



THE SOUTHERN UPLANDS PARTNERSHIP



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23
June 2023



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DR CHRIS MILES, PARTNERSHIP CONVENER

It is a pleasure to be able to report again that the Partnership has had another good year with our position secured for the next 12 months. That we live from year to year with no certainty of raising the funds required to keep going gives us a certain “freedom” that keeps us on our toes. That necessarily means we have to be opportunistic to some extent while matching the work we take on with the human resources at our disposal. I need once again to commend the hard work of our core and project teams whose dedication makes this work.

I think there is a shift taking place in the way society is thinking about how we deal with the climate and nature crises. For those who think we don't have a crisis in the southern uplands take a look at the recently published online Atlas 2020 by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. The overall message is that our native plants are declining and nearly half have a reduced distribution since the 1950s.



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Species like Globeflower and Mountain Everlasting show moderate to steep declines over that period in the south of Scotland. Interestingly I have met a few folk in the last year who manage land who are looking for ways to help nature recover by looking to restore a more natural composition and structure of habitats in some places. An example is to plant native trees back on hills long cleared of woodland. Another is helping areas of grassland to become more species diverse and allowing seed to set before cutting or grazing. In places, restoring wetlands and water courses is reversing years of determined drainage. This has a benefit for the plants, animals and insects that can use such areas and for building our natural capital. Building natural capital means enriching our landscapes with more variety and that in turn increases the “services” the land then delivers. These include the obvious ability to support more pollinators and more insect food for animals and birds. There is also the benefit to water being slowed as it moves over land and the capturing of carbon particularly in soils. A richer natural capital means richer lives for those that live and work in the south of Scotland.

People who do these things are not necessarily rewilding their whole holding but are increasingly giving nature more space. There are of course the bigger scale landscape restoration projects like that led by the Langholm Initiative and the Borders Forest Trust and the reserves managed by wildlife organisations. More people are also giving nature space in their gardens. Each of these is welcome. They do not all have the same motivations and, in some cases, appear in conflict, like grouse moors and some wildlife organisations. Frankly we need to encourage all approaches if it makes more space for nature and helps our habitats recover, expand and connect and enriches our overall natural capital. Think of it as an investment for the coming generations.

SUP CORE TEAM UPDATE 2022/23

The core Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP) team is made up of Pip Tabor, Sheila Adams, Katy Ewing and Darren Flint and the following summary outlines the key work areas from over the last year to March 2023.

All of SUP’s work delivers on our Strategy 2021-2025 and three goals:

1. Goal 1: Promote integrated land use as the basis of sustainable development
2. Goal 2: Support communities to be both vibrant and resilient.
3. Goal 3: Promote actions that maximise climate and biodiversity resilience

The full Strategy document can be viewed at <https://sup.org.uk/publications/>

The team has had a busy year working on a broad range of rural regeneration and environmental projects, including the development of an exciting upland habitat restoration project and supporting community groups in managing community benefit funds from windfarms.



Through Southern Uplands Partnership Services Ltd (SUPS Ltd), a series of 20 consultation events were delivered across South Scotland for South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) as part of the South Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership pilot and continuing vital work on the Energy Efficiency Supply Chain, working on how to actively address the massive retrofit task we will need in order to meet our carbon emission targets.

Since the core team expanded in 2021, with the employment of Project Officers, Darren Flint and Katy Ewing, one crucial goal has been to use this increased capacity to improve Southern Uplands Partnership’s communication of the huge amount of positive work being done by all of our projects. This has included a greater social media presence and a revamp of the SUP website, which among other things, now boasts a Southern Uplands Partnership Google map on the [home page](#), featuring all the current live projects, each with a geographical tab and, when you click on it, a few more details: image, brief description and a link for more info.



We were also thrilled that our greater public visibility was rewarded when Southern Uplands Partnership was shortlisted and won the **RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards 2022 ‘Nature and Climate Action’** category. We were delighted to have our 20+ years of environmental projects recognised by the judging panel. This short compilation video was made by Carlos Hernan for the awards and features snippets and images kindly supplied by the Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area project, Connecting Threads: Tweed River Culture and South Of Scotland Golden Eagle Project – Go to YouTube and search for the Southern Uplands Partnership page or follow the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtQKRp6P2WA



A massive thank you goes out to everyone that has worked so hard to deliver and support our wide range of projects over the years.



2022/23 Project Updates

Undoing the Silence of the Southern Uplands – Black Grouse Project

Building on research and project development work undertaken over the last decade, the Southern Uplands Partnership, as lead partner, along with support from RSPB Scotland, are developing a five-year uplands landscape restoration project - Undoing the Silence of the Southern Uplands.

This will be a multi-strand project incorporating practical habitat restoration, community engagement and cultural/art activities across five upland focus areas:

- Galloway Forest Park
- Lowther Hills
- Tweedsmuir Hills
- Langholm Moor
- Moorfoot Hills

NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund:

SUP successfully applied for £33k development funding in December 2022 from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund. This will fund 6 months of work to develop the habitat restoration strand and deliver a planned and costed project incorporating a series of practical habitat restoration and land management works. This document will inform the delivery phase funding application being submitted to NatureScot in summer 2023 and hopefully see practical works benefiting black grouse and wider upland habitats/species start in autumn 2023.

SUP, along with key support from RSPB Scotland, undertook liaison with landowners and environmental stakeholders across the five work areas to identify suitable actions. These works will include, among other things: bracken control, low density planting of native broadleaf, respacing of non-native tree regeneration and livestock grazing techniques.

This phase will also include research undertaken by Connicks into no-fence collar grazing technology for both cattle and sheep livestock, a rapidly developing farming technique likely to have growing importance for both landowner and habitat restoration in the coming years.



This project is supported by the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund, managed by NatureScot



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Community Engagement and Cultural strands:

Running alongside the habitat strand will be a community and cultural programme of activities. This is likely to include the development of community uplands action plans, tree champion schools, seed collection by volunteers and various arts focused events. Early conversations have been had with Heritage Lottery Fund in the spring of 2023, and an Expression of Interest application is currently being written.



Images: Black Grouse images taken in the Moorfoot Hills by Malcolm Stott

Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area

Community engagement through direct discussions, talks, events and other initiatives has formed the core of this year's activity, thanks to ongoing funding from Rewilding Britain. In the second half of 2022 we held two events as part of the Talla-Hartfell Conversations series. At the first we welcomed Simon Brooks from NatureScot, who shone a light on the process of defining and selecting Scotland's Wild Land Areas, and Emily Cropton, who spoke on the work she has done for SUP looking at the possibility of creating a UNESCO Biosphere in the Scottish Borders. The second event focused on Communities and Forestry, with guest speakers Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, and Morag Paterson, from Communities for Diverse Forestry.

Work on the Ecomuseum has continued, with more records being uploaded, and we have also progressed a new film about the Wild Land Area. With funding recently awarded by SSE Renewables, filming is about to begin. The other significant piece of work that has recently got underway is a project to map the natural capital of the Talla-Hartfell project area. In March 2023, two community workshops were held (at Tweedsmuir and Ettrickbridge) in a participatory mapping exercise to incorporate local views on actual and potential land use in the Talla-Hartfell area.



Mapping natural capital in Tweedsmuir



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South of Scotland Golden Eagle project (SSGEP)



Translocations

We had a successful translocation season with six eagles (three males and three females) translocated from the Highlands and released from our new aviary location in the Moffat Hills. As previously, this work was aided by Raptor Study Groups and landowners and to assist public engagement efforts, the birds were named by stakeholders and supporters.

Following the successful sub-adult translocation of 2021-22, the project translocated a further three sub-adults (two males and one female) from the Outer Hebrides in January 2023. The birds were released immediately from aviaries in the Southern Uplands.

The progress of all birds released by the project is closely monitored. Project eagles continue to thrive with data suggesting three new territories have been established involving eagles released in 2018 and 2019. Beaky (C11) and Skan (C17) continue as a pair, building a nest in spring 2022 and again in spring 2023.

Unfortunately, in February 2023, Sula (B50) was found dead on the Queensberry Estate. Tests confirmed that there was no definitive cause of death and that she had been in excellent condition. However, survival of SSGEP translocated eagles to date remains excellent. The productivity of resident pairs in southern Scotland has been good. SSGEP has satellite tags on four of these locally produced youngsters. In total, twenty juveniles have been translocated alongside ten sub-adults. The total golden eagles known to be currently in the south of Scotland is around forty, significantly more than the area has seen in around 300 years.



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Stakeholder Engagement

Our stakeholder work continues and is particularly crucial as we start to see territories established in areas where there are competing land management interests. Feedback is positive which is undoubtedly linked to the proactive efforts of this element of our work.

It is testament to the scope and success of the stakeholder engagement work that this year we were nominated for, and won, two awards from The Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). The awards were 'Best Practice in Stakeholder Management' and 'The Tony Bradshaw Best Practice Award'.

Awards

Alongside the two CIEEM awards, the project was recognised with two further National awards:

- Scottish Land and Estates' national 'Helping it Happen' 2022 Award for Conservation
- National Lottery 'Scottish Project of the Year' 2022

Community Outreach

Eagle Schools

This year the SSGEP community engagement team have delivered sessions both locally and further afield, establishing links in Edinburgh and the Western Isles.

We have also turned our efforts towards other initiatives to engage with young people, attending for example the Border Union Agricultural Show Schools Countryside Day.

Eagle Champions

This year has seen the resurgence of the Eagle Champions programme and have engaged 17 groups from across the whole of the south of Scotland.

Moffat Eagle Town

Our second Moffat Eagle Town Festival took place in September 2022.

Talks by Gordon Buchanan, Laurie Campbell and Professor Anna Meredith were well attended. Alongside the talks there were raptor identification workshops, guided walks, meet the falconry eagle, 'paint a feather' drop-in sessions with a local art shop, an environment fair, a family fun day, a fell run and live music.



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E-newsletter, Website and Blog

Our monthly newsletter is now received by just under 700 email addresses, an increase of almost 200 subscribers in the last year. Our website continues to provide a hub of information with regular blog updates, 17 in 2022, following the progress of translocated eagles as well as our outreach work and we have also seen an increase in online donations via the website.

We registered over 140 online enquiries from the public, an increase on last year with more eagle sightings than ever.

The Eyrie: Eagle Information Point at the Waterwheel Café, Philiphaugh and Information Stands

We continue to monitor use of the Eyrie and promote it at all opportunities. We followed a successful series of information stands in 2021 with a Spring and Summer calendar for 2022, held at The Eyrie and other locations. This continues to prove an effective method for engagement and it has also been a useful tool for promoting The Eyrie exhibition and events.

The Eyrie is now also serving as an ideal location to circulate project leaflets and activity books.

Volunteering

As per previous years, our small group of aviary maintenance volunteers supported us in the relocation and build of the structures. This is a crucial part of our annual translocation and we are very grateful for the skills and labour the group bring. In total, volunteers committed approximately 63 hours to aviary work in 2022.

We had ended 2021 with a mini volunteer recruitment drive with support from Volunteer Centre Borders to help staff information stands throughout 2022, resulting in 4 additional volunteers joining us. In 2022 volunteers committed over 100 hours to information stands.

Volunteers again supported us during the Moffat Eagle Town Festival manning the information stand and acting as stewards. In total volunteers recorded 36 hours during the festival.

Talks and Public Events

In 2022 we collaborated with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere to promote the project to remote community groups within the Biosphere area which led to talks in Whithorn, Ochiltree and Glentworth; all new ground for the project. We also worked more closely with tertiary education institutes, visiting three SRUC campuses as well as Borders College. Presentations about the work of the project remain in high demand and an important part of our project work.



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In 2022 we saw an opportunity to promote the project at agricultural shows given the demand for such events after two years of inactivity due to the pandemic. Agricultural shows provide a good opportunity to engage with those working in land-based industries as well as the wider community.

The Year Ahead 2023

With the project due to conclude in December 2023, work is underway to secure funding for an additional year of the project.

Plans for the translocation of juvenile eagles are in place for summer 2023.

We continue to engage with stakeholders across the south of Scotland and the project will also be represented at regular Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) meetings and the Scottish Game Fair.

Initiatives for Community Outreach in 2023 involve: supporting the community led team with the Moffat Eagle Town Festival; delivering more Eagle Champions sessions with Scouts and Girl Guides; continuing with events including talks, schools and information stands; and working on the project film. We commissioned a short film as a legacy to the work undertaken across the previous years of the Project. The film will cover the history of golden eagles in the south of Scotland and the need for conservationists and land managers to work together to ensure their survival. The film will also celebrate the iconic features of this majestic bird and the cause for optimism that it will once again thrive in its role as the elusive apex predator in southern skies.

For more information: [South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project \(goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk\)](http://goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk)

Contact: Cat Barlow (cat@sup.org.uk)

Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG)

DECBG Community Officer, Jamie Dent, has been very busy working with local groups throughout the DECBG area to bring about projects and applications for funding.

The Ewe Hill 16 Windfarm Fund awarded a total of £230,000 in grants to 19 groups covering a diverse range of projects and activities in 2022/23. Similarly, the Solwaybank Windfarm Fund awarded £152,000 in grants to 10 projects over the year. The projects funded covered a diverse range of activities.



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Village halls play a vital part in rural communities and DECBG assisted community halls in Rigg, Kirkpatrick Fleming and Eskdalemuir to replace windows, making the halls more comfortable to use and saving energy thus reducing running costs. Other community facilities supported included Waterbeck Church's solar panel project and the replacement of flooring and furniture in the Ecclefechan Day Centre.

Recreation and sport promote physical activity, social interaction and general health and wellbeing. Twelve of the projects supported included a drainage project on Eaglesfield's recreation ground, play park improvements in Canonbie, new rental skates and equipment for Lockerbie ice Rink, a new mower for Lockerbie Golf Club, a new horse truck for Sport Driving, an updated guide to walking routes around Langholm, a programme of events at Canonbie Tennis Club and an outdoor woodland activity space for the Xcel Youth Project.

Health and community safety projects were also funded. Dumfries and Galloway Blood bikes received a grant for volunteer training and helmets, as did a project by Canonbie and District Community Council for new speed sensing traffic signs in Chapelknowe and Rowanburn.

The innovative Creation Mills project was granted funds for a two-year Project Manager post to promote textile skills workshops and to create a scrap store.

The Eskdalemuir Old School Hub received a grant to employ a Volunteer Manager to allow the Hub to increase the range of activities and support it can offer to the community.

The Langholm Initiative / Tarras Valley Nature Reserve was supported to assist it to renovate a derelict property to minimise energy costs and address the particularly acute issues of rural affordable housing and fuel poverty.

Last, but not least, a Christmas lights project was funded in Kirkpatrick Fleming. This was especially successful in bringing together the community following the isolation caused by the pandemic. Stephen Muir, Chair of the local Community Council commented that, at the switching on ceremony, the village hall had never been so full.

In addition to supporting funding applications, Jamie has been working to make links with potential match funders and running community engagement and funding workshops across the region.

For more information: [Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group \(DECBG\)](#) | [Windfarm funding & projects](#)

Contact: [Jamie Dent \(jamie@decbg.org.uk\)](mailto:jamie@decbg.org.uk) or [Sheila Adams \(sheila@sup.org.uk\)](mailto:sheila@sup.org.uk)



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South West Scotland Coastal Way (SWSCW)

The development of the South West Scotland Coastal Way has progressed well over the last year, with positive steps being taken to deliver this project.

Scoping for routes that would work for the Way has been one of the main focuses over the last twelve months. This has entailed both office-based and on the ground surveys being undertaken to identify potential routes and options that would be agreeable with landowners and also cost effective to develop the route along the desired line. As much as practically possible, core paths have been identified as the most desired route to take, and as part of the survey work undertaken while on the ground, improvement works have been identified that should be carried out, both to improve the condition of the current infrastructure, and to improve the accessibility to enable multi-use paths wherever possible. Full costings for these improvements have been undertaken, using the pricing guide that is produced by Paths for All, with the route now fully costed from Gretna to Dalbeattie.



In line with the outcomes from the surveys, funding has been secured to undertake improvement works on seven sections of core paths, ranging from vegetation clearance, installing seating and improving access gates. Many thanks need to be given to these funding bodies, who are: ScottishPower Renewables Ewe Hill 16 Community Benefit Fund, Paths for All Ian Findlay Fund, FCC Scottish Action Fund and the Robin Rigg Community Fund.

It has been important from the outset of this project to engage with the local communities, landowners, local initiatives and key stakeholders, so that the intentions of the project are shared, and what the project aims to achieve and what this would mean to the places it would pass through.



As such the Project Officer has visited all Community Councils and local initiatives from Gretna to Dalbeattie and started to engage with landowners with various proposals that would facilitate the way passing through their landholding. On the whole this has been greeted with positive conversations and a constructive way forward, but there are also some hurdles to overcome with some landowners to convince them that this would be a positive development for all concerned.

Throughout the surveys, a 'points of interest directory' has been developing, to showcase what the region has to offer, which once the route is developed through to delivery will be another reason for people to visit the region and use the route. These points of interest include built historical monuments, natural features and landmarks that are only to be seen in South West Scotland. These iconic features will also help in securing future funding for the project, and will also assist with conservation and preservation of these sometimes forgotten gems that the region is blessed with.

The aim going forward for the project is to deliver a proposed route to Portpartick, which will be fully costed for delivery, and also investigate future funding to allow this project to continue.

Connecting Threads

Towards the end of 2022, Connecting Threads made a major fundraising breakthrough, with awards from the Community Led Local Development Fund and Creative Scotland, followed swiftly by a significant grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the release of a Hugh Fraser Foundation pledge, bringing the project's remaining funding gap down to £100,000 (at time of writing) for the £1.4m overall total for the project.

This means we have been able to proceed with appointing the remainder of the team, with two new River Culture Animateurs, artists Kerry Jones and Joanna Helfer, and a River Messenger, Aled Jones, who will be taking responsibility for sharing the project's stories and activities. In the meantime, River Culture Animateur Emily Cropton has been running a diverse programme of activity across the upper and middle Tweed, including:



- **Touch Type:** A six-week artist residency, awarded to filmmaker Saul Pankhurst, in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland at Robert Smail's Printworks in Innerleithen.



Touch type – Saul Pankhurst

Touch Type poster

- **Beer and a Blether / Story Bones:** an ongoing series of storytelling sessions and workshops at the Wee Crook in Tweedsmuir, building people's confidence in sharing stories out loud.



Story Bones event

Story Bones poster

- **Reaching Out and Reaching In:** an online Scottish Borders Cultural Forum event, bringing together artist Pat Law with speakers from the Rural Arts Network Scotland, Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament and the Creative Arts and Business Network (CABN).
- **Film Seeds:** supporting a series of film screenings and climate conversations in community gardens in collaboration with the Moving Images cinema caravan, dancer Claire Pençak and youth worker Elisa Smith.





Film Seeds – Greener Peebles Garden Film Seeds – Popcorn

- **Merlindale Meadow Explorers:** a term of indoor and outdoor sessions for Broughton Primary School pupils, exploring a local wildflower meadow with artist and herbal storyteller Amanda Edmiston.



Merlindale Meadows Explorers – Tea

- **The Dam:** an exhibition and workshop programme at St. Ronan’s Wells, exploring the Innerleithen Mill Lade from the perspective of three local artists.



The Dam – Handmade Brushes



The Dam – Walk and Draw



- **Mill Lade Memories:** a reminiscence event in partnership with Go Tweed Valley, as part of a scoping study exploring the Innerleithen Mill Lade.
- **Ideas Become Things:** a community garden design project in Kelso, in partnership with Kelso High School, Abundant Borders and Eildon Housing Association.



Ideas Become Things Mood Board

This activity has continued to raise the profile of Connecting Threads and has established new relationships with community partners, preparing the ground for the new team coming in.

Rachel Hunter has been working on fundraising and will continue to apply for funding to fill the remaining gap, with applications being prepared for the SSE Renewables Sustainable Development Fund, the Sharing Prosperity Fund and with opportunities to return to Creative Scotland and CLLD in future years. She has also been working strategically at local and national levels including, for instance, running Arts, Communities and Place, a collaboration with The Stove, Dumfries and the Creative Arts Business Network (CABN), bringing arts practitioners together to explore the role of creativity in placemaking in the south of Scotland, and developing a new partnership with Scottish Rural Action to discuss the possibility of taking Connecting Threads to the next Scottish Rural and Islands Partnership in Fort William in November 2023. With the full team now in place, we look forward to delivering the full Connecting Threads programme, working closely with our Destination Tweed partners to reach and benefit communities across the Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and north Northumberland.

For more information, contact

Rachel Hunter, River Tweed Cultural Curator (rachel@sup.org.uk)

Emily Cropton, River Culture Animateur (emily@sup.org.uk)



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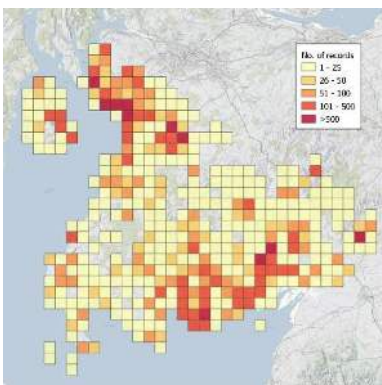
South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC)

South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) is the local environmental records centre for Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire, acting as a focal point for gathering and sharing local wildlife information. The Centre is hosted by SUP and is based at a rural office in Kirkcubrighton.

2022-23 saw the 3 millionth species record added to the Centre's main database of biological records. The record, an Oystercatcher at the RSPB Mersehead reserve on the Galloway coast, marks another significant landmark for the Centre's data holdings.

The majority of records received each year now come from online data entry tools. For birds, these are usually via the popular BirdTrack and eBird apps; for other species the iRecord and iNaturalist apps and websites are now widely used and generate tens of thousands of species records across south west Scotland each year. In 2022-23, almost 3,500 different species were recorded in the region. Plants, moths and beetles were the taxonomic groups with the greatest diversity of species recorded though birds were, as usual, the most frequently recorded species group. Of non-avian species, butterflies accounted for the top five most frequently recorded species, with Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell topping the list.

Well over 1,000 different people submitted records of wildlife in south west Scotland. Whilst bird recording occurs throughout the year, recording activity for non-avian species typically peaks in the summer months between May and August, and these accounted for almost three quarters of all records. The greatest diversity of species was also recorded in these months.



As usual, the majority of records (70%) came from just two of the five Vice Counties that cover our region (Ayrshire and Kirkcudbrightshire). Wigtownshire remains particularly under-recorded, and any records from wildlife recorders visiting these areas would be much appreciated.

Non-bird wildlife records 2022

As usual the SWSEIC staff were involved in a number of wildlife recording projects and activities throughout the region, particularly during the summer months. A spring bioblitz at Tarras Valley Nature Reserve turned up interesting finds, including a moth species not recorded in Scotland for over 30 years.



Working with Solway Firth Partnership, we held a Family Bioblitz and a subsequent recording day at Kirkcudbright Bay, recording 447 different species. Dragonfly ID training days with NatureScot and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) were well received with sightings of several different species at various lifecycle stages.

Mammals at Home

Our Mammals at Home project came to a close in November 2022. This project was established to highlight the wildlife that lives in close proximity to people and communities in the Galloway Glens area. Wild mammals such as Pine Martens, Otters, Badgers, Roe Deer, Hedgehogs, Foxes and bats are seldom seen because of their nocturnal lifestyle, but the project loaned trail cameras and bat detectors to local residents, and provided expert advice, to enable these species to be observed and recorded by participants. The project was supported by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and built on the successful Galloway Glens funded Moths at Home Project.

Cameras and bat detectors were loaned to interested volunteers resident in the Galloway Glens area. The SWSEIC Project Officer visited all sites and assisted with advice and placing of equipment. Bat detectors were left in place for 1-3 nights, trail cameras for up to 3 months, before being collected by the Project Officer. Trail cameras were located at 19 sites and the bat detector at 14 sites within the following areas: Carsphairn, Dalry, New Galloway, Balmaclellan, Crossmichael, Mossdale, Laurieston, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright and Borgue. A total of 21-27 different terrestrial mammal species was recorded as a result of the project; the uncertainty arises as it was not possible to distinguish between some records of Field/Bank Voles and Common/Pygmy Shrews, and between some of the bat species recorded. Notable records included Pine Martens, Otters and Water Shrews, all in areas where they had not been previously recorded. A further 37-38 species of birds were also recorded on the camera traps, along with a single species of amphibian.

A copy of the project report can be downloaded from our website at:

<https://swseic.org.uk/projects/mammals-at-home/>

For more information, contact Mark Pollitt, SWSEIC Manager (mpollitt@swseic.org.uk)

Peter Norman, SWSEIC Project Officer (pnorman@swseic.org.uk)



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Badger



Roe Deer

Next Steps for the Southern Uplands Partnership

As you will have gathered, 2023 has already been busy – and there are no signs of any slow-down. As well as all the above projects continuing to deliver, we have new projects in the pipeline. At the time of writing (May 2023) we are awaiting news from the Lottery Fund on support for a major new squirrel conservation project which will include South Scotland and North England. SUP will be a key player if the project gets support. We are also busy working with communities across the Scottish Borders who want to establish a Climate Action Network which will be seeking funding to employ project staff later this year. SUP has been asked to host these positions. SUP Services Ltd is still actively involved in the Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot work and with the Energy Efficiency Supply Chain and these initiatives may have exciting developments ahead. None of this would be possible without the excellent staff, Board and supporters of SUP, so to all of you a huge....

Thank You!!



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Thank You!

We could not do what we do without the support of our patrons, funders and members

Funders and Patrons of Southern Uplands Partnership



Project Funders

Creative Arts Business Network; Community Led Local Development Fund; Creative Scotland; Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group; Dumfries and Galloway Council; Esmee Fairbairn Foundation; Fallago Environment Fund; Foundation Scotland; Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme; Hugh Fraser Foundation; Individuals / Donations; National Lottery Community Fund; National Heritage Lottery Fund; NatureScot; North Ayrshire Council; Rewilding Britain; RSPB Scotland; Rural Communities Testing Change Fund; Scottish Borders Council; Scottish Forestry; ScottishPower Renewables; Solway Firth Partnership; South Ayrshire Council; South of Scotland Enterprise, The People's Project, The Scottish Government; Tweed Forum; Tweedsmuir Community Company



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