



Green  
Action  
Trust

# Wild Spaces Perth and Stirling, Butterfly Conservation

Monitoring Report

20/12/2024

# Contents

<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Consultation Scope</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Survey Results</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Conclusions &amp; Recommendations</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5. Appendices</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>A. Poster</b>	
<b>B. Booklet</b>	
<b>C. Survey script</b>	

# 1. Executive Summary

This project trialled a new approach to urban insect conservation and having a project in Stirling and Perth showcased how similar positive actions can be undertaken in other locations. Wild Spaces are places where butterflies and moths can complete their life cycles; they have caterpillar food, nectar for adults, and places to shelter.

The Wild Spaces project worked within some of the most challenged communities in Scotland, including Raploch in Stirling and Muirton in Perth. It placed local residents at the centre of work to help wildlife thrive and enrich their areas.

The project aimed to deliver multiple outcomes across Stirling and Perth including:

- *bring people together in some of the most challenged communities in Scotland and learn about the diversity of wildlife around them*
- *directly engage people in creating habitat for butterflies and moths*
- *support health and wellbeing of participants by creating positive opportunities to connect with nature and their local environment*

To gauge the impact of the project amongst the client group, the project manager undertook a survey (see Appendix C). Although the response rate was low, the quality of answers demonstrated a high level of positive engagement in the survey subject matter and there was considerable consistency in the responses.

In summary, the findings from the analysis of these results shows that participants improved wellbeing, developed skills and learned about heritage. This has led to positive changes in ideas and actions and there was also a consensus that the local area was improved. It is understood that these benefits are in total alignment with several National Lottery Heritage Fund outcomes.

Additionally, the respondents were very complementary regarding the quality of project as a whole and the Project Manager. It was also how noted how the Wild Spaces project fitted in so well with other on-the-ground initiatives supporting common biodiversity community engagement goals. This is highlighted in the following testimonial by a Stirling Council Community Development Worker.

*Darnley Park biodiversity planting in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation has included local residents, primary school and nursery children and is one of many small projects that has contributed to both nature, peoples understanding of the plants they are planting and how taking part in these activities enhances their overall wellbeing.*

*These projects also fit in with Stirling's priorities on reducing and mitigating the impacts of climate change, while helping people and communities connect to the natural heritage of the area. These projects could not be done without the collaboration, participation and resource of colleagues in organisation such as Butterfly Conservation.*

In conclusion, based on the evidence provided, it is considered that the project has been successful in delivering the objectives set out in the project scope.

## 2. Consultation Scope

In total, 210 people undertook the courses provided. The survey was conducted towards the end of the project between September and November 2024.

Due to practical issues, it was not possible to gain survey responses from all participants at the end of sessions and quite often volunteers stated that they were not keen on giving feedback - as they didn't feel comfortable doing so. Despite this it was possible to gain information from some respondents. The findings from the analysis of these data is outlined below:

There were 16 respondents, whilst this total may be considered to be low in comparison to the numbers of people who gained benefits from the course, it is recognised that the quality of the responses was high. In particular, the open ended questions provided considerable insight into the benefits of the project. Also, as is clear in the results presented below there was considerable consistency in the answers provided.

In the survey results, the types of activities and experiences which people were basing their responses on included:

*Reinvigorating and developing the Wildflower area at the school*

*Planting activities at Darnley Park Stirling*

*Bumblebee and butterflies and moth identification*

*Butterfly workshop at the Walled Garden*

*Planting in the Raploch Park*

*Removing saplings from Wester Moss to protect peatland*

*Supplementary planting around the pond at Stirling High School*

*School and community butterfly and moth education and planting sessions*

*Wildflower meadow planting, planting session at Braehead Community Gardens and the open evening at St Ninian's Library.*

*Youth club session at Allan's Primary.*

*Planting at Stirling Community Hospital*

*Advice session for YT garden*

Events were promoted using word of mouth and online posts. Materials distributed during these sessions included an identification poster (see Appendix A) and a booklet (see Appendix B).

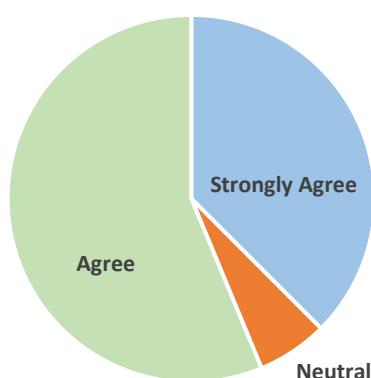
## 4. Survey results

A breakdown of survey results is presented below with brief analysis.

### 1. This activity has supported improvements in my wellbeing.

For those participants surveyed, as shown in the chart below, results clearly indicate that nearly all of them have achieved greater wellbeing. This is one of the primary goals of the project and directly relates to the [NLHF Outcome : People will have greater wellbeing](#).

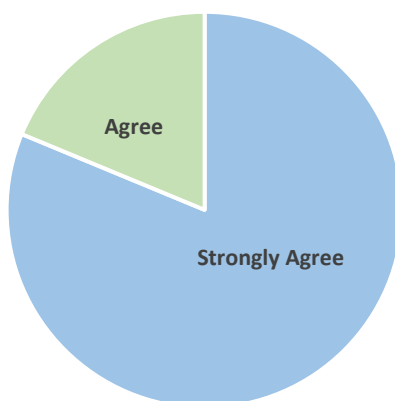
This activity has supported improvements  
in my wellbeing



### 2. I found the workshop to be enjoyable

In line with the finding noted above, people on the courses obviously enjoyed the sessions. As demonstrated in the chart below, over three quarters of the respondents said they *strongly agreed* with this statement, the rest were also in agreement.

I found the workshop to be enjoyable



### 3. Name the things you enjoyed most about the workshop

In the follow-up question, when asked to list the things they enjoyed the most about the workshop, the responses were varied. Some of these are listed below verbatim, but in general the themes emerging from the answers focused upon engendering a feeling of hope and optimism regarding improving local biodiversity and an increase in community spirit. Again this supports the **NLHF Outcome : People will have greater wellbeing**.

*Alice was really knowledgeable and encouraging of questions. She created space for hopeful action. It was great to feel that we could contribute to being part of the solution.*

*The community spirit*

*Meeting new like minded people. Spending time in a new area. Learning about the different plants and how they help butterflies and moths.*

*Spending time outdoors, spending time with others, feeling of helping care for our environment and providing opportunities for young people I am working with to get involved in this*

*Positively changing the space to attract more wildlife when flowers are established.*

As demonstrated in the statements below, the course provider was also singled out as something that people enjoyed about the training. It was evident that she brought a great deal of knowledge and enthusiasm to the sessions, pitching her training manner, materials and approach to the audiences in front of her and helping people to nurture and develop new skills in the participants.

This aligns with the **NLHF Outcomes : People will have developed skills** and also **Heritage will be identified and better explained**.

*Alice is so engaging and knowledgeable. She has a lovely way with her and watching the children learn from her was a delight.*

*Alice ran a variety of workshops with different groups, and pitched them so they were all really engaging to different ages and stages of young people. The sessions were well paced and informative and everyone left with the sense of time very well spent. I'd love to do many more sessions in different places, with different groups, as well as follow up sessions to deepen knowledge and commitment to further involvement.*

*Designed for all ages. Loved the caterpillars that Alice brought along. Hunt for the butterfly was a great idea for the kids*

*I enjoyed learning new things and being able to ask questions to someone knowledgeable*

*Knowledge and enthusiasm of the speaker, engaging activities for the children. The venue was fantastic as was staff involved in the organisation of the event.*

*Learned a lot about habitats and was able to look at the environment differently as a result*

*Learning about different types of caterpillars and butterflies/moths and how their numbers have changed*

*Learning about the different plants which support butterflies, thinking about how we can redesign our outdoor spaces, seeing a number of different pupils getting involved in the planting.*

*Learning how to look after all stages of butterflies' and moths' lifecycle, especially in my garden. Just being in The Walled Garden's beautiful and peaceful space.*

*Really Welcoming. Good explanations and what we are doing, which plant species we are using, very interesting. Time spent outdoors contributing to a good cause.*

*That it catered for children and adults - kids really enjoyed the searching and seeing the caterpillars!*

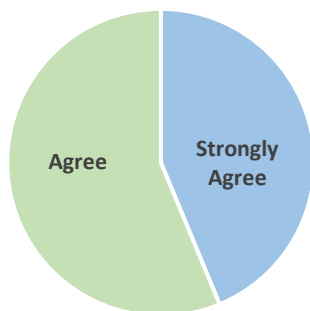
*Working together outdoors with others to support nature in our local environment*

**4. My knowledge of natural habitat potential of local sites has improved by taking this course.**

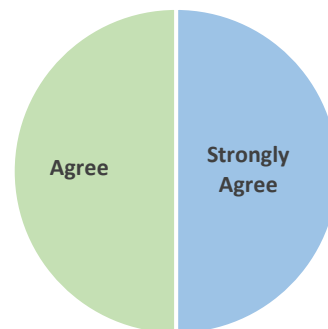
**5. "I feel I have skills which can use to improve local habitats for butterflies and moths.**

Supporting the idea that training has improved the local knowledge base, it is notable that no respondents disagreed with either of these two statements above.

My knowledge of natural habitat potential of local sites has improved ...



I feel I have skills which can use to improve local habitats ...

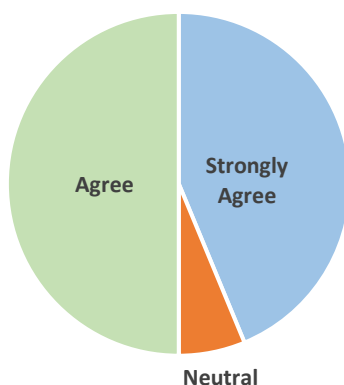


Again, these findings aligns with the **NLHF Outcomes : People will have developed skills** and also **Heritage will be identified and better explained.**

**6. My perception of the local natural environment has change since I undertook this course.**

The response to this statement is again extremely positive, with nearly everyone saying that they have altered their perception of the local spaces around them due to the course. As well as wellbeing ramifications, this is of direct relevance to the **NLHF Outcome: The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit.**

My perception of the local natural environment has change since I undertook this course.

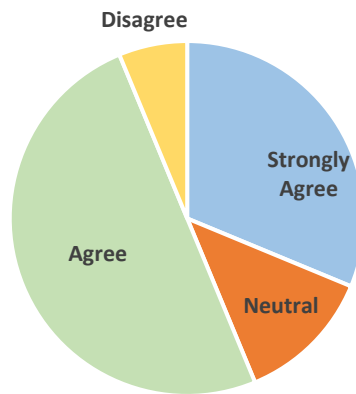


**7. My behaviour towards the local natural environment has change since I undertook this course.**

Gathering data on behaviour change which is directly attributed to project interventions is notoriously difficult. However, the respondents were asked to reflect on the long lasting value of the sessions they attended and their impact in changing their everyday behaviours in response to the knowledge and understanding gained.

As shown in the chart below, in comparison with responses to other questions, answers were a little more mixed. However, responses remained generally positive with strong alignment to **NLHF Outcome: people will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions**

My behaviour towards the local natural environment has change since I undertook this course.



## 8. How could we improve the learning experience?

This question was not only asked to find out what have could be done better but also to gather information to help gauge the local appetite to take the project forward.

Several responses indicated a desire for the project to continue in some fashion. This demonstrates that the project has developed a degree of sustainability – with potential to take it forward – if resources could be found.

*A follow up next year to see how our wild spaces are getting on and if biodiversity has improved*

*Follow up session to see the planting in flower and supporting butterfly and moth populations*

*Having more enthusiastic educators like Alice involved in the project.*

*It takes time for projects to really get established, connected and rooted - it would be really advantageous to continue with the project over a further couple of years, so we can more fully realise the change that has started.*

*More sessions*

*Not really any suggestions but more sessions*

*I'm not very good at remembering the names of the plants so maybe something to do with that*

As noted above the, the Project Manager was singled out as being excellent and integral to the success of the project.

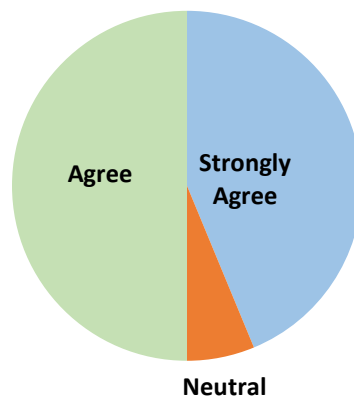
*Alice's knowledge of butterflies and moths was extensive and she was enthusiastic and effective at communicating information to the young people I've been working to develop their understanding and enthusiasm.*

*You couldn't anymore when you have someone like Alice. Couldn't recommend her enough.*

### 9. After my involvement I am more connected to my local space

To help gauge behaviour change, this statement regarding connection with the local environment was presented. The responses were very positive. People clearly feel that the training and support received had changed their understanding of the landscape around them and their behaviour.

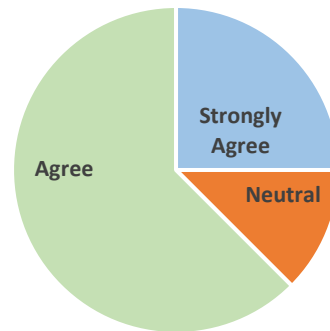
After my involvement I am more connected to my local space



This supports **NLHF Outcome: people will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions**

## 10. I have made a positive impact to the spaces I have worked in

I have made a positive impact to the spaces I have worked in



Part of the project was geared to giving people opportunities to engage with their local environments around them. The responses to this question clearly indicate that this has been achieved. This contributes towards the **NLHF Outcome: The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit** and also **People will have greater wellbeing**.

## 11. Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

This question was used to capture any additional information which was not covered elsewhere in the survey. Responses generally reiterated the positive experiences that people gained from in attending the sessions.

*Alice has been wonderful to work with. I am very grateful for all her support with our community garden project. I feel I have learned a lot from her.*

*Just to say thank you for all the work you all do.*

*really appreciate the support offered to our intergenerational gardening group*

*Thank you Alice!*

*Thank you!*

*We very much appreciated being given wildflowers to take home to plant in our garden - thank you!*

There were some concerns expressed as to what happens next and it is advised this should be a consideration for the delivery team moving forward.

*I would welcome more activities on this topic that involve both parent/guardian and child. Great to learn something new with your children and continue the discussion at home.*

*It's been obvious that long term maintenance is required for the projects that I've been involved in and I worry about how this will happen.*

*The university has a wildlife society that do bird watching and planting. Was wondering if you need volunteers to get in touch with them if you haven't already*

*This continued education is vital especially in our urban areas*

*I feel we're really just getting started and would love for this to continue.*

## 5. Conclusions & Recommendations

Although the findings presented in this study are taken from a relatively small sample size, given the consistent nature of the results, it is possible use the information gathered to make valid assessments on the perceived benefits which participants gained from the engaging in the Wild Spaces Project.

It is clear that many of these benefits recorded are in total alignment with several NLHF Outcomes including:

- *people will have greater wellbeing*
- *people will have developed skills*
- *heritage will be identified and better explained*
- *people will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions*
- *the local area will be a better place to live, work or visit*

Other benefits too including *the local economy will be boosted* and *heritage will be in better condition* which, although are beyond the scope of this participant survey, could be explored if the project continues - as longitudinal research data can be gathered which will help inform whether these outcomes have been achieved.

The overall conclusion is that the project has been a success and, if taken forward into a next stage, there is an opportunity to capitalise on the foundation work undertaken and the considerable momentum created by Alice and the Butterfly Conservation team. If an additional phase goes ahead, there is huge potential to deliver a legacy which is impactful across many agendas including those NLHF outcomes listed above and also wider Scottish Government biodiversity and community wellbeing strategies.





## C. Survey script



### Wild Spaces Evaluation

Thank you for taking part in activities during the Perth and Stirling Wild Spaces project. Whatever activity you have taken part in, we would love to know how you felt. This includes practical activities that help make space for butterflies and moths, gardening workshops, ID workshops and Wild Space workshops.

We would love to know how spending time in nature learning about butterflies and moths impacts your wellbeing. Please let us know you felt after taking part in our activities.

\* Required

1. This activity has supported improvements in my wellbeing.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. I found the workshop to be enjoyable

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. Name the things you enjoyed most about the workshop \*

4. My knowledge of natural habitat potential of local sites has improved by taking this course \*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. I feel I have skills which can use to improve local habitats for butterflies and moths. \*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. My perception of the local natural environment has change since I undertook this course. \*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. My behaviour towards the local natural environment has change since I undertook this course. \*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. How could we improve the learning experience? \*

9. After my involvement I am more connected to my local space \*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

10. I have made a positive impact to the spaces I have worked in \*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

11. Which workshops and activities have you taken part in? \*

12. Is there anything else you would like to comment on? \*

## POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION

Web: <https://greenactiontrust.org>

LinkedIn: [green-action-trust](#)

X: [@GreenActionT](#)

Email: [contact@greenactiontrust.org](mailto:contact@greenactiontrust.org)

Registered Office: Building 2, Buchanan Business Park, Stepps, North Lanarkshire G33 6FB

The Green Action Trust is a registered SCIO (No. SC015341) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).