

# Black Devon Wetlands

<b>Location</b>	Clackmannanshire
<b>EcoCo Management Zone</b>	Inner Forth
<b>Lead Partner</b>	RSPB



## Site Description

Black Devon wetlands are an expanse of wet and dry grassland at the confluence of the Black Devon river and the Inner Forth estuary. A mosaic of grasslands and pools, the habitats were created partly as a result of a managed realignment project, and partly through removal of topsoil to cap an adjacent landfill site.

## What are we going to do?

RPSB will be enhancing the site to maximise its importance for breeding and wintering birds. The grassland habitat will be managed to ensure its structure is suitable for breeding waders, and wetland habitats will be created and extended.

## What will this achieve?

This site will be a valuable additional resource for breeding and wintering birds in and adjacent to the Firth of Forth SPA. Seasonally flooded grassland and wetland habitats are a vital but rare component within the estuary, and are declining. This project aims to address that decline, and in doing so will contribute to ecological coherence throughout the area.

## Links

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)  
<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink>  
[www.ecocolife.org.uk](http://www.ecocolife.org.uk)

## What is ecological coherence?

The project has adopted an adapted version of a definition proposed by R. Catchpole (2013).

At the scale of the whole network, coherence is achieved when: the full range of variation in valued features is represented; replication of specific features occurs at different sites over a wide geographic area; dispersal, migration and genetic exchange of individuals is possible between relevant sites; all critical areas for rare, highly threatened and endemic species are included; and the network is resilient to disturbance or damage caused by natural and anthropogenic factors.

In order to determine ecological coherence for the project sites the main measurable parameters being considered are; patch size, biological diversity, habitat structural and functional connectivity, ecological functionality and presence of endangered, rare or endemic species.

In essence this can be summarised for habitats as **'more, bigger, better, and better connected'**.

Learn more at "Ecological Coherence Definitions in Policy and Practice - Final Report". R. Catchpole, Aspen International. Contract report to Scottish Natural Heritage, No. 41102

