

# NESBiP March 2026 Update

## Nature in North East Scotland Seminar – Video Sessions & Highlights



Across North East Scotland, communities, land managers, conservation organisations and volunteers are working every day to help nature recover. Our recent **Nature in North East Scotland: Connected, Expanded, Resilient, Protected** seminar with co-hosts **NESCAN Hub**, brought these stories together in one place. Showcasing real, practical action already happening across our region.

Thank you again for everyone who joined us on the day. You are the reason we keep going!

**Read our highlights and watch the seminar.**

## How to Support Nature and Just Transition in North East Scotland

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, Abbie attended the Regional Assembly for the Just Transition Communities Project (JTCP). Mainly to learn more about what Just Transition actually means, but also to be a voice for biodiversity in the discussions.

Often biodiversity and nature gets forgotten about in the conversation of Just Transition. This inspired Abbie to write five ways biodiversity can support a just transition.

**Read it here**



© Abbie Ferrari



## NESBReC Recorders Forum

I had the pleasure of presenting the NESBiP Big 5 at the NESBReC's Recorders Forum on Saturday 28th March.

The room was buzzing with energy, filled with dedicated biological recorders and organisations from across the North East. It was also a fantastic opportunity to learn more about what people need from NESBiP. Particularly around development and how we can better support planning-related biodiversity work.

Here are a few of my favourite takeaways from the day:

- Every wildlife record matters, even the most common species provide vital insights.
- Once an area is clear of Grey Squirrels for 2 years, it means they are officially eradicated from that area!
- Try the 100 Plant Challenge! Beginners are encouraged to learn 100 plant species really well. A great foundation for building ID confidence.
- Seagrass is seriously cool and we should all get out and record it more often.
- Don't overlook our nocturnal "nightmare wildlife". Modern tech makes collecting nighttime data easier than ever.
- New to birdwatching? The BTO's Birds in Greenspace project is a brilliant entry point for beginners.
- Your records influence planning decisions. If sightings aren't submitted, planners won't know what's there and important species may miss out on protection. Always record, always submit!

Overall, it was a day packed with fascinating talks, inspiring discussions, and a shared passion for the biodiversity of North East Scotland. The room was filled with curiosity, collaboration, and enthusiasm.

**Learn more about why biological recording is important and how you can get involved.**



## Save the Date - Aberdeen City-Wide BioBlitz Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August

BioBlitz at St Machar's Cathedral © Ian Talboys



An Aberdeen City-Wide BioBlitz is coming soon, with guided wildlife walks planned across the city. We'll also be encouraging everyone to get involved by recording the wildlife they see in their own gardens or local greenspaces.

More information will follow soon.

**[Learn more about how to run a BioBlitz.](#)**

## Galumphing with the Seals of Forvie: Tales of a drone internship by Chris Jenkins

Here is another excellent update from SRUC PhD Student Claire and her brilliant team of interns.

This blog is full of highs and lows (mainly because of the January snows!).

**[Read the latest update here](#)**



© Chris Jenkins

## Scotland's Fourth Land Use Strategy: 2026-2031



Scotland's Fourth Land Use Strategy (2026-2031) is out now!

The strategy sets a new vision for how Scotland will use and care for its land over the next five years. Supporting nature, climate action, communities, and the places wildlife depends on.

**[Read it here](#)**



## Aberdeen City Nature Challenge

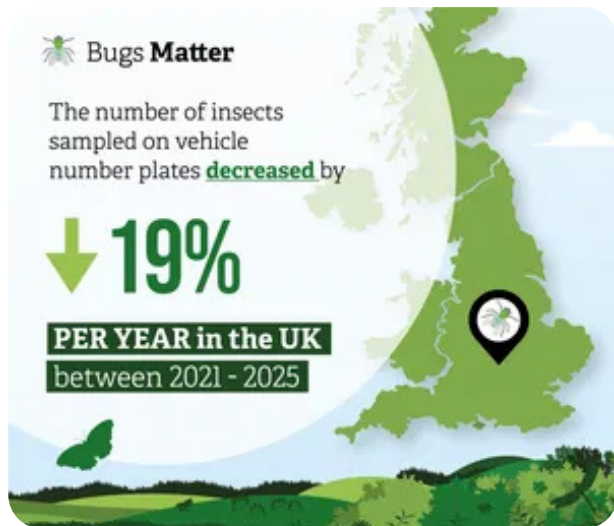
Join the Aberdeen City Nature Challenge from 24th to 27th April 2026.

City Nature Challenge is a global challenge encouraging everyone to photograph and record nature using the free iNaturalist App.



**Find out more, and how your records help NESBReC**

## Bugs Matter - How to take part



Bugs Matter offers a simple way to help monitor insect declines.

From 1 April to 30 September, participants record the insects found on their car number plate using the free Bugs Matter app quick, easy, and open to anyone. Each submission supports an international effort to track long-term insect population trends.

**Watch to learn more.**

**For more citizen science opportunities.**

## UK Bumblees Still in Decline

New BeeWalk results indicate that UK bumblebees are still struggling despite a year of ideal weather. Out of 24 species, 15 are below average, with declines in familiar types like Red-tailed and White-tailed bumblebees. However, the Blaeberry bumblebee had its best year on record, showcasing the benefits of targeted conservation efforts. **Read the full report.**

**More information on supporting native plants and wildflowers.**



Blaeberry Bumblebee © Helen Rowe

## New Hedgehog Hibernation Research



Ever wondered what our hedgehogs get up to during winter? New research by PhD student has taken a deep dive into the hibernation patterns of hedgehogs in north-west England and the results are fascinating!

This research helps us understand how hedgehogs respond to milder winters, habitat change, and climate pressures, a crucial insight for protecting one of **NESBiP's Big 5 species**.

**[Read the full article](#)**

## Have your say - Aberdeenshire Nature Networks

The Draft Aberdeenshire Nature Network is now open for public consultation, inviting your views from 23 March to 1 May 2026.

The network aims to strengthen nature recovery by identifying key corridors that improve ecological connectivity and resilience across Aberdeenshire.

Visit the project page to explore the draft map and share your feedback to help shape a more nature-rich Aberdeenshire

**[Have your say](#)**

**[Learn more about what a Nature Network is](#)**

## NatureScot's Big Biodiversity Layer - BBL Two

NatureScot has launched Big Biodiversity Layer Two, highlighting near-natural and recovering ecosystems that are under-represented in Scotland's protected areas. This follows **[Big Biodiversity Layer One](#)**, which mapped biodiversity value to support Scotland's 30x30 ambitions.

**[Find Big Biodiversity Layer Two here](#)**



## Upcoming Events

- Free the Trees: Aikey Brae Stone Circle Conservation Day. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 10:00 - 14:00. **Find out more**
- Tree Identification course (for students only). Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10:30 - 15:00. **Find out more**
- Reviving the River Calder: A Nature-Based Blueprint for Biodiversity and Climate Resilience, Glen Banchor, Newtonmore. Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00 - 12:00. **Find out more**
- Aberdeenshire Council Countryside Rangers **Upcoming Events**
- Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers **Upcoming Events**
- NESBReC **Upcoming Events.**

## Other Updates

- Volunteer and inspire future generations **More information**
- Green jobs resource **More information**
- Join the Nature-Friendly Farming Network **More information**
- **NESBiP Big 5:** Learn how to take action and protect Hedgehog, Swift, Northern Damselfly, Mixed Native Hedgerow Species and Native Willow Species.
- Wild About Your Garden booklets **You can download a copy here.**
- NESBiP is on Instagram **Follow us, tag us in your biodiversity photos and share our posts**
- Did you miss our previous newsletter and would like to catch up? Find them on our website **NESBiP Monthly Newsletter**