

Kinneil Lagoons

Location	Falkirk
EcoCo Management Zone	Inner Forth
Lead Partner	RSPB



Site Description

Kinneil Lagoons is the most important bird roost in the Inner Forth, attracting thousands of wintering waders each year. The lagoons were created in the 1960s following the building of a seawall, through which the lagoons are linked to the estuary via a series of pipes. This means that the lagoons experience a tidal flow, with the resultant muddy habitat being a rich food source for birds.

What are we going to do?

RSPB will be enhancing this important site, improving its function as an important habitat within the Firth of Forth SPA. This will include vegetation management, re-profiling pools and creating islands to create bird breeding habitats as well as enhancing the value of the site as a high tide roost.

What will this achieve?

The site functions as part of a much wider network of sites in and around the internationally important Firth of Forth SPA, designated for its wintering bird populations. Development and increasing storm events and rising sea levels have and will continue to put pressure on the SPA, making undisturbed sites like this vitally important as refuges. The project will improve **ecological coherence** in the Inner Forth landscape.

Links

www.rspb.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

