

NESBiP September 2026 Update

Elgin Oakwood Bioblitz Results - 111 Species Recorded



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On 10 July, people of all ages gathered at **Elgin Oakwood for a day of wildlife discovery**, learning and exploration. Armed with curiosity, cameras, notebooks and a keen eye for nature, participants joined experts to uncover the incredible biodiversity hidden within this special woodland.

Now, a few months later, the final results of the Elgin Bioblitz from NESBReC are in. And they paint a fantastic picture of the wildlife thriving right on Elgin's doorstep.

[Read the results here](#)

Watch: NESCAN Bi-Monthly Meeting NESBiP Talk

This month I joined the NESCAN Bi-Monthly meeting to talk about NESBiP's CWNE events and about how we could bring scything back to North East Scotland.

[Watch it here](#)

00:00 - 05:57 - Introduction to NESBiP
05:57 - 11:13 - NESBiP Big 5 CWNE Event
11:13 - 32:54 - Bringing Scything to North East Scotland

We'd like to get some scope on whether a scything group is feasible in North East Scotland. We would love it if **you spent 3-minutes of your time filling in this survey.** Thank you!



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Help Butterflies & Caterpillars in North East Scotland



© Helen Rowe

The Big Butterfly Count 2026 showed mixed results for UK butterflies, with warm weather benefiting many species. However, Butterfly Conservation warns that the effects of extreme summer weather may impact future populations, as healthy habitats for eggs and caterpillars are essential. Prolonged heat could damage food plants vital for caterpillars. You can help by taking simple actions to support butterflies (and moths) at all life stages in gardens and community spaces.

[Read our top 5 recommendations to help.](#)

The role of behaviour change in biodiversity conservation

The IUCN document “The role of behaviour change in biodiversity conservation” stresses that biodiversity conservation centers on people. It highlights that human behaviors drive major threats to nature, such as habitat loss and climate change, making behavior change crucial for effective conservation. At NESBiP one of our partnership objectives is promoting positive action in nature across North East Scotland. We do this through citizen science, enhance biodiversity and community engagement, fostering connections between people and wildlife for lasting benefits.

[You can read the full document here](#)

Nature Connectedness - Free University of Derby Course

Discover a new way of thinking about your relationship with the natural world with the free Nature Connectedness: For a New Relationship with Nature online course from the University of Derby. Through practical activities and thought-provoking insights, the course explores how a deeper connection with nature can improve wellbeing while inspiring positive action for wildlife and the environment. Whether you're passionate about biodiversity or simply looking to spend more meaningful time outdoors, this self-paced course offers an engaging introduction to the growing field of nature connectedness.

[Find out more and sign up](#)



How our relationship with Newburgh's Grey Seals has changed: A Snapshot of history

© Ythan - anno & fisherman c1960



Speaking of behaviour change and conservation, SRUC PhD Student Claire is back with a new blog! Discover how our relationship with Newburgh's iconic seal colony has evolved over the years, and what this tells us about living alongside wildlife on our coast.

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

Help shape the future of Aberdeen's Core Paths

Aberdeen City Council is seeking views on proposed improvements to 21 Core Paths across the city, helping make them more accessible, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

Whether you use them regularly or not, **now is your chance to share your thoughts.**

Consultation closes 5th October



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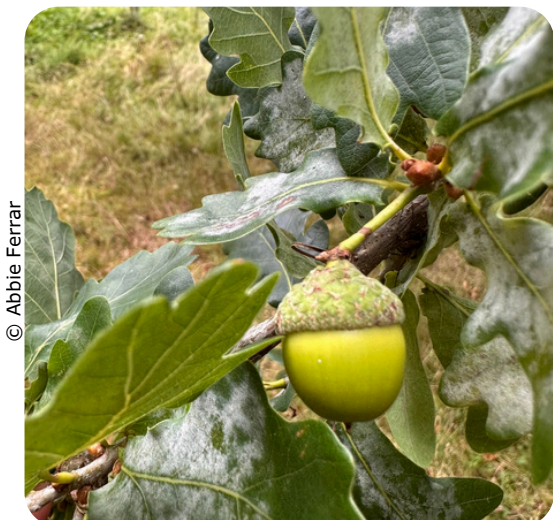
Tree Seed Gathering Season

From 21st September to 21st October it is The Tree Council's Seed Gathering Season. An opportunity to learn how to grow trees from seeds you've collected yourself.

[**Learn more here**](#)

Last year, we wrote a blog to give you some extra tips and what trees are native to North East Scotland.

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



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Share your views - Cairngorms National Park and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

© Abbie Ferrar



Live or work in, or even visit, the Cairngorms National Park and/or Scotland's northeast coast?

Help develop a new and exciting project that will create, restore and reconnect wetland habitats across the area.

The project will rediscover and revive "ghost ponds" - historic ponds lost to infilling or neglect - alongside the creation of new ponds and enhancement of existing ponds, peat pools, and wet grasslands to rewet landscapes for the benefit of invertebrates, amphibians and other wildlife.

[Fill in the survey here](#)

Great Scottish Squirrel Survey

5th to 11th October is your chance to submit your squirrel sightings to Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels.

You can report both red and grey squirrels to provide them with a snapshot of how our beautiful red squirrels are doing. Record can take place from anywhere in Scotland, not just the North East.

[Find out more and submit here](#)



© Ian Talboys



Upcoming Events

- Plenty Festival Day, Sunday 4th October. 12:00 - 16:00. The Barn, Banchory  **More information**
- Safeguarding the future for Scotland's rarest insects. Thursday 15th October. 19:30 - 21:00. Online.  **Book here**
- Froglife's Online Research Conference. Wednesday 21st October. 13:30 - 16:30. Online.  **Book here**
- Regional Marine Planning Forum 2026. Wednesday 28th October. 10:00 - 16:00. Discover Quay, Dundee.  **Book here**
- CWNE Events still running until 4th October  **Check them out**
- Aberdeenshire Council Countryside Rangers  **Upcoming Events**
- Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers  **Upcoming Events**
- NESBReC  **Upcoming Events**

Other Updates

- NESBiP is now on LinkedIn  **Connect with us!**
- Have you ever been involved in translocation amphibians and reptiles in the UK? Froglife are looking for experts to help with future recommendations  **Take part**
- Help People's Trust for Endangered Species and monitor mammals  **Find out more**
- Seaton Park Wetland has been designated a Local Nature Conservation Site  **Find out more**
- Saving Wildcats celebrates landmark 50 wildcat releases  **Read more about their journey 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!

This new addition to the newsletter has been added because Abbie (like many of you) has been struggling with all the wildfires, negative news stories and just feeling like everything is getting worse. She decided to add this in as a little positivity.

I might be cheating a little this month, because I took this photo myself. This is Malcolm scything at the annual Tomintoul wildflower meadow communit scything day. There is something about the pink of the rose bay willow herb, and the green of the meadow that makes me smile when I see it.

