

What will these areas look like?

Some areas will not be cut, which means that grasses and wildflowers will be able to grow and flower to their full potential.



If larger areas are left uncut, you may find paths and areas to sit cut through them, allowing members of the public to continue to enjoy these wildflower areas fully.

Where cutting is reduced to certain times of year, the height of the plants will still often be quite short. Here you may notice finer grasses and lower-growing wildflower species.



What pollinators will I see?

Wild pollinators include bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, beetles, butterflies and moths.

For more information see: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24878/pollinatorsidentificationleaflet.pdf>

Where do the wildflowers come from?

While some areas may be actively sown with seed by the Council, native north-east Scotland wildflower seeds are often already present in the ground. It is regular grass-cutting which stops them from being able to grow naturally. Not cutting an area or cutting later in the year (after wildflowers have grown and produced seeds) means more new flowers will appear.

Will all council-owned areas of grass be managed like this?

No, some greenspaces such as sports pitches and lawns of care homes will still be mown regularly for use and access.

Can I encourage wildflowers and pollinators on my lawn at home?

Yes, by reducing mowing frequency and removing cuttings or leaving a patch uncut completely or until autumn. For more advice on how to help pollinators in your garden see: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24879/5stepsforpollinators.pdf>

NESBiP also has a North East Scotland Biodiversity – wildlife gardening group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthEastScotlandWildlifeGardening/>

Managing our greenspaces

for people and wildlife 



NORTH EAST SCOTLAND Biodiversity Partnership





Our greenspaces are changing...

Across Aberdeenshire you may notice changes in the way that some Council-owned grass areas are being managed.

It could be that frequency of cutting in some areas is being reduced or that some areas are not being cut at all and left to grow longer.

This leaflet aims to explain the reasons behind these changes happening across Aberdeenshire and the positive benefits for people and wildlife.

You can also find out more information about management of local greenspaces at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace/>

Reasons for these changes...

Across Scotland, every local authority has a legal duty (under the Nature Conservation Act 2004) to further biodiversity conservation. This means that Aberdeenshire Council must actively take actions every year to support our local wildlife.

Changing the way we manage our grass areas to support more wildlife is just one positive action Aberdeenshire Council is taking to improve our local environment. A Pollinator Action Plan details all actions we are taking to support our vital, but steadily declining, pollinating insects: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24875/aberdeenshire-councilpollinatoractionplan2019to2021.pdf>

Wildflowers mean more wildlife...

By leaving some grass areas to grow longer before cutting them, or by not cutting areas at all, we are allowing our native wildflowers a chance to grow and flower.

In the U.K., we have lost over 97% of our wildflower meadows since World War 2. When our native wildflowers disappear, we also lose many invertebrates, including insects vital to pollinate our food crops, that rely on these wildflower areas for food or a home.

Recent scientific studies have shown that in the last 30+ years, a third of our wild bee and hoverfly species are in continuing decline. These losses focus on our rarer species, which means that we have already lost, and are still losing, some of the irreplaceable animals that you can only find here in Scotland. Once they disappear, we can never get them back.

Losing huge numbers of insects and other invertebrates also has knock-on effects for other animals that feed on them. These include our native birds, amphibians, bats and other small mammals such as hedgehogs who need invertebrates to survive.

Did you know...?

that pollinators play a crucial role in our food and farming industries.

Pollinating insects contribute about £43 million annually in Scotland by helping us grow crops like fruits, vegetables and oilseed rape, as well as honey bees producing honey!