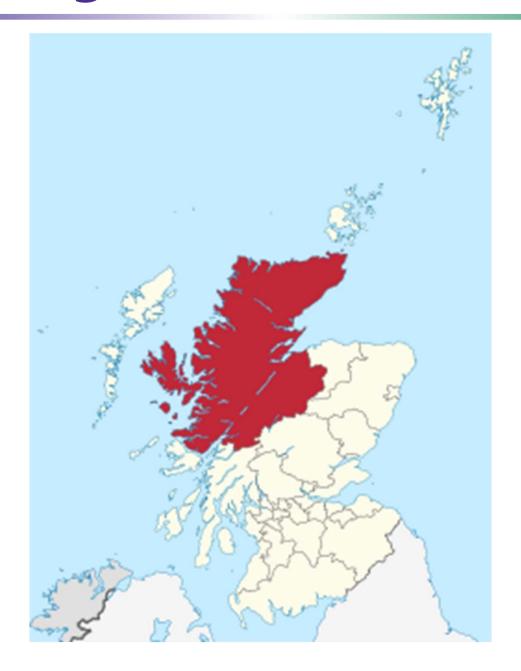


Grassland Management Approaches, Rewilding, and Improved Habitats

Debbie Sutton, Strategic Lead Community
Operations and Logistics
The Highland Council

The Highland Council Area



Previous Operations

- Seasonal staff numbers
- Glyphosate partial ban
- Expectations



Net Zero

- Highland Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019
- Net Zero 2045
- Net Zero Strategy published in September 2023
- Transformational change and embed in decision making process



Identifying Changes



REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT



INCREASING SET ASIDE



IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

Output Specification



balance the workload with the available resources



reflect the priorities of local communities, using a place-based approach for engagement



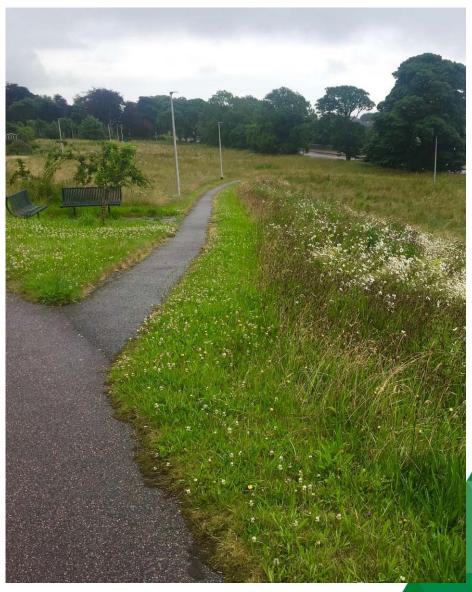
tackle the climate and ecological emergency by identifying an implementing areas of set aside and biodiversity

Rewilding



Increased Set Aside

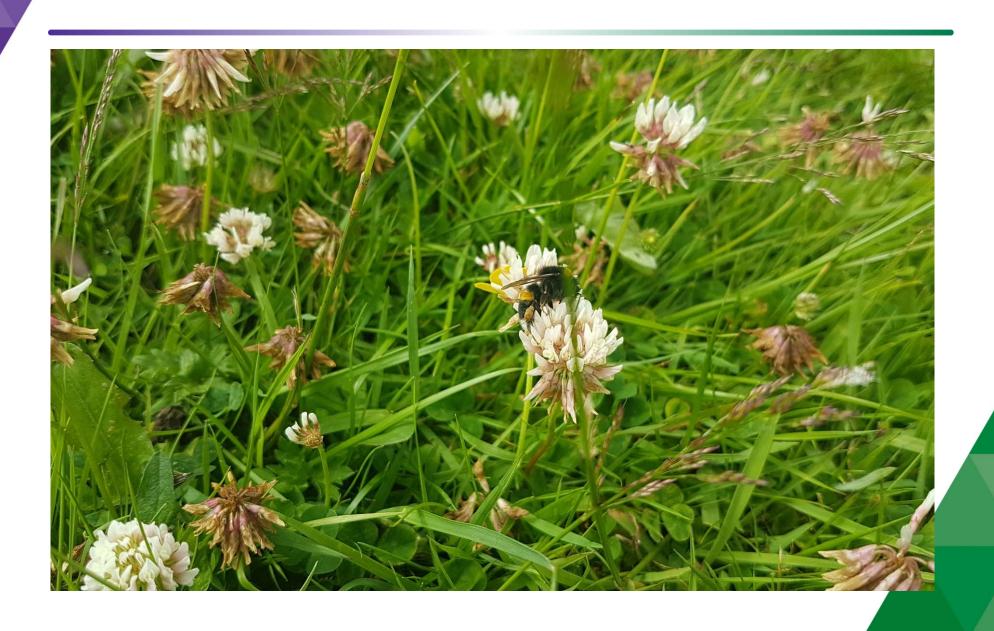




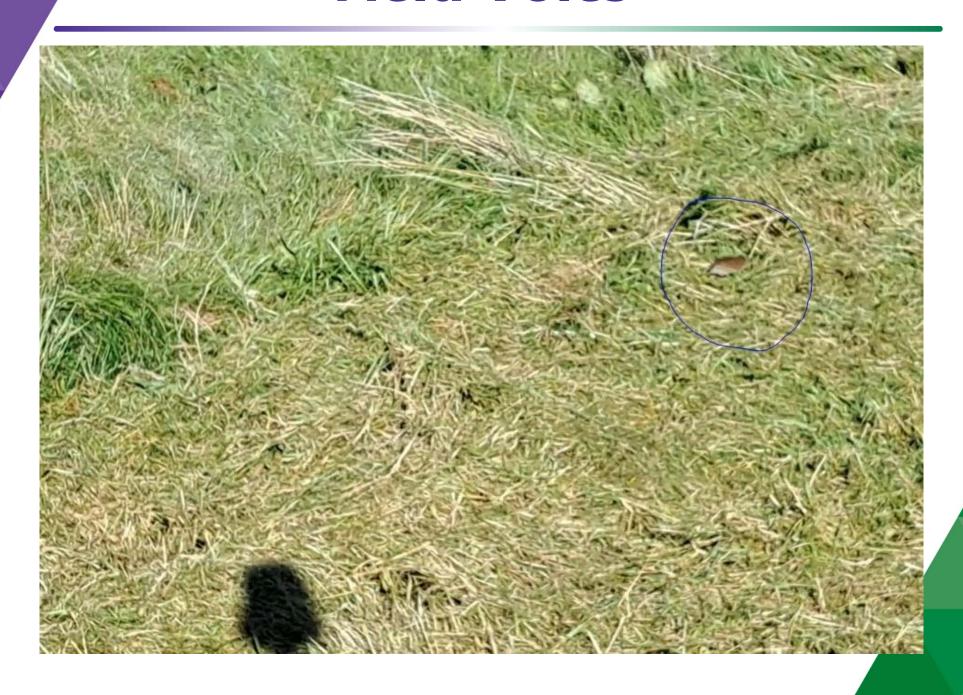
Desire Lines



Biodiversity Benefits



Field Voles

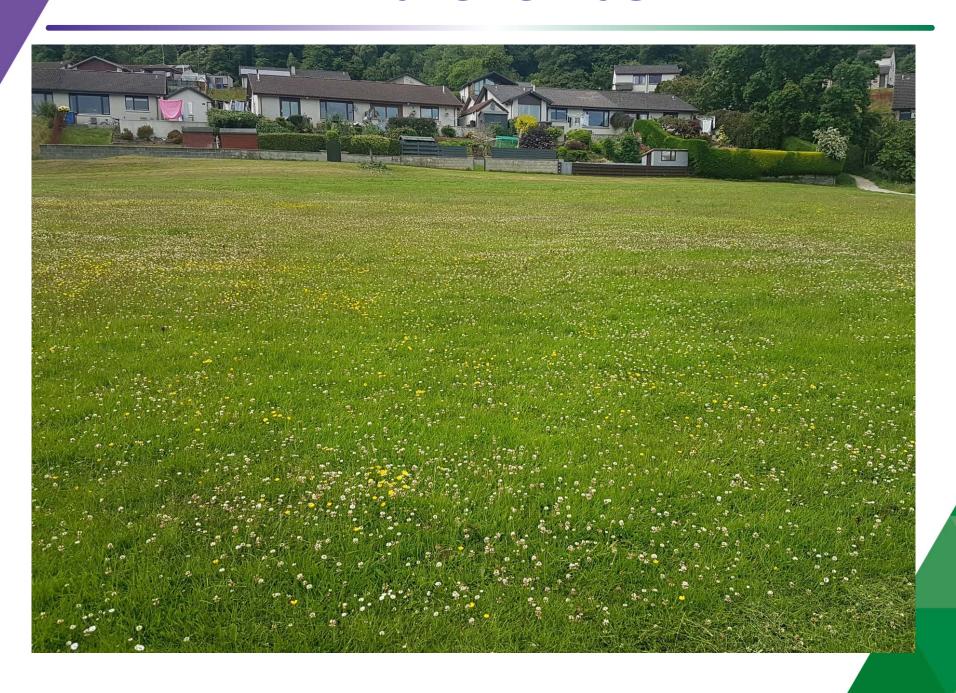


Orange Hawkweed & Cuckoo Flower





Wild Orchids



Signage



Wildflower Roundabouts



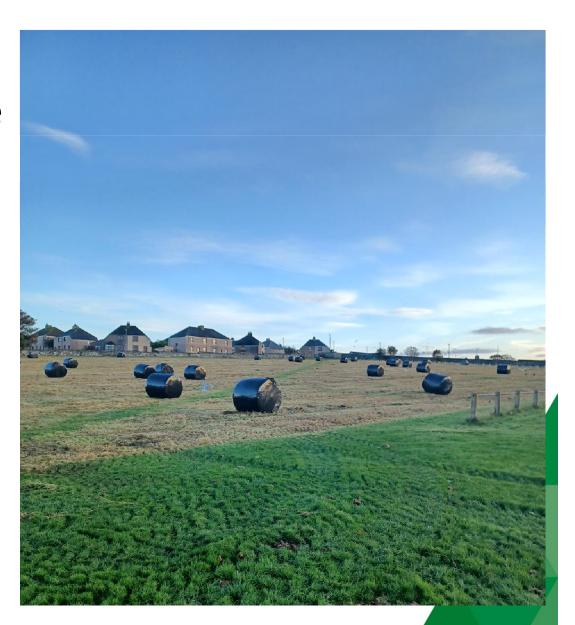
Benefits



- Native species returning
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Increased set aside 92,247m² in 2022, 150,194m² in 2023 and 444,290m² in 2024

Challenges

- Acceptance of change
- Identifying more areas
- Disposal of arisings



Next Steps

- Increase pollinators
- Daffodil/bulb plant areas
- Updated Biodiversity Action Plan
- Electric small plant investment





Thank You



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