



Habitat Restoration at Castle Espie

In addition to highly colourful planting schemes we provide ecological seed mixes that are more specifically designed to maximise benefits to biodiversity. Although these mixes are usually less vibrant and contain more subtle colours they are still very visually attractive and typically contain many species of rare local flora.

Castle Espie Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre

Castle Espie is a well known wildlife centre in Northern Ireland set on the shores of Strangford Lough and run by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The area is famed for supporting a large percentage of the population of Light-bellied Brent Geese during the winter along with many other species of wildfowl.



Photo courtesy Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

As part of a major redevelopment several new areas of grassland habitat were created. We provided a consultancy report detailing the most appropriate species to use, the necessary ground preparation required, and management instructions for future years. We advised on sowing the seed mixes in the new areas including using 'hydroseeding'.

We designed and supplied several mixes of low-growing grassland species that would be suitable for mesotrophic and calcareous soils. Designing bespoke seed mixes meant that we could select species most suited to the particular soil and environmental conditions of the areas to be sown.





For a separate area we also sowed a unique mix of wildflower seed that had been harvested by permission from Killard Point Nature Reserve. Killard Point contains a diverse range of native flora including certain rare species and species that are not available commercially. Seed was collected from the site using a low-impact 'Brush Harvester'.

Some of the new areas were sown using conventional seed-sowing methods. Other sections were sown by 'hydroseeding'.

Hydroseeding is a unique method of seed sowing that sprays a biodegradable mulch onto an area. The mulch creates the ideal environment for seed and often enhances germination rates.



As the site develops it is anticipated that an array of native flora will establish enhancing the ecological value of this important site and supporting the associated biodiversity.

For more information on our consultancy service and on the methods mentioned above please refer to our information sheets and web pages:

[Hydroseeding and Erosion Control](#)

[Seed Harvesting](#)

[Consultancy](#)



Photo courtesy Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust