

Aberdeen B-Lines

Pollinator pathways in the granite city

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The Aberdeen B-Lines project is a partnership between Aberdeen City Council and Buglife, to help pollinating insects survive and thrive across the City and beyond

The partnership allowed Buglife to apply for funding to work on improving habitats on 13 Council owned sites

A Buglife Conservation Officer was employed for the duration of the project, offering expert advice and engaging with volunteers/communities

Strategies, Policies and Plans



Scottish Biodiversity Strategy -

- accelerate restoration and regeneration;
- protect nature on land and at sea, across and beyond protected areas;
- protect and support the recovery of vulnerable and important species and habitats;
- take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss

Nature Networks

- Connecting nature-rich areas by creating wildlife corridors and building people's connection to nature.

Net Zero Aberdeen – Natural Environment Strategy

- Increase use of nature-based solutions in delivery of hard and soft infrastructure

Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- By 2026 - 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026



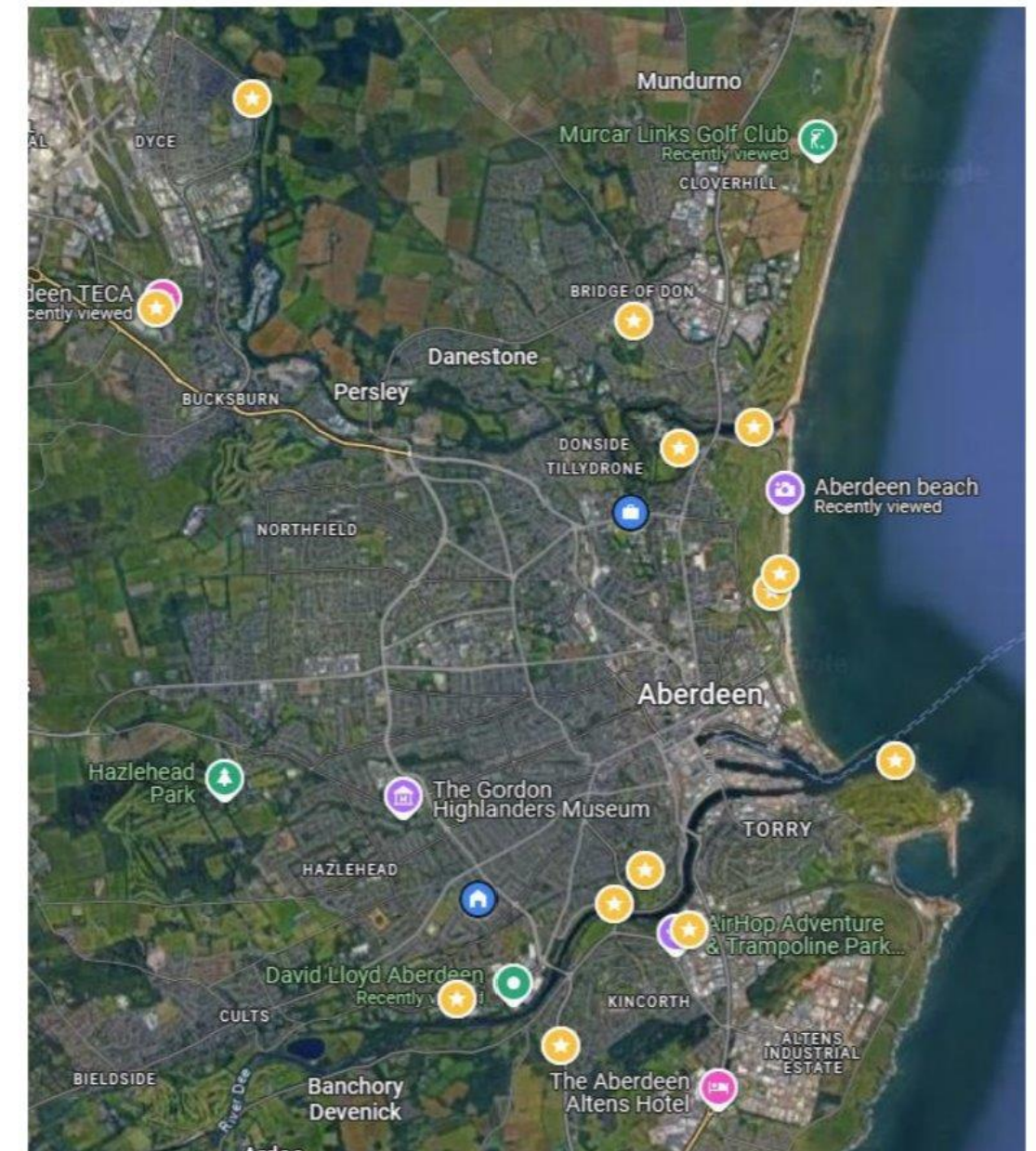
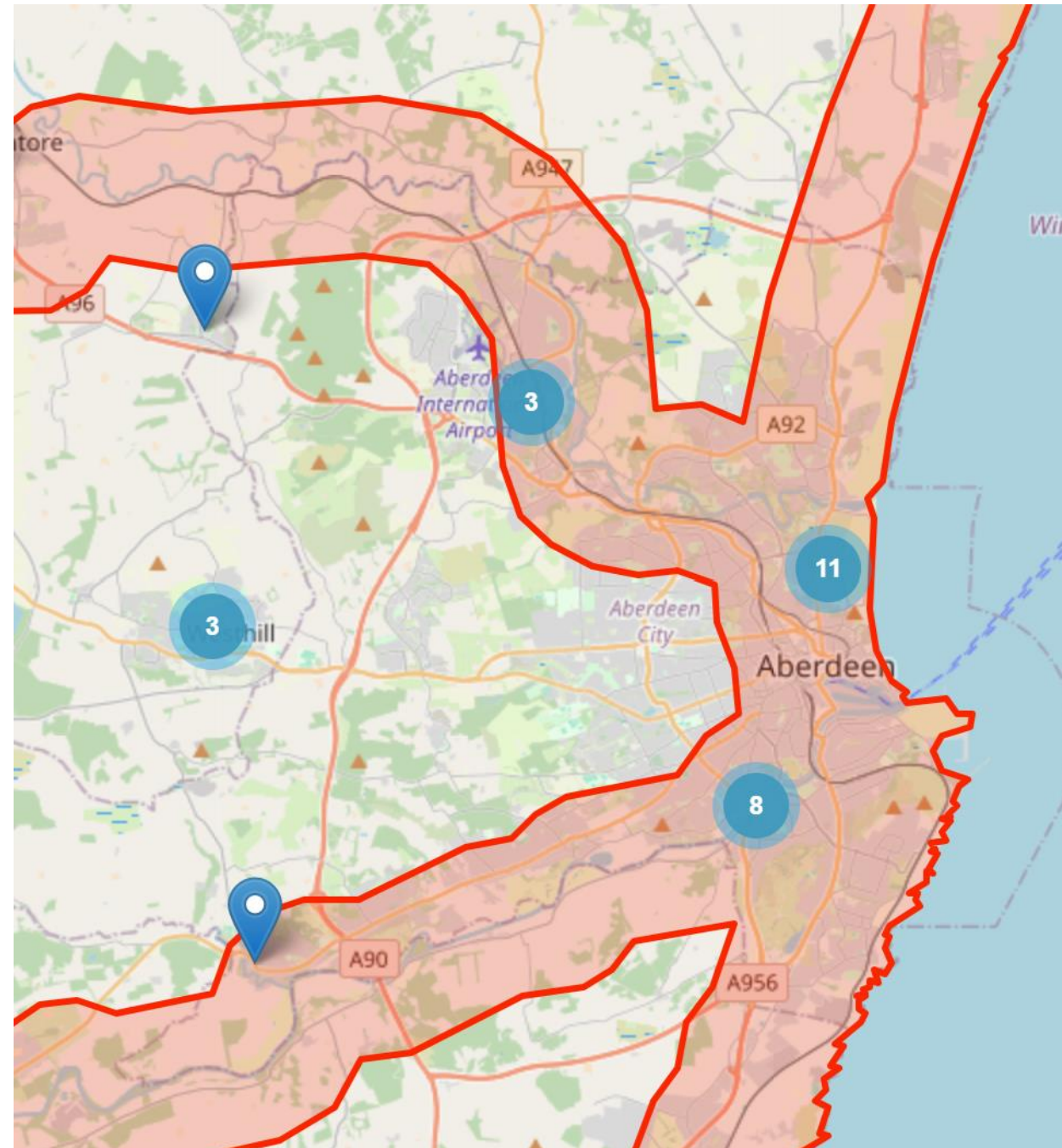
How we did it....

- Formed a B-Lines project team comprising of Council Operations and Natural Environment Policy staff and Buglife Development Manager
- Selected sites through local staff knowledge, along the rivers and coast
- Applied for Nature Restoration Funding and awarded £166,000. Additional funding from Milkywire, Hugh Fraser Foundation, J & JR Wilson Trust & Nimar Charitable Trust
- Buglife employed a Conservation officer to help implement the project



What and where

B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through Aberdeen restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich stepping stones



1 Google map overview showing Aberdeen B-Lines sites indicated by yellow star icons (includes additional sites).

Site preparation



Creating site specific habitats

Local, native seed tailored to specific locations

Coastal meadow mix contained kidney vetch and common rock rose, food plants for small blue and Northern brown argus butterfly



Native plug plants

Some of the plug plants were grown in the city's nursery from local wildflower seed producer Scotia Seeds

Species planted included kidney vetch, ox-eye daisy, cowslips, devil's bit scabious and knapweed



Community planting events



Before and after pictures



Lessons Learned

Biggest issue – weather – several weeks without rain

Short term project - challenging to deliver all outcomes

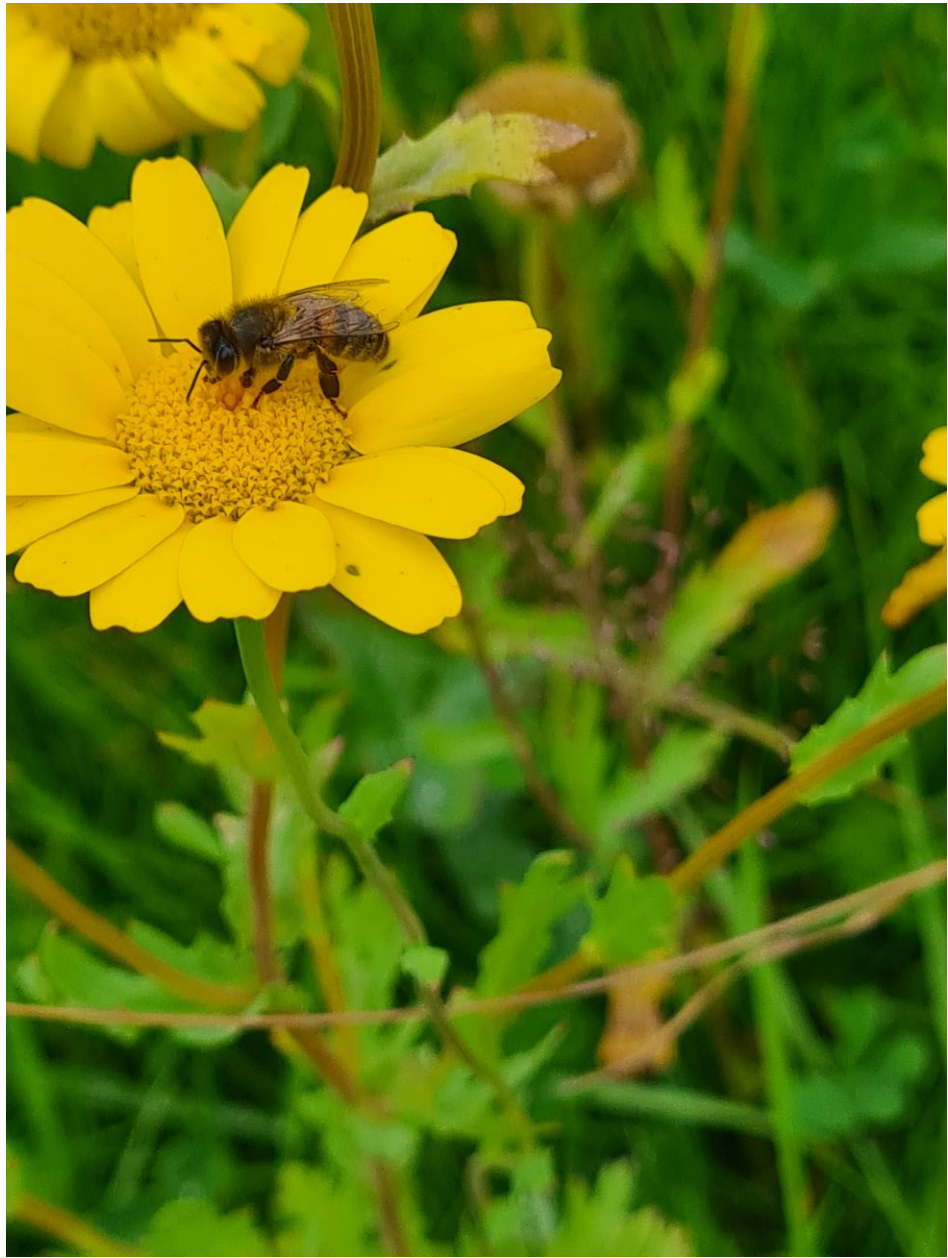
Improve signage to prevent trampling

Communication / maps are key to ensuring areas aren't cut by mistake

Improved interpretation at bee banks



Project summary



End of project

Aberdeen B-Lines

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Aberdeen B-Lines project a success with a legacy for years to come!

270

primary school children
attended bee sessions



© Ruth Quigley

6kg

yellow rattle sown

16

10-year Management
Plans in place



© Ruth Quigley

2

bee banks installed for
nesting mining bees



© Ruth Quigley

12.24 ha

habitat enhanced or
better managed for
invertebrates

190

volunteers
contributed their time

6,700

plug plants planted

2,070

nectar rich bulbs planted

13,720

hours of volunteer habitat
work



© Ruth Quigley

71kg

wildflower seed sown on
B-Lines sites/ donated to
local landowners



What next...

- Runner up in In Bloom's Wright's Sustainability Award
- Finalist for Nature of Scotland Award 2025
- Aberdeen Nectar Network





Thank you