

**LIFE 13 BIO/UK/000428 EcoCo LIFE  
Garnock Valley Connections, Oldhall Ponds  
EcoCoLife Monitoring Impact Report. (Action D.6.)**

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Replacing treetubes at Oldhall Ponds

## 1 Introduction

The Garnock Valley includes the uplands of Clydemuirsheil Country Park, lowland farmland post-industrial and coastal landscape; connected the 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 habitat 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 (fig. 1)



Figure 1: Oldhall Ponds location map

Oldhall Ponds Nature Reserve is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The reserve is a mosaic of willow carr, semi-mature planted woodland and tussocky grassland (fig.2). The ponds have open water and emergent vegetation that is attractive to breeding and wintering ducks.

The management actions for this site were to clean up old tree tubes and replace tubes on newly planted trees. See Annex 1 for an extract of the management plan.



Figure 2: Oldhall Ponds aerial map

### 3 Monitoring

The monitoring requirement was to provide photos of the work. The cover provides an example

### 4 Future monitoring

Monitoring will continue through the ongoing Garnock Valley Futurescapes project.

### 5 References

Scottish Wildlife Trust Management Plan Oldhall Ponds 2015-2024. SNH ref: [A2898763](#)

EcoCo - C7 - RSPB Garnock Volunteers poster summer 2015. SNH ref: [A2902097](#)

### 6 Acknowledgements

Photo is courtesy of the RSPB

## 7 Annex 1

Extract from Scottish Wildlife Trust Management Plan 2015-2014

Scottish Wildlife Trust  
Oldhall Ponds  
Wildlife Reserve

MANAGEMENT PLAN  
2015 – 2024

**'Habitats/Communities:**

No actions have been identified to improve the quality of the wet woodlands or existing ponds. Scope for expansion is limited by substrate and soils. The Energos agreement would result in a valuable new pond, in place of unexceptional grassland, and new native woodland. The hedges must be managed to promote bushy growth and prevent them just becoming lines of trees. The north one is in an optimum state for laying. Flower and fruit production should be allowed every few years. Further lengths of hedge are not considered a priority as there is plenty of thicket vegetation which performs a similar function and requires less maintenance.

Most of the plantation woodlands are worth retaining for their sheltering function and can be improved for wildlife. The pine block to the west of the large pond, however, is believed to be on sand. It should be possible to develop fixed dune vegetation here by removing trees. The rabbits present in this area may keep the vegetation short. Several trees width of felling should be undertaken, to determine whether the habitat change is feasible. If so, gradual removal can take place.'