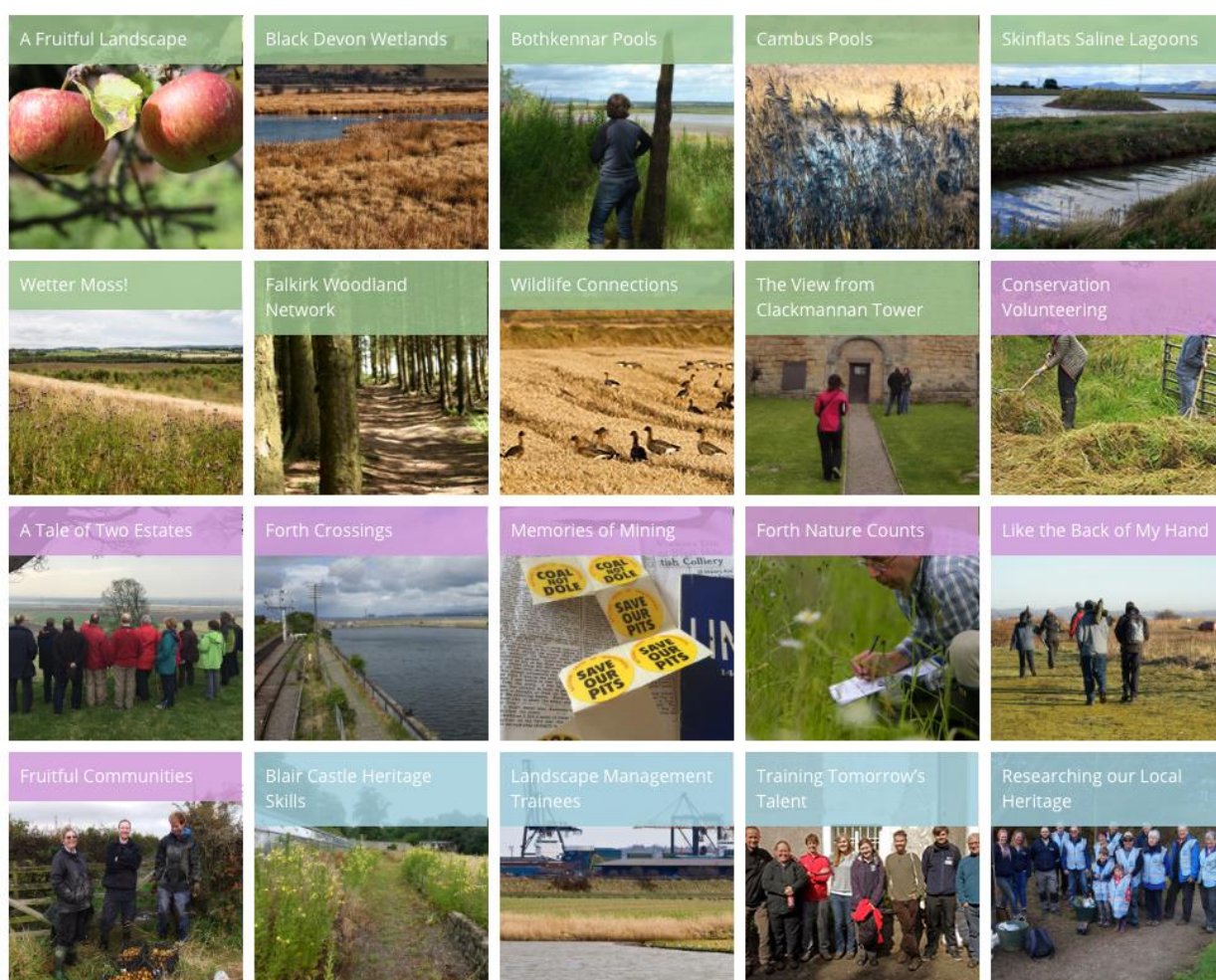




Inner Forth Landscape Initiative

Final Evaluation - Summary



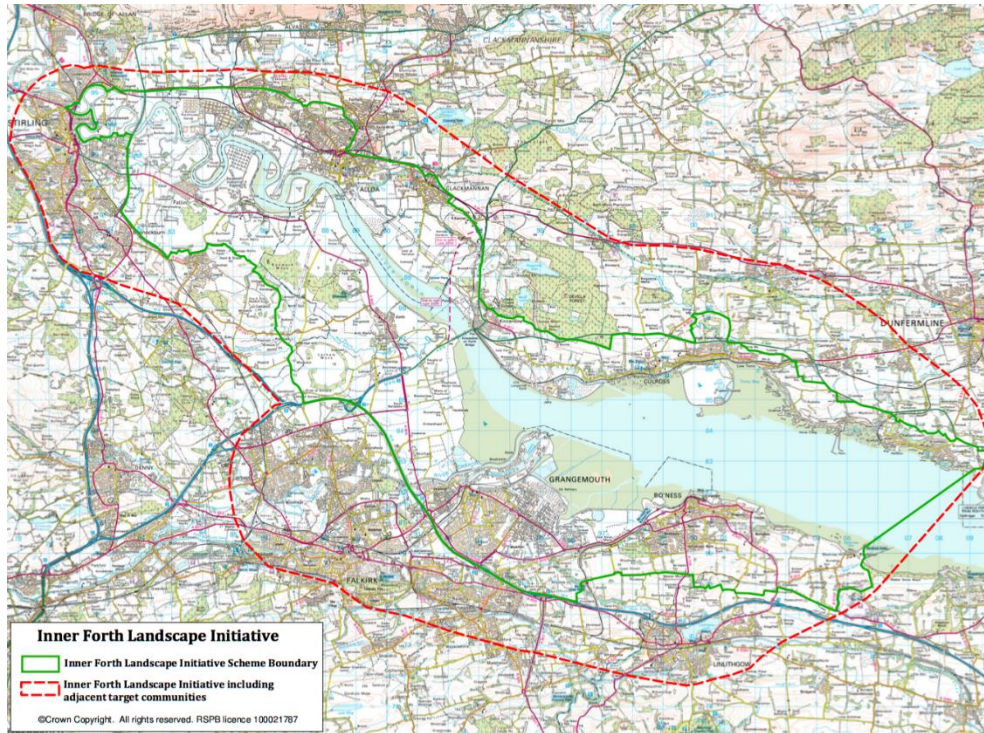
A selection of project photos from the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative website, www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk

Final version ~ September 2018

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The Inner Forth landscape area

The Firth of Forth is the central and dominant feature of the landscape. Not only is it at the centre of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) partnership scheme area, but the cultural history, land use and landscape of the area are physically, visually and strategically linked with the River Forth. The Landscape Partnership Scheme covered an area of 202 km² including: the river, estuary and inter-tidal zone; the floodplain and coastal margins; and the settlements on both sides of the Forth from the historic Old Stirling Bridge to Blackness Castle and Rosyth.



Map showing boundary of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative and wider adjacent communities

At the outset of programme delivery, it was the ambition of IFLI to act as a catalyst for sustained and coordinated investment in the area and that the projects developed and delivered through the landscape partnership between 2014 and 2018 would:

- turn perceptions of the Inner Forth around and increase local pride in this place,
- connect disparate habitats to create a landscape flourishing with biodiversity,
- celebrate, protect and improve access to important historical and natural features,
- train and support committed and motivated local community groups, individuals and organisations to take action to conserve their area's heritage, and
- increase physical and intellectual access to the area's important heritage.

The IFLI partnership consisted of eight formal partners and worked with a range of other agencies, groups, organisations and volunteers around the landscape:



The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative at a glance

The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) is a landscape partnership scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund delivered over a 4½-year period between March 2014 and September 2018 to enhance, restore and celebrate the landscape of the Inner Forth in Scotland. From the project planning phase, the IFLI partnership set a number of challenging output targets and all of these have been achieved or in many cases exceeded.

From March 2014 to completion of this evaluation at the end of August 2018, the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative can celebrate:

- **54 projects** delivering a **£4.1 million investment** in the Inner Forth landscape area
- **127 ha of biodiversity and landscape** areas have been enhanced and maintained
- **7 km of landscape features** have been maintained
- **15½ km** of footpaths, trails and routes developed with **105 way markers, fingerposts and bridges** improving the access to the area
- **10 built heritage and industrial** features recorded and interpreted
- **13,000+** records of biodiversity and heritage features created with **2,000+ records uploaded** to national databases
- **5,000+ participants** involved in **400+ learning and participation** activities
- **850+ local school** pupils engaged
- **1,000+ volunteers** delivering **£225K worth of volunteer time**
- **155 training courses** for **631 participants**
- Being the catalyst for **54+ jobs** with **233 individual training accreditations and qualifications** achieved
- **121 different pieces of interpretation** and communication to help promote the area
- **Nominated, shortlisted or highly commended** for work conducted by the partnership by **6 national awards schemes**
- **An additional £207K worth of activity** including **£100K additional funding** that was not anticipated at the scheme outset

Demonstrating success ~ project delivery as a strategic partnership

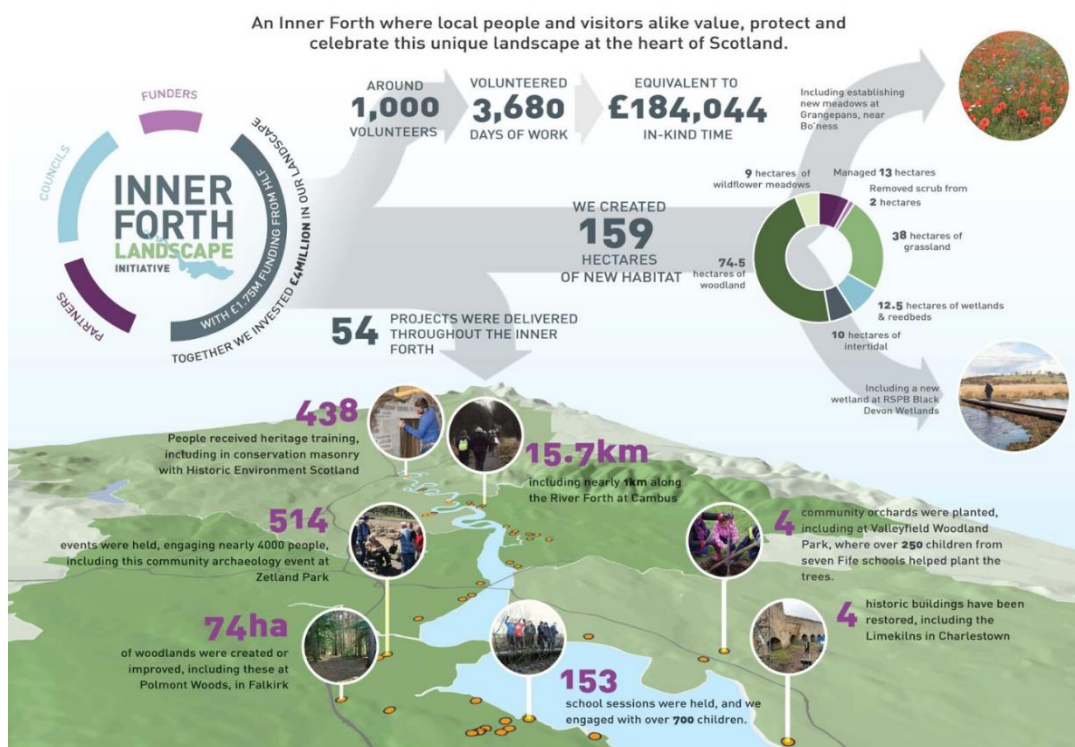
Since 2008, the Countryside Training Partnership has been lucky enough to work with over 30 different landscape partnerships at different stages of development and delivery throughout the United Kingdom. From our observations, discussions and assessment of the information presented within this evaluation, the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative demonstrates one of the best, if not the best, example of a partnership working together that we have encountered.

In addition to the project delivery on the ground, there is evidence that IFLI has been able to:

- Deliver against partners organisational and strategic priorities
- Act as a catalyst for additional activity within the landscape partnership area
- Become a good practice exemplar in national policy and partner activity
- Promote the Inner Forth landscape partnership area
- Seek recognition for the activities and approach of the partnership
- See the landscape partnership scheme as a starting point and demonstrate a desire to carry on working together

The large number of projects that were to be delivered as envisaged in the LCAP could have been one of the potential weaknesses of the scheme but this has been turned into a strength by the IFLI team, steering group and partnership board by having a diversity of project type and a wide variety of delivery partners encouraging partnership working.

Some of the information collated including the scheme infographic, the return on investment reports, the partner annual review of achievements and the end of project report forms are all examples of best practice that should be disseminated amongst partners, relevant networks and considered for adoption by other complex, multi layered partnership programmes.



Outputs achieved to August 2018

The Inner Forth Landscape initiative has delivered the following improvements to the natural, cultural and built heritage:

Access

15½ km of new and improved footpaths and other routes
105 way markers, fingerposts, benches and bridges improving the infrastructure of the area
121 pieces of interpretation and promotion including 28 films on the IFLI You Tube channel

Advice

1 land management advisory event with 37 attendees
30 biodiversity surveys to influence land management
14 historical and archaeological surveys
2,040 biological records uploaded to the National Biodiversity Network with 13,625 created
200 site records updated as Canmore entries

Biodiversity and Landscape

127 ha of landscape positively managed including¹:

- 48 ha of woodland managed or created
- 47 ha of grassland & wildflower meadow managed or created
- 24 ha of wetland and intertidal habitat enhanced or created
- 4 ha of scrub managed
- 4 ha of brownfield site managed for biodiversity

7 km of landscape features maintained and improved plus

- 445 m² of green roof
- 18 orchards restored or created
- 1700 trees planted
- 176 nest boxes including 18 tawny owl and 17 kestrel boxes
- 4 tern rafts installed
- 2 deer gates

Built Heritage

4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments conserved, repaired and with long term conservation plans
3 historic features exposed and consolidated
1 church/chapel repaired
1 archaeological investigation of site

Employment

5 internal jobs created
39+ individuals entering paid employment or work trials following training programmes
10 individuals progressing to modern apprenticeships

¹ In preparing the final evaluation an error was discovered between the 159ha of landscape impact in the infographic (p4) and the 127ha figure referenced here. The amount of woodland managed was nearer 48ha not 74ha as identified in the image on page 4...

Industrial, Maritime and Transport Features

11.4 km of historic sea walls and lade systems surveyed
5 surveys of historic wagon ways
2 historic dockyards, harbours researched and recorded
1 unknown ford and causeway identified

Participation and Learning

5,000+ participants involved in 400+ learning and participation activities made up of:

- 374 events, workshops, guided walks and celebrations with 4,100+ participants
- 28 communities worked with
- 56 schools worked with
- 847 school children engaged
- 1 Landscape Partnership practitioner conference with 80 participants

Training and Skills

155 training courses for 631 participants
233 training accreditations and qualifications achieved

Volunteers

1,061 volunteers have been engaged in the landscape partnership scheme

What next ~ the energy and desire to carry on

There is an overwhelming desire from all partners to continue working together, building on the achievements to date and to keep working at a landscape scale. Moving forwards, it is recognised that there is a need to have 'grounded realism' and acknowledge that things will be different in the next phase of delivery.

For the partnership, careful thought is required as to where future work is targeted and which criteria are to be used in the development of new project activity. It will be important to recognise and communicate that there will be two elements of legacy.

- 1. At the Scheme level** ~ where it will be important to build upon and learn from previous marketing initiatives and continue to demonstrate an innovative approach in a challenging area. Expectations will have to be managed with the recognition that whatever comes next may not be able to have the same impact over the whole of the IFLI project area with the partnership taking on board the lessons learnt through the end of scheme review and final evaluation
- 2. At an individual project level** ~ there will be ongoing activity within individual projects and a need to provide a continued focus and support for community groups along with a transparent process implemented for the management and maintenance fund to ensure that there is no future duplication of activity

The management and maintenance fund is an asset to the IFLI partnership and a source of ongoing investment within the area. Before completion of project delivery, it will be essential to develop a plan so that allocation of this fund is agreed with partners, ring fenced within RSPB accounts with the proposed way forwards agreed and signed off with HLF.

The full evaluation report and details of all IFLI project activity is available at www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk