



Sowing the Seeds of Change

How to
Transform
your Urban
Landscape into
a Wildflower
Meadow

**Sowing the Seeds
of Change**
is a rewilding
initiative of green
spaces led by
NESST, a local
environmental
group, who aim
to increase the
biodiversity of our
area and combat
the effects of the
climate crisis

Why Wildflowers?

Wildflowers act as essential habitats for bees, butterflies, and other vital pollinators that play a crucial role in supporting our urban eco-system. Sadly, in the UK, we've witnessed the decline of 97% of our cherished wildflower meadows over the last century.

Through the collaborative efforts of seed sowing and natural regeneration, our goal is to work with the community to transform species-poor grasslands into vibrant, biodiverse meadows teeming with colour. With your support, we can make this transformation a reality.



Wilding and Regenerating Grassed Areas

During a recent study, volunteers from NESST identified grassed areas and sites that are perfect for regeneration, providing the ideal canvas for transforming them into vibrant meadows. Your site holds the potential to become a lifeline for struggling species, including fast declining house sparrows, and other garden birds, by providing them with the resources they desperately need.

Who are NESST?

NESST is a local organisation of like-minded volunteers, working together to maintain and improve the environment.

Through several initiatives, it aims to preserve and increase the variety and volume of wildlife habitat in the Nether Edge & Sharrow area of Sheffield. For more information visit our website at www.nesstsheffield.org



97%
**UK Decline
in wildflower
meadows over the
last century**

Creating a Wildflower Meadow

Re-wilding a grassed area is a simple process and involves preparing the ground, sowing native perennial wildflower seed, and ultimately very little maintenance. NESST are happy to support you throughout with expert knowledge about suitable

seed, native hedgerows, soil conditions etc, and can even put out a call for volunteers to help get you started.

You may wish to get together to form your own group of volunteers, if so, the method is relatively simple:

- 1 | Begin by removing the turf, including the top inch of soil.



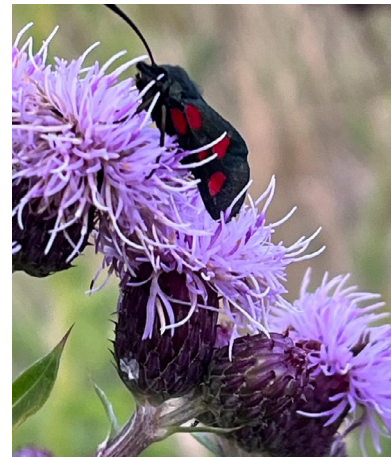
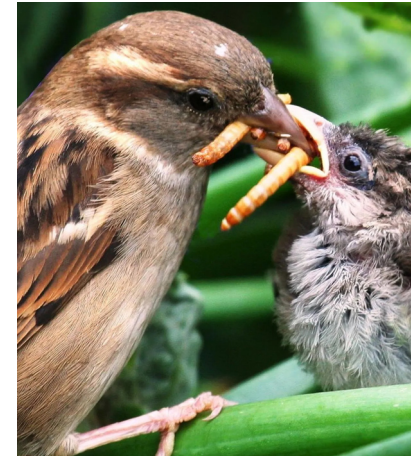
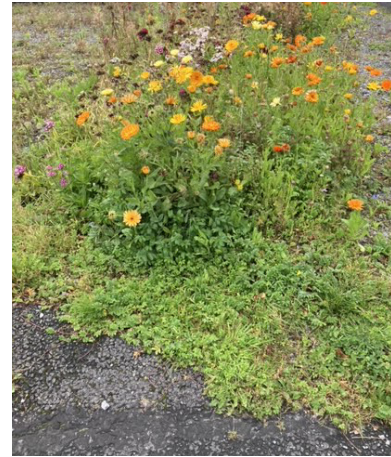
- 2 | Rake the newly exposed soil so it resembles a fine, crumbly texture.



- 3 | Seed the bare soil with a native perennial wildflower mix and tamp down.



- 4 | Water during the initial weeks and protect with bird scarers.



The Benefits

As meadows only need cutting back once a year, the benefits of a meadow vs a grassed area are huge in terms of maintenance. Initial cost is minimal, as you'll only need about 5g of seed per square metre and you'll not only be saving on mowing time and cost, but you'll be playing an essential role in supporting biodiversity, environmental and ecological benefits to our city,

What's next?

We're really excited at the prospect of working together to transform our city, enhance its environment and help revitalise its ecosystem through the beauty and biodiversity of wildflower meadows

A volunteer from NESST will be in touch shortly to talk over the next steps and discuss any points you might wish to raise.