

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

CONTENTS

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



Tarryholme

## 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).

Tarryholme is an area of low lying amenity grassland that sits within a meander of the river Irvine (fig. 2).

EcoCoLife's involvement was for liaison with North Ayrshire Council to develop a tender brief for consultants to produce plans for wetland creation on site. A source of funding to deliver the work has been identified and an application made.



Figure 1: Tarryholme location map

geo.View map



Figure 2: Tarryholme aerial map

### 3 Monitoring

The monitoring requirement was the production of a tender brief (see Annex 1).

### 4 Future monitoring

Monitoring will continue through the ongoing Garnock Valley Futurescapes project.

### 5 References

Tender Brief Produced by RSPB on behalf of North Ayrshire Council. SNH ref: [A2898742](#)

## 6 Annex 1

### Tender Brief for wetland creation at Tarryholme.



#### Overview

A previous study undertaken in 2015 investigated the potential for wetland creation at the site, with a particular focus on it being managed in such a way as to alleviate flooding downstream, with hydrological models being prepared for different scenarios. Options included the creation of major scrapes to hold water at peak flows. The study found that this would have no significant impact in terms of flood alleviation; however it was recommended that there be further work to investigate the potential for habitat creation to benefit biodiversity and enhance its recreational value.

Using information from the 2015 study, the new study will provide a more detailed assessment of the site's current ecological and landscape/ amenity value and propose any low-maintenance habitat creation works that could be implemented to enhance it, potentially, but not necessarily through the creation or expansion of wetland features.

The site is overlooked by a housing estate and is well used by walkers and anglers, so it is important that any proposed works are supported by the local community. For this reason, the consultants, alongside North Ayrshire Council's Ranger Service will be required to attend a maximum of two community consultation events.

#### Description of the site

The site is owned by North Ayrshire Council and lies to the south of Irvine and adjacent to the Irvine estuarial river. The area is within a meander of the River Irvine, and forms an expanse of flat land, with a rough grass covering. Part of the site is separated from the river by a bund and is periodically subject to flooding when the river overtops the bund around the site. The site is overlooked by a housing estate, which sits on top of a slope and so is topographically separated from it.

From an amenity perspective, the site is an integral part of a series of open spaces, some of which are actively managed and maintained. The wetland area provides a good contrast to the more formal areas immediately adjacent to the local housing areas, and to the north. The open grassland is frequently used by local residents for walking dogs and informal recreation.

#### Scope of services

The successful consultant will:

- Undertake a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and protected species survey;
- Undertake additional hydrology assessments/investigations. This should ensure that the proposals do not have a detrimental effect on flood risk and take account of the local environment;
- Using information from the above and the 2015 study, produce a landscape and ecology specification, with accompanying sketches/ illustrations;
- Undertake community consultation on the proposals and make any appropriate changes based on these consultations;
- Prepare a budget cost estimate for the proposed works;
- Produce Bills of Quantity, drawings and tender documentation to a suitable specification as to be used by a contractor undertaking the work

#### Outputs

The consultant must provide at the completion of the work, an electronic copy of the report containing:

- Report of site survey, including Phase 1 habitat maps and any protected species surveys;
- Landscape and ecology concept plan

Production sketches/illustrative sections;

- Landscape and ecology specification/ schedule;

- Bills of Quantity, drawings and tender documentation;

- Budget cost estimate.

- Any photographs and maps required to understand and deliver the proposed works.

#### Timescale

The duration of the contract for the Services is:

Commencement – as soon as tender is awarded.

Completion ....

#### Site visit

Following the awarding of the tender, the consultant will be expected to attend an initial visit to the sites with staff from North Ayrshire Council and other relevant partners in the Garnock Connections project.

#### Fees and expenses

Remuneration to the Consultant shall be based on a single fixed inclusive fee of a maximum of ... payable on completion of the Services. Your fee should include for any other specialist deemed necessary to undertake this work. Fees shall be deemed to include all normally incurred expenses, disbursements and travel costs associated with the provision of the Services and shall be quotes EX VAT.

#### Insurance

The consultant must provide evidence of appropriate insurance with the tender.

#### Enquiries concerning the Tender

Any query in connection with this Invitation to Tender should be made to:

Louise Kirk  
Access Officer  
North Ayrshire Council  
01294 324766