

**LIFE 13 BIO/UK/000428 EcoCo LIFE  
Wildlife Connections, Kinneil Estate; 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

The Kinneil Estate project is part of 'Falkirk stepping stones' (Fig. 1) which uses a combination of green roofs, brownfield and amenity sites to construct a series of habitats and food sources for invertebrates, across the heavily urbanised and industrial part of the Inner Forth.

The 'from Green Desert to Pollinator Hotspot' project (Fig. 2) involved the preparing and planting of a wildflower meadow in an area of amenity grassland in Kinneil Estate; a Falkirk council owned park, which is operated by the Falkirk Environment Trust. See Annex 1 for the species mix composition.

The site was scarified in 2016 and plant with a mix of 25 different species of wildflowers.

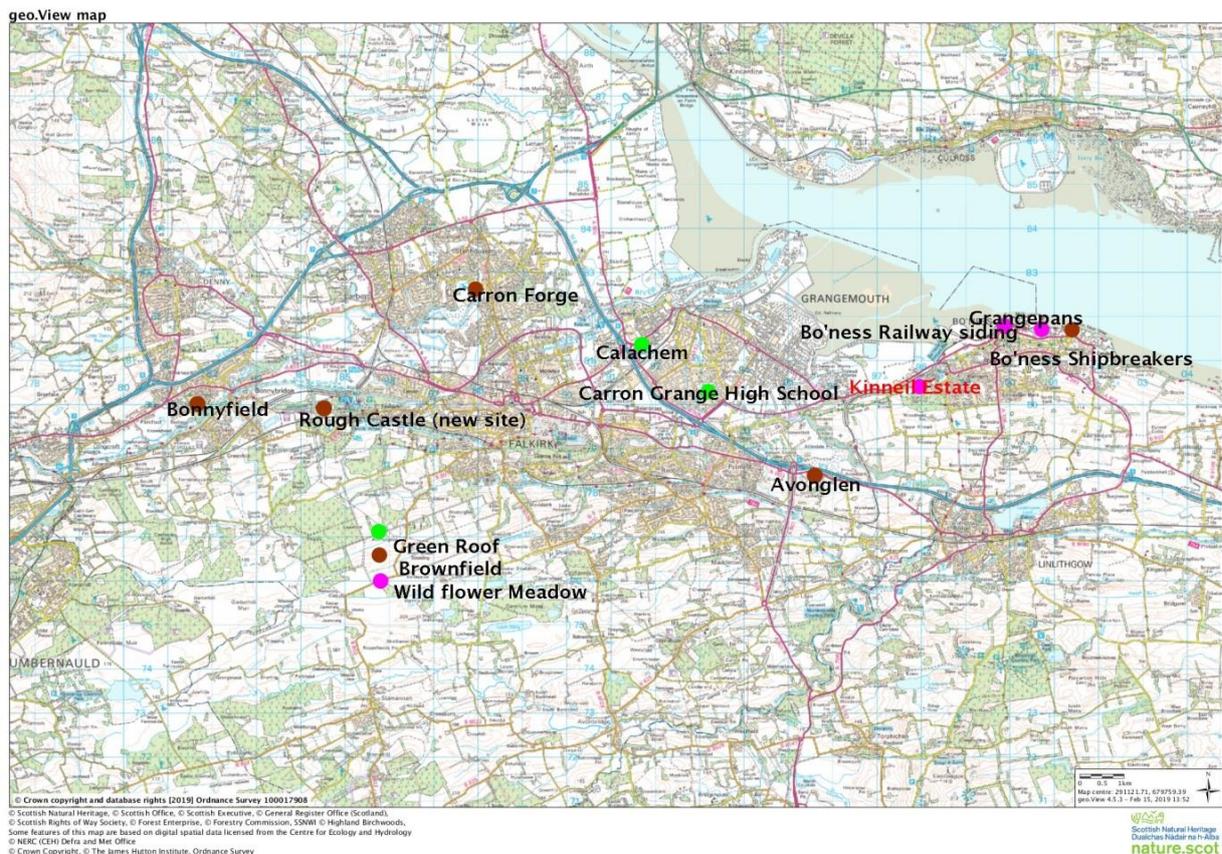


Figure 1: Falkirk 'stepping stones' location map



Figure 2: Kinneil Meadow (2015-2017)

### 3 Monitoring

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 Falkirk Wildlife Conservation Group will continue to regularly monitor the nest boxes surrounding the meadow and record invertebrates on an ad hoc basis.

### 5 References

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

6 Annex 1

Table 1: the species mix and proportions of the wildflower meadow sowing in 2016

Species	Common name	% by weight
Wildflowers (20%)		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	1
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	2
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	2.5
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear	0.2
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	0.1
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	2
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.1
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet Saxifrage	0.6
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	2.1
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	0.3
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	2.5
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	2.5
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	1
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	2
<i>Scorzoneroïdes autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	0.2
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	0.4
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	0.5
Grasses (80%)		
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent (c)	8
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail (c)	3
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	2
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's Tail (c)	12
<i>Festuca rubra</i> ssp. <i>commutata</i>	Chewings Fescue (c)	35
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth-stalked Meadow Grass (c)	20