



## A1.3 An Industrious LNR

**Project Overview:** This project further restored an area which was once the Kinneil Colliery at Bo'ness and is now a Local Nature Reserve, into an improved recreational area for people and a haven for wildlife featuring the River Forth foreshore, managed woodland and creation of the largest area of wildflower meadow in the Falkirk Council area.

Over the four years of the project an annual programme of habitat improvements works was carried out by contractors, Falkirk Council staff and volunteers. Work focused on woodland and grassland areas:

- *Coppicing in selected woodland areas to encourage lower growing multi-stemmed trees to grow that will be less prone to wind-blow on the thin soils.*
- *Tree thinning in the areas surrounding coppicing locations to remove windblown stems.*
- *Planting of native species shrubs in coppiced areas to bring diversity into the shrub layer of the woodland.*
- *Form log piles to provide decaying timber habitat for invertebrates and fungi, and shelter for small mammals.*
- *Cut and lift sections of the large open grassland spaces of the LNR once per year. This aimed to prevent woody shrub and coarse grasses from establishing and to keep nutrient levels in the soil at a low level to encourage a diversity of wildflowers and finer grasses.*
- *Sow wildflower seed in coppiced areas to develop ground flora.*

**Project lead organisation and other organisations involved:**

*Falkirk Council, Friends of Kinneil Foreshore Group, contractors.*

**Project Location:**

*Kinneil Local Nature Reserve, Kinneil Foreshore, Bo'ness (Falkirk)  
NS 987 813*

**Project dates**

*July 2014 to March 2018 (Year 1, Quarter 2 to Year 4, Quarter 4)*

### Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
<i>Area of wildflower meadow created</i>	3.6ha	3.6ha	
<i>Area of woodland managed</i>	1.57ha	1.57ha	
<i>Number of volunteers learning about site management</i>	15	30	
<i>Number of volunteers participating</i>	10	30	

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

The foreshore area has Local Nature Reserve status and is a designated Wildlife Site in the Local Development Plan. The island and adjacent mudflats are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and covered by Special Protection Area and Ramsar status.

Meadow management has improved habitat for small mammals, invertebrates (particularly bees, butterflies and moths) and birds. This has linked to other grassland areas in the reserve and adjoining Kinneil Kerse landfill site.

Making the woodland structure more diverse has provided better habitat for woodland plants and animals. Coppicing and thinning has encouraged development of ground and shrub layers within the woodland. Creation of cut /decaying timber habitat has benefitted invertebrates and fungi.

Kinneil foreshore area is coincidental with the site of the former Kinneil Colliery and at one time the whole of the foreshore between Snab Lane and Bo'ness was in industrial use. The site was cleared of all buildings and structures, contaminated ground ameliorated or capped, and restored to grassland. Spoil material from mining activity was used to form the peninsula on the north of the site, where the woodland is now located. The meadow areas are on the site of the pithead, colliery buildings, and other industrial sites. The whole of the foreshore area is significant in the social and cultural history of Kinneil and Bo'ness which depended heavily on mining and industry as the main source of employment for hundreds of years

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

For participating volunteers from the Friends of Kinneil Foreshore group, this has been an educational opportunity to learn about meadow and woodland management.

The LNR site and Foreshore is a very well used site for recreation as it is within walking distance of Kinneil and Bo'ness, and the work carried out through this project has diversified user experiences. Site users should be able to experience a greater diversity of wildlife as the meadows and woodlands develop, and in the first few years of this project will have seen large expanses of wildflower meadows in bloom. Reduction in the quantity of wind-blown trees has made the rides through the woodland safer and more accessible.

Councillor Adrian Mahoney, Falkirk Council's spokesman for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, said: "This green space will become a haven for wildlife and showcase how ex-industrial land can be reclaimed for nature."

### ***Useful Links***

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

<http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/projects/conserving-restoring/an-industrious-lnr>

The Friends of Kinneil also hold information about the foreshore area and their volunteer work here:

<https://kinneil.org/>

## Photographic Evidence

*Kinneil meadow cut, 2015.*



*Felling and chipping in Kinneil Block 2, 2018.*



*Kinneil meadow raking, 2015.*



*Felling and chipping in Kinneil Block 4, 2018.*



*Photos courtesy of Falkirk Council.*

## Funding Partners

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