



**THEME:**

Environment

**FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):**

€4,935,983

**MATCH FUNDING:**

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Peatland Restoration; and the Bannister Charitable Trust.

**LEAD PARTNER:**

RSPB NI

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, NI Water, Butterfly Conservation and Moors for Future.

**Start Date:** 01/01/2017

**End Date:** 31/12/2021



<https://bit.ly/2m1wdM0>



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## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) - Butterfly Conservation Update

#### Butterfly Conservation

Whilst the global pandemic disrupted the work of Butterfly Conservation (BC), for the CABB project it also provided an opportunity to catch up on planned capital works on core Marsh fritillary sites.

Work at an additional three sites is now complete, with fencing and access improved to aid long-term management for Marsh fritillary. A fourth site will be completed in early 2021.

Whilst new infrastructure is essential for effective site management, equally important is working alongside owners and land managers to develop and implement five-year management plans that will ensure the long-term sustainability of sites.

BC was delighted to appoint some additional support to the CABB project, with a new member joining the team in October for at least six months to help deliver the aims of the project.

Studies have shown that devil's-bit scabious, the food plant of the Marsh fritillary caterpillar, is not long-lived in the seedbank and some intervention is required to restore it to sites that have been degraded, but that are now being managed and are in improving condition.

In an exciting new initiative BC staff and local landowners have harvested seed and are now working with True Harvest Seeds in Co. Down to germinate the seed and propagate plugs to be planted back on site. Some seed is also being scattered on site and plants are being translocated from adjacent private gardens.

The CABB team will monitor the success of each method of increasing the cover of the plant. High density of devil's bit scabious is key for long-term success of the butterfly.

For more information on the work of the project please [click here](#).



Northern Ireland