### **Tomintoul Wildflower Meadow - Guest Blog** 🌻

Learn how the Crown Estate Scotland team, a local farmer and the Tomintoul community turned an empty strip of land into a thriving wildflower meadow to help their local pollinators.

[!\[\]\(ce446959e8e277ae6a5e0cecf0aa59c5\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(cee63d1de9f724e5157808257466b08d\_img.jpg\) Tomintoul Wildflower Meadow - Guest Blog](#)

Thank you to Mark Johnston, Glenlivet Estate Head Ranger, for writing this blog.



## Britain's First National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy 🦔

The strategy gathered experts to identify key threats and solutions.

1. Decrease in availability and distribution of natural food and associated habitat
2. Increased vehicle collisions
3. Unintentional mortality and stress due to human intervention
4. Accidental death and misadventure
5. Toxin accumulation
6. Genetic isolation

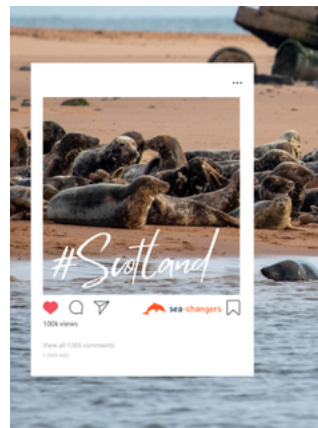
You can find the full strategy [here](#).

## Seals vs People - Ythan Estuary 🦺

Seal-iously Healthy: Using health app data to study human activity near a seal protection zone.

An [SRUC](#) PhD student is analysing GPS data to explore grey seals' lives and human interactions in the area, aiming to create a long-term seal monitoring program at Newburgh Beach and the Ythan Estuary.

Find out how you help here [🔗 Seals - Ythan Estuary - Project](#)





## 2024 Urban Forestry Challenge Fund 🌿

Our cities, towns and urban areas urgently need more trees to enhance the environment and support healthier, happier communities.

Future Woodlands Scotland currently has a fund available for organisations and community groups in urban areas to help create more green spaces!

Grant amount: £2,000 - £100,000

Deadline: Friday 15th November, 17:00

Funding duration: up to 3 years

Find out more [🔗](#) [👉](#) [Future Woodlands Scotland](#)

## 📅 Upcoming Events 📅

- [Volunteer Badger Surveyors Training](#) - Thursday 7th November, 19:00 - 21:00 (online) and Saturday 9th November (near Kemnay)
- [Hedge Planting Volunteer Day at Aden Country Park](#) - Saturday 9th November, 10:00 - 16:00
- [The Granite Safari](#), talk by Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers at Aberdeen Central Library - Monday 11th November, 18:00 - 19:00
- [Holiday Fun Day at Sanquar Woods](#), Forres - Monday 11th November 10:30 - 15:00
- [Holiday Fun Day at Brimley Brae](#), Elgin - Tuesday 12th November 10:30 - 15:00

- [NESBReC Camera Trap Event](#), Forfar - Thursday 21st November 10:30 - 14:30
- [Community Tree Planting Day](#), Haddo Country Park - Saturday 23rd November 10:00 - 15:00

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### Other updates:

- 🐾 Join the North East Mammal Group for free until March 2025.
- Find out more 📧 [nesmatnet@gmail.com](mailto:nesmatnet@gmail.com) or [join their Facebook Group](#).
- 🦋 Have you added your green space to the Butterfly Conservation Wild Spaces map yet? 📧 <https://wild-spaces.co.uk/>
- 🌿 The University of Aberdeen hosted the annual North-East Ecology Network's (NESEN) Science Day on 8th October. Find out how it went 📧 [Science Day success | News](#).
- 🌳 Help create Tree Equity in towns and cities across Scotland 📧 [Find your tree equity score](#).
- 🌿 Tree grant for Community Groups 📧 [Grant funding to support tree, hedgerow and orchard establishment](#)
- 🙌 Help save St. Fittick's Park in Aberdeen 📧 <https://act.foe.scot/save-st-fitticks-park>
- 🆘 Help the Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service 📧 ['Removal of the... - Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service | Facebook](#)
- 🎧 Helping our native wildlife thrive with the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative 📧 [Make Space for Nature Podcast](#) 🎧

### Would you like to be featured in the next newsletter?

Keep the partnership updated with your biodiversity work by featuring in our next newsletter.

Email us at [nesbip@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:nesbip@hutton.ac.uk).



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