

SPECIES
on the **EDGE**



Working together for nature on Scotland's coasts and islands



Get in touch to discuss
opportunities for your
land with an advisor

Help vulnerable species thrive on your croft

Curlew, Lapwing, Twite, Bumblebees and many other species depend on nature-friendly crofting practices. Species on the Edge offers a chance to support the management of their habitats.

Wildflower Meadows

Increase the abundance of wildflowers for pollinators



Wildflower meadows are grasslands that haven't been reseeded or received fertilisers. They contain a diverse range of native herbs and provide a food source for bumblebees throughout the summer.

Supply wildflower seeds

Bumblebees need more meadows on crofts, and more flower-rich gardens and public green spaces. Species on the Edge is working with Shetland Amenity Trust to create a supply of native seeds adapted to the climate and soils of the isles, to be used in meadow creation projects.

We are looking for 'donor' sites for Shetland wildflower seeds - areas with pollinator-friendly plants such as red clover, bird's foot trefoil and yellow rattle, managed to produce seeds to be harvested at the end of summer. If you have such a meadow, we'd like to hear from you. We can support management and arrange seed collection.

Enhance your meadow

We can advise you on how to manage your meadow for wildflowers and bumblebees, e.g. timing and intensity of grazing and livestock type, or cutting regime.

Funding is available to enable changes, such as permanent, temporary or virtual fencing to better manage when and where livestock graze.

Create a meadow

We can help you select a suitable site and guide you to grow and manage your own meadow. We will cover the cost of preparing the ground and supply locally sourced seeds and plug plants.



Wet Grassland and Wetland

Improve the condition of wader habitats



Farmland waders - Curlew, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Redshank and Snipe - are ground-nesting birds. They favour wet grasslands and wetlands with a variety of vegetation heights.

In the spring, they need safe nesting sites away from disturbance, and abundant and accessible sources of earthworms, leatherjackets, beetles, spiders and other invertebrates to feed on.

Wader scrapes

Scrapes are shallow depressions in the ground, with varying depths and uneven edges. They hold water during the spring and can dry out in summer. Waders and their chicks feed on invertebrates along the muddy edges. Wader scrapes are temporary wet features and are grazeable in late summer.

Maintain water levels in spring

A high water table during the breeding season increases availability of invertebrates. We can help you with measures such as ditch re-profiling, wader scrape creation and installation of sluices in drains.

Create a diverse sward

Vegetation management is key to creating optimal conditions for nesting waders. We can help you define a suitable grazing or cutting regime.

Where grazing is challenging, funding is available to facilitate livestock access, such as virtual fence collars for cattle or electric fencing. We can also give you access to a flail mower to cut wetland sites.

Here are standard options that Species on the Edge can support.
Contact us to discuss suitable measures for your land.

For Wildflower Meadows

Option	Funding available
Create a wildflower meadow	Cost of creation: ground preparation, seed sowing, plug planting
Manage a wildflower meadow	Grazing infrastructure: virtual fence collars (and subscription for 2026), electric or permanent fence Mowing cost
Manage a meadow or strip as a wildflower seed source	Cost of establishment: ground clearance, seed sowing, plug planting Management payment to compensate for delayed grazing or cutting

For Wet Grassland and Wetland

Option	Funding available
Vegetation management - grazing	Grazing infrastructure: cost of materials and installation, e.g.: electric or permanent fence, bridge, virtual fence collars (and subscription for 2026)
Vegetation management - mowing	Mowing cost, use of flail mower
Wet features - wader scrapes, ditch re-profiling	Contractor cost for excavation works
Wet features - sluice	Materials and contractor cost for installation



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