

Cambus Pools

Location

Clackmannanshire

EcoCo Management Zone

Inner Forth

Lead Partner

Scottish Wildlife Trust



Site Description

Cambus Pools is an area of reedbeds, grassland and open water adjacent to the Forth estuary. It is an important area for wetland and reedbed birds, as well as a range of grassland species. Over the years, reed has encroached into the open water habitats, reducing the diversity of the site.

What are we going to do?

Scottish Wildlife Trust will be working to restore diversity to the nature reserve. This will be achieved through a programme of reed cutting to create a more diverse structure. Cattle grazing will also be introduced. This will help break up the dense stands of reed, creating habitat for a range of species.

What will this achieve?

A well-managed mosaic habitat will be a valuable contribution to the habitats of the wider Inner Forth estuary. The reedbeds at Cambus will be functionally connected with those downstream at Tullibody Inch and further afield, allowing movement between the areas of habitat, and contributing to the ecological coherence of the Inner Forth. Bird, plant and invertebrate populations will be enhanced and the area will also benefit from improved viewing opportunities.

Links

www.swt.org.uk

<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink>

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

