Table 1 - Boundary Biodiversity

Hedging Plants	Flowers & Fruit	Benefits
Blackthorn (sloe) Prunus spinoza	Flowers March to April. Sloes in autumn.	Pretty blossom in spring. Jam and sloe gin.
Worcesterberry Ribes divaricatum	Flowers in March. Fruits July to August. Hybrid with gooseberry and blackcurrant parents.	Jam and stewed fruit.
Holly Ilex aquifolim	Evergreen. Flowers April to May. Berries (poisonous) in autumn.	Christmas decorations.
Cotoneaster Rosaceae family (there are 200 species)	Flowers late spring with many berries in autumn.	Visual interest in winter and spring.
Hawthorn Crataegus monogyna	Flowers May to June and haws in autumn.	Pretty blossom in spring. Jelly.
Guelder Rose Viburnum opulus	Flowers June to July. Fronds of red berries in autumn.	Visual interest in autumn.
Firethorn Pyracantha (many species)	Evergreen. Flowers early summer followed by berries in autumn.	
Sweet Briar Rosa rubuginosa	Flowers June to July. Rosehips in autumn.	Rose hip syrup (for Vitamin C)
Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum	Flowers June to September with berries in autumn.	Fragrant flowers.
Dog Rose Rosa Canina	Flowers midsummer; large hips in autumn.	
Ramanas Rose Rosa Rugosa	Flowers all summer and autumn; large fruits in autumn.	Can be invasive, so needs careful management.
Hornbeam Carpinus betulus	Nuts in the autumn.	
Winter Honeysuckle Lonicera Purpusii	Winter-flowering.	Visual interest in winter and early spring.
Bramble Rubus spp.	Flowers July to September. Fruit August / September.	Pies, jam and jelly.
Buddleia Buddleia davidii and Buddleia globosa	Flowers summer to autumn.	Can be invasive, so needs careful management.
Hazel Coryllus avallana	Catkins in early spring. Nuts in Autumn	Good shelter. Visual interest in early spring.
Box Buxus sempervirens	Evergreen	When unclipped, fragrant flowers in the spring.

Table 2 - Biodiversity Benefits

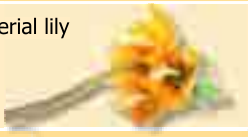
Beneficial Creatures	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
Bats	Males and females come out of hibernation and need to feed well to get into good condition. April- May: females gather in warm places to give birth. Planting a variety of night scented flowers, trees and shrubs and creating ponds helps provide insect food and shelter for bats.	Females give birth to just one baby in mid summer: the young are fed milk. The males do not help to raise the young. By July young bats are learning to fly. Adult bats feed on insects – craneflies, aphids, moths and midges.	Most bats search out a cooler roost for Autumn, but some will use the same roost all year around. Bats concentrate on feeding and resting to build up fat for hibernation.	Bats hibernate - they need cool, moist, undisturbed places, safe from predators. They will wake up occasionally to stretch their wings, drink or move site.
Hedgehogs	Hibernation ends and breeding begins. The young are born in a specially built nest by the female.	Hedgehogs sleep all day. An adult male can travel 3km in one night. They feed after dark on a diet of slugs, snails, beetles and worms.	A hibernation nest is built of piles of grass or leaves beneath a hedgerow.	Hedgehogs hibernate and emerge as the days warm up. If the winter is mild they will need plenty of food to survive.
Blue Tits	7-12 eggs are laid in late spring. On average a pair of adults rear two broods each year. All birds keep pests at bay all year round in their search for food.	Fewer eggs are laid in summer. Adults visit the nest to feed their young hundreds of times in one day. Blue tits feed on insects and larvae (especially caterpillars).	Berries, fruits and seeds are eaten. Plant hedging which contains native species - hawthorn, holly and dog rose; they provide both shelter and food.	Blue tits shelter in tree cavities in the winter. Grubs in tree bark offers essential fat-rich food. They also need berries and grass seeds to survive.
Frogs and Toads	Frogs and toads eat almost any live prey they can find including insects, slugs and snails.	Provide a small pond, bog garden or damp grassland. Remember to add a few rocks or logs in different areas, or leave a wall unmortared to provide resting or hibernation areas.		Frogs and toads hibernate in the bottom of ponds. If you carry out work to a pond in the winter, do not do it all at once and leave the silt to one side for a few days to allow wildlife to escape.

Bumblebees	The mated queen bee emerges from hibernation and feeds on nectar and pollen from spring flowers. She begins to lay her eggs and worker bees hatch three weeks later. Bumblebees are much better pollinators than honey bees.	Eggs continue to hatch and bees feed from nectar and pollen rich flowers throughout the summer. Plant a variety of native wildflowers as well as cultivated varieties to flower over as long a season as possible.	The mated young queen bee searches for a hibernation place, e.g. a pile of leaves, tussocky grass, or an undisturbed hedge bottom.	The old drones, worker bees and queens die at the first frost. Only the young queen survives to hibernate over the winter.
Butterflies and Moths	Overwintering adults emerge from hibernation and lay eggs. Species that over-winter as eggs, caterpillars or pupae emerge later and start feeding on fresh new leaves. Butterflies pollinate a wide variety of plants as they feed on the nectar of flowers.	A time of breeding and dispersal. Some species (including those that over-winter as adults) may start a second generation, but most species have one generation a year. Grow plants with purple, violet, orange or yellow flowers such as buddleia, hebe and most herbs (remember that buddleia is a non-native species that can become invasive). Nettles are the only plant the caterpillar of the small tortoise-shell butterfly will eat.	Adults feed up (often on over-ripe fruit) before searching for somewhere to hibernate. Most caterpillars go into hibernation in early autumn before plants start to die back.	Adults over-winter in sheds or deep in vegetation. Many caterpillars spend the winter in dense vegetation or under the soil. Retain patches of dense vegetation.
Ground Beetles	Slugs, snails, cutworms, flatworms and root maggots are devoured by these busy creatures.		Provide them with shelter under a pile of logs or stones in a corner.	Adults over-winter in bark litter or tree stumps.
Ladybirds	The adult emerges from hibernation and lays her eggs in aphid colonies. The ladybird larvae feed on aphids.	Ladybirds and their larvae feed on large quantities of aphids, mealy bugs, whiteflies, mites and scale insects throughout the summer.	They seek out places in which to hibernate for the winter.	Retain standing or lying dead wood.
Hoverflies and Lacewings	Adults are useful pollinators. Larvae devour aphids, mites, mealy bugs, thrips and other small pests.	Grow plants such as yarrow, poached egg plant, marguerite and French marigold; herbs such as lavender, thyme and rosemary.	Plant yarrow, goldenrod and asters.	

Table 3 - Flowers For Wildlife

WINTER	
Snowdrop	An excellent nectar source for insects (especially bees) coming out of hibernation early
Snowflakes	An attractive alternative to snowdrops (a nice mixture is snowdrop, snowflake and winter aconite)
Winter Aconite	An important pollen source for the first insects of the year, especially bees
Crocus	Often attacked by sparrows and starlings who leave them ragged. Good source of nectar and pollen for bees
Heather	An excellent nectar source for insects (especially bees) coming out of hibernation early
Winter Jasmine (and Jasmine)	An excellent nectar source for insects

SPRING	
Daffodils (most non native)	Not very wildlife orientated; the more natural, smaller varieties of narcissus are better. The value lies in leaving the grass surrounding the plants long for an extended period. The more natural narcissus looks good in window boxes or tubs.
Grape Hyacinth	Very easy to grow; good for window box planting. Attracts butterflies (especially tortoiseshells) and bees - superb early nectar source.
Squill	A pretty bright blue easily-grown ground-hugging plant useful as a pollen source for early insects (excellent under trees or in the border)
Tulips	If allowed to fully open out the flowers are a good pollen source for bees and bumblebees. [Best type - Water Lily Tulip]
Honesty, Aubretia, Columbine, Foxglove and forget-me-not	Butterflies and bumblebees
Spring plants suitable for planting into grass - cowslip (only buy as plant plugs); self-heal, lady's smock, cat's ear, salad burnet, red campion (all native plants)	All excellent for butterflies, hoverflies and bumblebees.
Shaded or slightly wooded areas - Primrose, bugle, lungwort, red campion, sweet violet, common dog violet (native)	All extremely good for butterflies and bumblebees
Damp ground – flag iris, purple loosestrife, water mint, meadowsweet (native)	Excellent for dragonflies, toads and newts (they use the leaves for egg-laying)

LATE SPRING/SUMMER	
Herbs - Chives, sweet cicely, angelica, borage, marjoram, rosemary, mint (all varieties), hyssop, fennel, thyme	Flowers are greatly visited by hoverflies, bees and butterflies
Snakehead fritillary (native to UK, but not to Scotland)	Good naturalised in an urban grass situation. Nectar source for butterflies and other insects.
Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta)	Never plant the Spanish Bluebell or any of the hybridised varieties (which tend to be pink, white or pale blue). Be very careful where you source the native bluebell corms/seed (further information available from Plantlife – www.plantlife.org.uk). Excellent for bees and butterflies.
Wild Garlic (for a naturalised wooded area where the pungent smell is acceptable!)	Good for a range of insects, including bees.
Crown Imperial lily 	Provides nectar for blue tits, blackcaps, bees and bumblebees (a 'sculptural plant' - good in pots). All lilies are poisonous to cats so do not grow if there are pets nearby.
Flowering onions (allium giganteum)	Great for butterflies, bees and other insects – looks great grown in the herbaceous border
Sunflower	Birds and bees
Shrubs: Rosemary; Flowering Currant; Ceonothus, Buddleia	Moths and butterflies, bumblebees. Buddleia can be invasive so site carefully
Japanese anemone; Lambs Lugs; Scabious; Eryngium; Heathers (summer flowering varieties); Rock Rose; Penstemon; Verbena Bonariensis	Moths and butterflies, bumblebees
Moth-attractive plants – privet, crab apple, Tobacco plant, evening primrose, red valerian, sweet rocket, jasmine, honeysuckle, night-scented stock, phlox, soapwort.	Moths and butterflies, bumblebees, and bats
Dry ground - forget-me-not, aubrietia, harebell, devil's bit scabious, coltsfoot, ox eye daisy, corn cockle, cornflower, corn marigold, poppy	Bumblebees
Damp ground - ragged robin, butterbur, lesser celandine	Dragonflies, moths, butterflies, bumblebees

Create a mini-meadow with a packet of seeds:

(1) In the spring or autumn, choose an area of bare soil with no weeds, away from the wet or shade (the poorer the soil, the better) and remove the top 6-7cm of soil to reduce the soil's fertility. Rake it into a smooth surface and sow your seeds. Water it.

(2) Or – sow the seeds into pots and grow on a windowsill or in a greenhouse. Plant out as soon as they are a good size into the mini meadow area you have prepared (as above).

AUTUMN	
Wood Anemone	An open-woodland plant, excellent as a nectar plant for bees and other insects (do not plant the double- flowered varieties - most insects can't use them)
Michaelmas daisy, Ice plant, Lavender, Candytuft, Hebe, Red valerian, Knapweed, Caryopteris	Bees and butterflies
Ivy	Bumblebees in spring, birds and bats (nesting/ roosting) in summer; birds and bats (feeding/ hibernating) in winter
Plums, pears, apples, crab apples	Late food for butterflies, moths and birds. Blossom is excellent in the spring for pollinating insects.
Hazel, Teazel	Mammals and birds
Autumn Crocus	A useful late pollen and nectar source for bees and bumblebees

Peacock butterfly and bees on late-flowering Michaelmas Daisies – © C A G Lloyd