

NESBiP July 2026 Update

Aberdeen City Wide Bioblitz
happening soon!



Discover Nature • Record Wildlife • Be Part of Something Big

July
17

Friday 14 August 2026



Main Hub Open: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Main Hub  The James Hutton Institute

Join communities, families, nature lovers and wildlife experts for a city-wide celebration of Aberdeen's biodiversity. Take part in free wildlife activities, discover local species and help build a picture of nature across the city.

Featured Activities

- 🌙 Moth Trapping
- 🌿 Den Burn Restoration Walk
- ☀️ Wildflower Workshop
- 🐭 Mammals at Dusk (Seals, Badgers & Bats)
- 🐝 Bumblebee BioBlitz
- 🌊 Sunset Rock Pooling
- 🌊 SeaWatch Marine Wildlife Surveys
- 🍄 Fungi Forays
- 🐦 Seabird & Coastal Wildlife Activities
- 🧑‍🌾 Drop-in Nature Activities & Expert Support

- ✓ Free to attend
- ✓ Suitable for beginners and nature enthusiasts
- ✓ Family-friendly activities
- ✓ Wildlife recording across Aberdeen

Explore your local area, record wildlife and help uncover Aberdeen's biodiversity!



**NORTH
EAST
SCOTLAND**
Biodiversity
Partnership



**The James
Hutton
Institute**

**Find out more and book your
place on a guided activity.**



New to wildlife spotting?



We've put together a handy guide packed with:

- Wildlife identification resources
- Recording tips for beginners
- Advice on taking useful wildlife photos
- Ways to submit your sightings to NESBReC

You don't need to identify everything you see. In fact, focusing on just one group, such as birds, butterflies, bees, or wildflowers, is a great way to get started.

[Read it here](#)

Could heatwaves be affecting our bumblebees?

Although North East Scotland is unlikely to experience the 40°C temperatures seen elsewhere in the UK, warmer summers and more frequent hot spells can still impact our important pollinators.

In our latest blog, we explore what recent research tells us about bumblebees and heatwaves, and how people across North East Scotland can make a difference.



[Read it here.](#)

Big Butterfly Count

Butterfly Conservation's annual Big Butterfly Count is well underway, and you can play your part in ensuring there is a future for butterflies and moths. All you need to do is:

- Find a sunny spot
- Spend 15 minutes spotting butterflies & moths
- Record how many & what species you see

[Get out for the count](#)



New blog from the Aberdeen Marine Mammal Project!



As Claire moves into the desk-based phase of her PhD, she reflects on all the fantastic beach walks, seal sightings and fieldwork updates she's shared over the years.

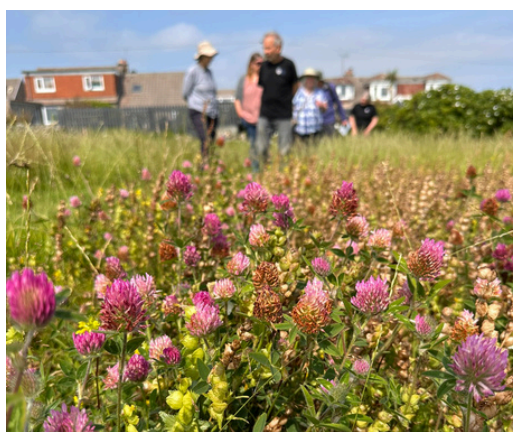
[Read it here](#)

NESBiP Wildflower & Scything Workshops

New dates have now been added for our Wildflower and Scything Workshops, following a fantastic start to the programme. Our first session went beautifully, with glorious weather, plenty of enthusiasm, and lots of learning shared throughout the day. Upcoming sessions include:

- Tomintoul Wildflower Meadow – Friday 4th September (Wildflower & Scything)
- Brawely Head, Fraserburgh - Saturday 12th September (Wildflower & Scything)
- Ury Riverside Park – Saturday 19th September (Wildflower & Scything)
- Old Walled Garden, Tarland – Sunday 20th September (Scything)

If you'd like to get involved and build your skills while supporting biodiversity, take a **[look at the upcoming sessions here.](#)**



Tomintoul Wildflower Meadow Update - Collect your seeds!

The Glenlivet Estate have recently add this excellent innovative to the Tomintoul Wildflower Meadow. Free wildflower seeds!

During the seed collecting season they will collect seeds and place them in envelopes in a tin located on site for anyone to take away and sow.

It is still early in the season for seeds but a group of wonderful volunteers from **Changeworks** collected some yellow rattle seeds to start you off!

Learn more about the meadow here.



Could the Small Scabious Mining Bee be hiding on Deeside?

 RARE INVERTEBRATES IN THE CAIRNGORMS
Exploring the world of the Small Scabious Mining Bee
15 August 2026 10:00 - 14:00
Free entry

Join a guided walk and talk around Boat of Garten to discover one of Scotland's rarest mining bees.



What to expect

- A short talk about the Small Scabious Mining Bee.
- A guided walk around Boat of Garten to visit known nesting sites.
- Free Devil's-bit Scabious plugs for all attendees.

For more information

Please confirm attendance by emailing
Rare.Invertebrates@rspb.org.uk

This rare bee has not yet been recorded on Deeside, but we hope to find it. Volunteers are invited to help survey potential habitats and search for the species, with training available for beginners.

Find out more and view potential survey areas.

Join the Small Scabious Mining Bee Discovery Day at Boat of Garten on 15 August (10am to 2pm).

To book a place, email
rare.invertebrates@rspb.org.uk

For more information about invertebrate surveys across Deeside and how to get involved, contact Annie Ives at **annie.ives@rspb.org.uk** or 07725 219 128.



Elgin Oakwood Bioblitz Update

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the Elgin Oakwood BioBlitz! Together, we recorded 116 species, including:

- 15 tree species
- 27 insect species
- 50 plant and wildflower species
- 7 mammal species
- 17 bird species

This showcases the rich biodiversity in even an urban area. We're awaiting an updated species list from NESBReC, which may provide more records.

Consider conducting **your own BioBlitz** in your garden or local greenspace. Even an hour of wildlife recording can uncover diverse species and aid conservation efforts.



Funding Opportunities

If you have a meadow that you would like to do something similar to Glenlivet Estate, buy resources to build hedgehog house or swift nestsboxes or have some big plans to help biodiversity in the North East, here are some funding opportunities that could help you set this up.

- Projects within Aberdeenshire or Aberdeen City SEED Funding, grants up to £500
👉 **More information**
- Projects within Aberdeen City LEAF Funding, grants up to £3,000 👉 **More information**
- Moray CAN Funding Opportunities 👉 **More information**
- Small Eco Awards, grants between £300 and £20,000 👉 **More information**



Upcoming Events

- Restoring the River South Esk – Landscape Scale Wetland & River Restoration (lessons learned), Field event, 21st August, 10:30–13:30 👉 **Book here**
- CIEEM Scotland Conference: Fieldwork Futures: Innovations in Ecological Practice, Glasgow, 29th September, time TBC 👉 **Book here (LinkedIn post)**
- Aberdeenshire Council Countryside Rangers 👉 **Upcoming Events**
- Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers 👉 **Upcoming Events**
- NESBReC 👉 **Upcoming Events.**
- Tomintoul village is turning 250 and has lots of events happening. 👉 **Keep up date on whats happening.**

Other Updates

- **Download our Wild About Garden Booklet** to start your wildlife gardening journey
- **NESBiP Big 5:** Learn how to take action and protect Hedgehog, Swift, Northern Damselfly, Mixed Native Hedgerow Species and Native Willow Species.
- Citizen Science is incredibly important as it helps us have a better idea of how nature is doing 👉 **Learn how to get involved**
- Watch our video on the importance of biological recording in North East Scotland and how you can get involved 👉 **Watch it here**
- Did you miss our previous newsletter and would like to catch up? Find them on our website 👉 **NESBiP Monthly Newsletter**

Abbie's Favourite Photo of the month!

With all the bad that has happened the last few weeks due to wildfires, I thought I'd add a new addition to the newsletter to keep us going. This beautiful set of photos is from Ian Talboys who said he'd watched this blackbird couple feeding on his native hedgerow. A prime example of build it and they shall come!

