



RRC Site Visit Series

Garrell Burn, North Lanarkshire, Scotland

Wednesday 26th October 2022

Join us at Garrell Burn, Scotland to see 600m of the re-meandered Garrell Burn, its reconnection to a wetland floodplain, integration with varied public access routes, two new fish ladders and other habitat enhancements to this once industrial landscape. Climate, biodiversity and public blue-greenspace have all played a part in the project's development since 2016.



Site visit lead
Laura McCrorie (North Lanarkshire Council)
Hayley Andrew (North Lanarkshire Council)
Francis Hayes (SEPA)

The Project

The Dumbreck Marsh & Garrell Burn Restoration Project, where enhancements have taken place, covers an area of around 70 hectares. The area was once heavily used for colliery activities and mineral railways. After the decline of the colliery industries the land was left fallow and gradually accommodated wetland habitats and associated species – including the endangered lapwing. Recently the marsh has suffered drying out and loss of wildlife, with paths becoming eroded and therefore limiting public access. North Lanarkshire Council, SEPA, Scottish Government and the Clyde River Foundation joined forces to restore the canalised and degraded river, enhance the wetland habitat, improve public access, & safeguard valuable biodiversity. Groundworks began during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and completed in early 2022.

By restoring around 600m of the burn to a more natural lowland meandering planform, with a wider shallow channel along with gravel bars and pools, the river can now accommodate a greater variety of wildlife and provide more attractive fish habitat. The channel also now allows the Garrell Burn to flood into the wetland zone to help recharge the marsh with water. Two weirs have had “pre-weir” fish ladders built below them to allow migrating fish (salmon, trout, eel and lamprey) to, once again, reach the upstream habitat available to them in Kilsyth.

Public access has been substantially improved with new pathways and resurfacing of existing popular routes. Three new attractive footbridges also enhance the experience of the riverside for the public.

The works were designed by WSP/CBEC and constructed by George Leslie Limited.



Information

This site visit is **FREE to RRC members** (£10 deposit to be refunded following attendance at site visit). If space is available, non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £30. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place please complete a booking form at the [link here](#). Booking closes when all spaces are allocated.

- The visit will start at 10:00 and end by 15:00. This will include time for a packed lunch (not supplied).
- Meeting point will be Burngreen Hall, Burngreen, Kilsyth G65 0HT where there will be a presentation about the background to the site.
- Walking shoes/boots (or wellington boots) and waterproof clothing are necessary.
- There are excellent footpaths around the site but access onto marshy ground may be necessary.

[Salmon returns to river after 100 years | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

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