



## The John Muir Pollinator Vision

Over 3 million hectares of wildflower-rich grassland has been lost in the UK over the last 70 years, leading to widespread declines in some of our most loved wildlife. In Scotland we have seen a 54% decline in wildflower species.

Pollinators are an essential part of our natural heritage as they provide free pollination services but the loss of wildflowers has led to:

- Half of our 27 bumblebee species declining
- Two thirds of our moths and 71% of our butterflies show long-term declines
- Declines in over 50% of our solitary bee species

The **John Muir Pollinator Vision** will provide an aspirational image of large, rich and colourful meadows, accessible and directly adjacent to urban areas. A 'B-Lines' opportunity map will be produced that follows the route of the John Muir Way across Scotland. This map will identify where wildflower forage and nesting habitats for pollinators and other wildlife can be created.

We will engage with local communities to identify 10 initial stretches along the John Muir Way where wildflower meadow creation will provide the biggest benefits to their community.

This will provide an essential first step for a much wider habitat creation partnership project. These new connected habitats will help to improve important pollinator populations in the Central Scotland Green Belt allowing them to be more resilient to climate change and habitat loss in our ever changing world.

The establishment of these connected habitats will also provide a nature rich experience for walkers and cyclists, and improve local green spaces and enhance green infrastructure for some of Scotland's most deprived communities.

Our aim is to create Scotland's first B-line connecting Dunbar in the east to Helensburgh in the west. The John Muir Pollinator Vision is an essential first step to identify where wildflower meadow creation will bring multiple benefits for local communities and our declining pollinator populations.

