
DESTINATION TWEED – POLLINATORS ALONG THE TWEED PROJECT

INNERLEITHEN COMMON GOOD SUB-COMMITTEE

1 JUNE 2023

This report seeks Members agreement to adopt management principles that align with the wider 'Pollinators along the Tweed' Project for a 10 year period at the following sites:

- **Damside, Innerleithen - Innerleithen Common Good (Asset – IN024/01)**

These management principles include:

- **Wildflower planting through seeding/plug plants/bulb planting**
- **Less intensive grasscutting practices in selected areas where appropriate**

BACKGROUND

The 'Pollinators along the Tweed' project comes under the auspices of 'Destination Tweed', a series of interconnected schemes and proposals along the length of the River Tweed, with associated ecological and cultural benefits. 'Pollinators along the Tweed' aims to create and enhance pollinator habitats along the River Tweed corridor, involving local communities in the creation and management of those habitats, increasing the area of wildflower-rich grasslands and restoring habitat connectivity. The project engages stakeholders including Scottish Borders Council, landowners and communities in the creation, restoration and enhancement of sites for pollinators in villages and towns along the length of the River Tweed.

Scottish Borders Council is working in partnership to support the project which is being delivered by Tweed Forum and Buglife. During the delivery phase, the project aims to create, restore and enhance up to 40 hectares of wildflower-rich habitat across a minimum of 50 sites along the whole length of the Tweed, of which it is estimated around 33 will be on land owned and managed by Scottish Borders Council. Habitats created, restored and enhanced will provide forage and nesting sites for a range of pollinator species along these 'B-Lines'.

Supporting biodiversity and sustaining habitat networks is a key component of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The 'Pollinators along the Tweed' project is reliant on commitment from Scottish Borders Council, as a major stakeholder and steward of public greenspace, in signing up to a 10 year management plan of agreed sites across the project area. Council

officers within Parks & Environment have been working with Buglife and Tweed Forum on assessing proposals and the management and maintenance implications.

The Project also includes working with communities to further the aims of the project through community initiatives and inviting communities to get involved. As such, by supporting this project through a 10 year management commitment, Scottish Borders Council will also be supporting a wider network of biodiversity and community benefits.

It has been proposed that the site at Damside could play an important role in this project. It is hoped, therefore, that Members will agree to adopt these management principles and take part in the project.

Agreement is also sought to enter into a 10 year Landowner Agreement that agrees:

- “That the habitat work undertaken by or on behalf of the Charity as part of the Project will not be knowingly destroyed or damaged by me/us and will be managed which seeks to maintain favourable habitat for a minimum of 10 years.
- To allow the Charity or its representatives to access the Sites during normal working hours for a period of at least 5 years, for the purposes of monitoring the habitat.
- Ongoing management of the Sites created, enhanced, and restored through the Project will be the Landowners responsibility, including the risk management associated with any future works.”

Decision Requested

It is recommend that the Innerleithen Common Good Sub-Committee:
(a) agrees to adopt and align with the Pollinators along the Tweed Management Principles at Damside; and
(b) Agrees to enter into the Landowner Agreement outlined above.