

Glazert Water

Location	East Dunbartonshire
EcoCo Management Zone	Glazert Water
Lead Partner	SEPA



Site Description

The Glazert Water rises in the Campsie Glens, north east of Glasgow, and drains a catchment of over 53km². Most of the catchment is rural, with grazing, arable crops and forestry the main land uses. Steep, flashy watercourses in the upper catchment fall down to the broad, flat valley floor. The river runs through Lennoxton and Milton of Campsie before joining the River Kelvin at Kirkintilloch.

What are we going to do?

The main pressures on the river include a realigned, straightened and constricted channel with embankments along much of its length, hard bank protection and various other artificial modifications such as sluices and weirs. These disconnect the river from its floodplain, alter flows, disrupt sediment transport and adversely impact the natural processes of erosion and deposition. By restoring a healthy river habitat corridor we aim to improve connectivity as well as natural flood management.

We are engaging with landowners and land managers, and working with partners in the catchment to investigate which options are feasible.

What will this achieve?

We hope to show that by harnessing natural river processes, it is possible to sustainably manage rivers without the need for repeated and costly engineering or maintenance. This will ensure our rivers can provide economic, social and ecological benefits.

We would expect restoration works to provide morphological improvements and help with natural flood management as well as support biodiversity and ecological health.

Links

www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/actions-to-deliver-rbmp/pilot-catchments/
www.ecocolife.org.uk

What is ecological coherence?

The project has adopted an adapted version of a definition proposed by R. Catchpole (2013) - <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B1028804.pdf>.

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'**.

The project is developing an *ecological coherence protocol* to help identify the best places to work. The digital mapping shown here is the first stage of a process to help decide where we may want to target landowner engagement and carry out further feasibility studies.

