



**LIFE 13 BIO/UK/000428 EcoCo LIFE
Wildlife Connections, Bolfornought; EcoCoLife Monitoring Impact Report. (Action D.6.)**

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(Likely) Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) on Field Scabious (*Kanuatia arvensis*)

1 Introduction

The aim of the project is to improve ecological coherence within the central Scotland area through improving biodiversity at key sites, and creating and restoring habitats between sites to improve connectivity and coherence. This purpose is to improve habitat and species resilience and contribute to wider ecosystem services; such as improving natural flood management and reducing diffuse pollution. The project is a partnership between the RSPB and The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative.

2 Background

Bolfornought is in an area of intensive agriculture close to the river Forth. The project aims were to provide habitat and food sources for farmland birds. 25 tree sparrow nest boxes were installed at Cambuskenneth Abbey and in trees along the coastal defences at Lower Taylorton. Additionally, a 170m species-rich hedgerow was planted along a ditch at Bolfornought farm (Fig. 2), and a 0.75 ha area at Taylorton and Bolfornought was planted with a wildflower and bird seed mix (Fig. 3).

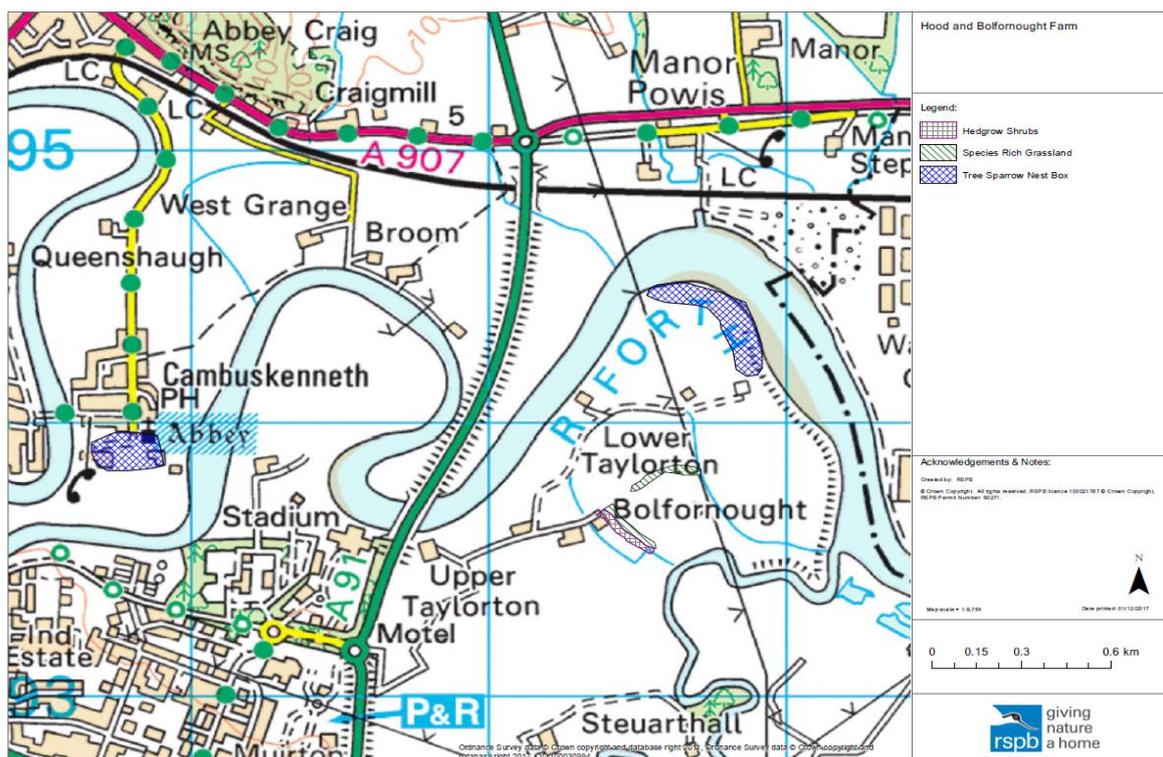


Figure 1: Project sites location map



Figure 2: Hedgerow at Bolfornought

The hedgerow species composition is:

- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)



Figure 3: Peacock (Aglais io) on Phacalia tanacetifolia at Bolfornought Farm

3 Monitoring

The nest boxes are monitored by the Falkirk Wildlife Conservation Group (a group of licensed bird surveyors and ringers) although the area is outside the Falkirk boundary. The enhancements are monitored by fixed point photography by the RSPB under the Inner Forth Futurescapes Project

As well as the habitat enhancements, included in this this project, RSPB undertook at least 3 bird surveys per year of managed sites, such as on farms and golf courses.

Additional to this, in 2014, the RSPB also surveyed the Historic Environment Scotland sites that lie within the project area. Detailed results for each of these HES site surveyed can be found in *RSPB bird surveys; HES report, 2015* as well as key recommendations to further enhance these sites for wildlife. It is the intent that increasing the abundance and variety of wildlife at each site will also improve visitor experience.

4 Future monitoring

The nest boxes will continue to be monitored by the Falkirk Wildlife Conservation Group. The enhancements will continue to be monitored by the RSPB during the Inner Forth Futurescapes Project

5 References

RSPB bird surveys; HES report, 2015. SNH ref [A2126474](#)

6 Acknowledgements

The photographs and maps were provided by the RSPB.