



southern uplands partnership
living land, living community

SUP NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



White-letter Hairstreak: Image credit Iain Leach

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of 2026!

This year promises many exciting new opportunities for people and nature in south Scotland. We are delighted to share three specific positive examples in this edition: **a new job opportunity with SUP**, discovery of a butterfly species new to Dumfries & Galloway (pictured above) and plans to Act for Change in the Scottish Borders in February.

Read on for more, including from our friends and partners!

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We are seeking our new Head of Land Use and Biodiversity - could it be you?



Image credit: castigatio shutterstock

Are you passionate about connecting, protecting and creating opportunities for thriving nature and community in rural South Scotland? We are, and this new post presents an exciting opportunity to help lead and shape our future work on land use and biodiversity.

We are seeking an experienced, proactive, motivated and flexible senior manager with a background in Ecology, Environmental Management, Land Management or a related discipline. We offer generous terms and conditions (salary £42,436 (FTE)), a great team culture and opportunities for career development.

Interested? Click [here](#) to read all the details on our website and download the full Job Pack.

The application deadline is **10.00 am on Monday 2nd March 2026**. Enquiries and/or informal discussion of the role in advance of applying is welcome: contact recruitment@sup.org.uk

A new butterfly species for Dumfries & Galloway!



White-letter hairstreak egg (annotated): Image credit: Ken Haydock and Jill Mills

With only around 35 different species of butterfly found in Dumfries & Galloway, it is not very often that we get to celebrate the discovery of a new one to the region. And it's even more unusual that our newcomer has been found in the winter months! So it was with some delight that our [SWSEIC](#) team received news from the county butterfly recorder, Paul Kirkland, that White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrium w-album* was discovered in the Eskdale area in January.

Keen visiting butterfly recorders Ken Haydock and Jill Mills have been surveying White-letter Hairstreaks for many years, making several specific visits to look for them. They were the first to confirm the species was breeding in the Borders in February 2018, and have been keen to see if the butterfly has spread into Dumfries & Galloway. Finally, their years of persistence have paid off with the discovery of the distinctive flying-saucer-shaped eggs on Wych Elm twigs near Langholm and Canonbie. Like other Hairstreaks, the adults fly in late summer high at the tops of trees and only rarely descend to lower levels, making them particularly hard to spot. Looking for eggs in winter is a more reliable survey technique, but requires skill, considerable effort and a little luck. Well done to both on a fantastic find; hopefully someone will be able to glimpse a view of the adults later this year. Please tell us if you do!

Act for Change in February



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Our Scottish Borders Climate Action Network (SBCAN) team have had a fantastic response to their call out for applications to Borders Act for Change seed funding 2026. All of the available funding has been allocated, and the fund is now closed to further applications.

Funded food growing projects include Lowood Community Garden; Tweedbank Allotments Society; Galashiels Academy; The Stow Community Trust with Stow Disrupters; Tweedsmuir Community Garden; Paxton House Kitchen Garden and Peebles High School.

Projects which will work to enhance the biodiversity of the Borders include Earlston in Bloom; Eat, Sleep, Ride; Borders Forest Trust; Real Wood CIC Studios; and St Boswells Primary School.

Friends of Coldstream Primary School; Let's Eat Better CIC; Newcastleton Primary School; Ancrum Primary School; Jedburgh Grammar School; and Langlee Youth Club have received funding to undertake educational activities about climate change and the environment.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland; Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup; Coldstream Community Larder; Beyond Earlston and ReTweed will use the funding to run repair and reuse events within the circular economy, whilst Survivors Unite have received funding to enhance their garden as a space in which to support mental health and wellbeing.

As part of our own Act for Change, staff from across The Southern Uplands Partnership will be volunteering with Berwickshire Marine Reserve on 18th February.

Even though the fund is now closed, we invite individuals and organisations to join us and thousands of others from across the Borders in taking action for the climate in February! Huge thanks to The Scottish Government for the funding to make this possible.

And finally...calling landowners in Dumfries & Galloway...Are you managing an area of private land for nature recovery?

Nicki at the D&G Climate Hub is setting up a network for people who are conducting Nature recovery activities on their own land. If you'd like to learn more or get involved, please complete the expression of interest form at <https://form.jotform.com/253302099921052> or feel free to contact Nicki directly with any questions or suggestions at nicki@salt-box.co.uk or 07792 788175.

If you would like to support the work that Southern Uplands Partnership does, you can donate at the button below:

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[SUP mailing list sign-up form \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

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