



The B-Lines Update

Issue 5

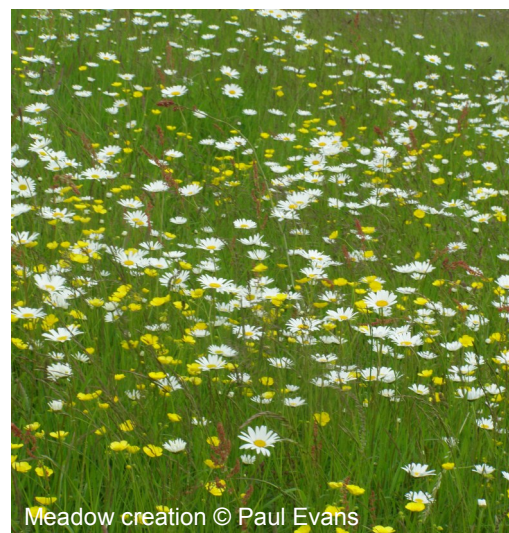
March 2014

Welcome to our latest update

B-Lines: Two and a half years on...

It has now been over two years since we started the B-Lines Initiative in Yorkshire through the Co-operative Group sponsored 'Bee Roads Project'. The first year's work was very much spent exploring how the B-Lines could be implemented, mapping insect pollinator networks across Yorkshire and developing guidelines which could be utilised across all parts of the UK.

Things have now moved on considerably both in terms of the geographical extent of B-Lines, and real habitat work being carried out on the ground. It has been a while since we last provided an update on our progress so this short newsletter aims to get you all up-to-date.



Meadow creation © Paul Evans

B-Lines spread across the north of England

In 2013, Natural England funded an extension of the B-Lines mapping into Co. Durham and Tees Valley. Working with Durham Wildlife Trust and ERIC North East, data sets from across the area were analysed to identify potential insect pollinator corridors. These were refined at a partnership workshop to produce a B-Lines map linking southwards to the Yorkshire network.

With support from the Co-operative Group, B-Lines are now extending into Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. The new 'Coast to Coast Bee Roads Project' is working with Local Nature Partnerships and Local Records Centres to identify B-Lines networks in the north west.



Marmalade hoverfly © R. Smith

And even further afield.....

B-Lines are now also springing up in other parts of the country.

In London the B-Lines concept has been picked up by Bee Collective and a new partnership including Buglife, the RSPB, London Wildlife Trust and the GLA has sprung into action. This partnership is now working on a plan exploring how B-Lines can be created in a very large urban setting.



Small skipper © Richard Smith



Wildflower-rich grassland © Avon Wildlife Trust

And in the West of England, Buglife is working with Avon Wildlife Trust to develop a B-Lines network from the Mendips to the Cotswolds. This work supported by the Cory Environmental Trust in Britain is due to start this spring and will initially run for 18 months.

Keep an eye on our website and future newsletters for updates on these projects.

B-Lines welcomes DEFRA to Yorkshire

Back in July B-Lines welcomed Defra Director Robin Mortimer to Yorkshire to view some of the habitats we are working on. A busy day saw us visiting grassland sites near Helmsley and Richmond, meeting farmers and land managers along the way. Morning coffee and a late lunch allowed us to meet up with representatives from York University, North Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership and Natural England.

We hope Robin went away with a good opinion of B-Lines and an increased insight into what we are trying to achieve. In particular we hope we provided more information on how a better targeted approach to both agri-environment and other nature conservation delivery mechanisms could help provide key connections between our biodiversity hotspots.



Lower Derwent Valley NNR © Peter Roworth

Creating the B-Lines

We are keen to get on with creating the B-Lines network and are currently leading two projects in north Yorkshire, one in Ryedale District and the other around the town of Richmond. Between them these two projects aim to create around 25 hectares of wildflower-rich Lowland Meadow and restore a further 25 hectares. Already one year on we are seeing the benefits of some of the management works, and things can only improve as the grassland communities develop further.

But of course Buglife is still only a small wildlife charity and we need everyone to play their part in delivering B-Lines.



Seed harvesting near Richmond © Paul Evans

Getting Schools involved



Wildflower bank © Rupert Goddard

Keep an eye on our [Coast to Coast Bee Roads](#) Project webpages for our downloadable schools resources.

As part of the Coast to Coast Bee Roads Project we are producing downloadable primary school resource sheets to bring pollination across the curriculum. This will be available on our website in spring 2014. In addition we are providing on-line support to schools located on the B-Lines, providing them with advice about insect pollinators and the wildflower-rich habitats they depend on.

Keep an eye out for these future developments

Much more is starting to happen in the world of B-Lines. Keep an eye open for the following:

- **Making a B-Line to the North East** is a new two year project funded by the JP Getty Trust working with Sunderland City and South Tyneside Councils and local communities to restore and create wildflower-rich habitats in the north-east's B-Lines network.
- New web pages will be developed in the coming months. Of particular interest will be a new interactive map which will allow everyone to highlight their work and activities across the mapped B-Lines network



A big thank you

Once again Buglife would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders for their support and to all our partners who are showing so much enthusiasm in getting involved and helping us closer to making B-Lines a reality.


Can you help?

We keen to work with, and develop new partnerships to deliver stretches of the B-Lines network, both in our countryside and urban environments. If you have any contacts who might be interested, please spread the word about B-Lines and ask them to get in touch with paul.evans@buglife.org.uk.

Thank you.

We will continue to place information on the Buglife website on a regular basis.



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