CONTENTS
1. Introduction .................................................................p.2
2. Background ......................................................................p.2
3. Monitoring ......................................................................p.3
4. Future monitoring............................................................p.4
5. References ......................................................................p.4
6. Acknowledgements..........................................................p.4

Scrub clearance at Bankhead Moss
1 Introduction

The Garnock Valley includes the uplands of Clydemuirshiel Country Park, lowland farmland post-industrial and coastal landscape; connected along the length of the Garnock catchment. These habitats have become increasingly fragmented and the purpose of the project was to identify sites along the Garnock which would enhance the quality of wetlands, brown-field sites and grasslands which could contribute to creating a habitat network along the Garnock valley.

2 Background

The aim of work in the Garnock Valley under this action is to improve wildlife connections throughout the catchment on wetland, intertidal and grassland habitats alongside RSPB’s ‘Futurescape’ programme. It includes preparatory work for delivery under subsequent and additional funding arrangements and some on the ground delivery. Seven sites were selected as part of the Garnock wildlife connections (figure 1).

Bankhead Moss, lying three kilometres south of Beith, comprises one of the best examples of active raised bog in North Ayrshire. An ‘active’ raised bog is a raised bog that supports a significant area of vegetation that is still forming peat. Bankhead Moss has remained remarkably free of disturbance associated with drainage, grazing and burning and as such has retained a broad range of typical raised bog features.

Bankhead Moss originally formed around a waterlogged depression in the undulating plateau above the north-facing slope of the Garnock Valley. At one time the bog may have been linked to a large area of what is now agriculturally improved peat soil lying to the northwest of the raised peat (fig. 2). The presence of a watercourse and a railway siding with associated roadways between these two peat masses has effectively severed any possible hydrological links. Bankhead moss is a designated SSSI and SAC for its raised bog and active raised bog feature.
The EcoCoLife project contribution to the management of Bankhead moss was clearing 0.2 Ha of encroaching scrub from the edge of the bog.

3 Monitoring

The monitoring requirement of this project was to photograph the work undertaken.
4 Future monitoring

Monitoring will continue through the ongoing Garnock Valley Futurescapes project.

5 References

Bankhead Moss, Beith Site Of Special Scientific Interest, Site Management Statement Site code: 1660 Scottish Natural Heritage 11.02.2008

Natura plan - BANKHEAD MOSS, BEITH SAC- draft. SNH ref: A2497999

EcoCo - C7 - RSPB Garnock Volunteers poster summer 2015. SNH ref: A2902097

6 Acknowledgements

Photograph of volunteers, courtesy RSPB

Many thanks to the RSPB volunteers who carried out the scrub clearance work