

Restoring East Tullis Burn



New wetland habitat at East Tullis Burn

Salix worked with Aberdeen City Council, Cbec and Walking-the-Talk to restore the East Tullis Burn in St Fittick's Park, Torry.

Client – Aberdeen City Council

Following consultation with the local community and stakeholders, the burn's restoration design was finalised in 2013 and work on the ground began in March 2014, with Cbec leading the management and Salix delivering the construction.

The project transformed the waterway from a straight, hard-engineered channel, into a more natural stream with a meandering course, functional floodplain and improved wetland habitats.

Products Used

- **Native wetland plants**
- **Pre-established Coir Pallets**



Straightened over-deepened burn before works

Creating new wetland features

An important design element of the £300,000 project was the creation of wetlands and associated off channel features to provide the same function as a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS), but in a more aesthetic and natural way.

David Holland, Technical Director for Salix, explains:

“Over the years, the East Tullos Burn had been straightened and over-deepened, resulting in a degraded channel and low biodiversity.

“Working with our partners, we widened the burn’s floodplain, restored flow diversity to the channel, created a number of swales to connect existing off-line wetlands and installed a new online wetland.

“These new wetland features will increase the flood plain storage and water retention time, leading to better water quality in the catchment and biodiversity improvements.”



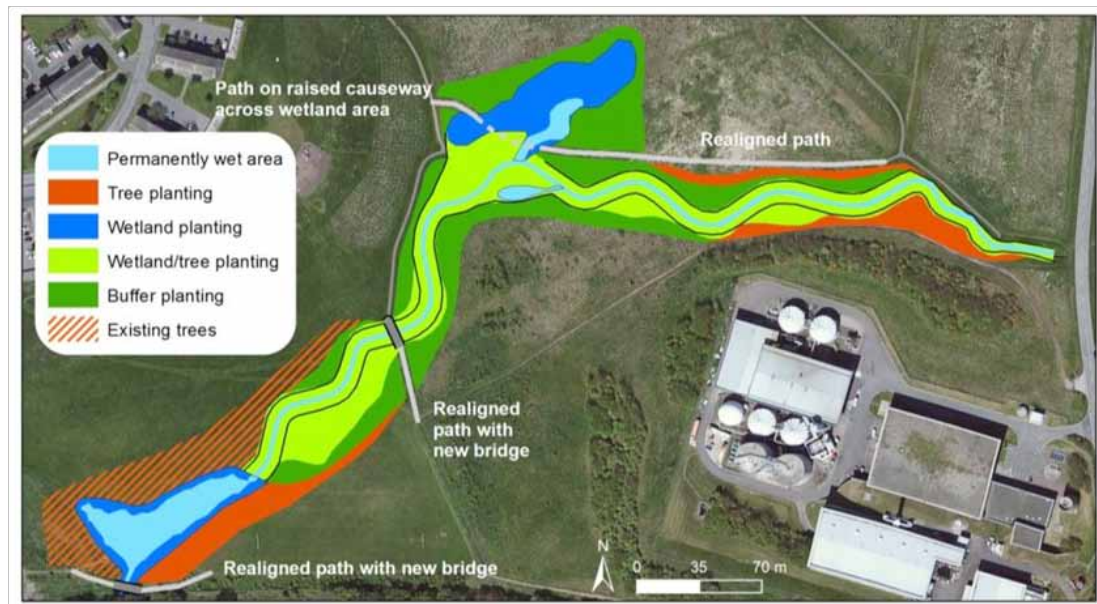
The burn before works commenced

Increasing biodiversity

As well as creating valuable new wetland habitats, the project included the planting of new trees and 150,000 native wetland and wildflower plants grown in house by Salix.

Two hectares of excess soil heaps were seeded with perennial and annual wildflower seeds supplied by Scottish wildflower seed supplier Scotia Seeds.

The new plants provide habitat, nutrient and pollutant buffering, as well as enhancing the hydro-morphology of this previously neglected waterway.



Improving public access

A new wooden footbridge has also been installed and the area's footpaths have been upgraded, improving public access to the burn and its wildlife.

The restoration project was completed in June 2014.

Funding was supplied by the:

- **Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Water Environment Fund**
- **Aberdeen Greenspace Trust**
- **Total E&P UK Limited**
- **Aberdeen Forward**
- **North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership.**

