



## A3.2 Bothkennar Pools

### Project Overview:

This project enhanced the wetland habitat at Bothkennar Pools, which is within a SSSI and SPA. The site has established reedbeds, a freshwater lagoon and an adjacent woodland. It is located between Skinflats village and the River Carron at the western fringe of Grangemouth. Following a site condition assessment and follow-up discussions between Falkirk Council and SNH early in project delivery, the scope of the project developed to ensure that it delivered outcomes that both parties agreed to and would benefit the saline lagoon and transitional grassland features of the SSSI.

Over the period of the project, contractors delivered the majority of capital works:

- Clearing of drainage ditches in reedbed area, clearing of bulrushes and reed cutting.
- Hedge planting and maintenance on the wider site to benefit farmland biodiversity and reduce disturbance to birds feeding in the lagoons.
- Fencing installed to limit access to the SSSI and SPA by people and cattle (there is a grazier on the wider site).
- Gates installed in the fencing to allow access to the reedbeds for management.
- Tree felling works to thin the established woodland area and allow light to reach the woodland floor thus encouraging development of ground flora.
- Shrub planting in felled areas

One exception, was the installation of tern rafts, which was carried out by TCV and the landscape management trainees who were beneficiaries of project D1.4. This provided trainees with a unique experience to develop personal and work-based skills in a new environment.

### Project lead organisation and other organisations involved:

*Falkirk Council, contractors, trainees from D1.4 Landscape Management Trainees.*

### Project Location:

Bothkennar Lagoons, Skinflats (Falkirk area)  
NS 91894 82890

### Project dates

*July 2014 to March 2018 (Year 1, then Year 3 and Year 4)*

## Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
<i>Area of reedbed habitat improved</i>	7.6ha	7.6ha	
<i>Number of trees &amp; shrubs planted</i>	500	600	

## *Inner Forth Landscape Initiative End of Project Report*

<i>Length of hedge established</i>	134m	260m	
<i>Length of stockproof fence erected</i>	292m	1,270m	Additional fencing installed to protect trees and shrubs planted and to keep cattle out of woodland and reedbed areas.
<i>Area of woodland managed</i>	1.2ha	0	
<i>Tern rafts installed</i>	2	2	
<i>Pathway upgraded</i>	460m	460m	
<i>Gates installed</i>	N/A	3	Gates necessary to facilitate management access to newly fenced reedbed area.

### ***What difference has this project made to the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Inner Forth?***

Enhancement of key habitats – fresh water and saline lagoons, reedbed, woodland and woodland edge. Reedbed is an important habitat locally as it is relatively scarce in the area. The saline lagoon is of considerable local significance in terms of biodiversity.

The lagoons and reedbeds have formed as the land has gradually subsided following coal mining in the area. The extent of the reedbeds and saline lagoon is very slowly increasing. Consequently these areas will become increasingly attractive to birds for roosting and feeding through time.

Tree, shrub and hedge planting will provide feeding and shelter for invertebrates, birds and mammals. It will provide screening to reduce human disturbance of birds on the saline lagoon.

Thinning the woodland will encourage a more diverse woodland structure to develop. Improved conditions for invertebrates, mammals, birds and fungi.

Provided a breeding sites for terns.

### ***What difference has this project made to people?***

The well-used core path that passes the Bothkennar Pools is now screened by hedging allowing walkers, cyclists and bird watchers to view the birdlife on the pools with minimal disturbance.

### ***Useful Links***

There is a page dedicated to this project on the IFLI website:

<http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/projects/conserving-restoring/bothkennar-pools>

## Photographic Evidence

Bothkennar fencing, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017



Bothkennar fencing, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017



Bothkennar tree felling work, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017



Bothkennar tree felling work, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017



Photos courtesy of Falkirk Council.

## Funding Partners

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