

Lenzie Moss, Scotland



**David Overend**

100 Circles: Creative encounters with Lenzie Moss

12.69%

# Performance in the Field

Interdisciplinary Practice-as-Research



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Interdisciplinary



# 100 circles

walks and conversations around  
Lenzie Moss

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Lenzie Moss

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## Welcome to Lenzie Moss



Lenzie Moss is a designated Local Nature Reserve in East Dunbartonshire, near the city of Glasgow. It is a boggy and marshy area with a history of peat extraction. The Moss now serves as a vital habitat for diverse wildlife, including water vole and bog rosemary, and the green hairstreak butterfly, alongside areas of silver birch woodland.

My name is David Overend. I moved to the edge of Lenzie Moss in the summer of 2023 and began to regularly take the 2.5 kilometre walk round its border, sometimes daily. I have walked with friends, my chil-



[blogs.ed.ac.uk/lenziemoss](https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/lenziemoss)



# Theme 1: Access and management

“multiplicity, antagonisms and contrasting temporalities are the stuff of all places”

Doreen Massey (2005) *For Space*, Sage. p.159







Warning  
Anti-vandal  
paint







Later, I seek out my copy of *Braiding Sweetgrass* and find the relevant section on page 338:

*Restoring land without restoring relationship is an empty exercise. It is relationship that will endure and relationship that will sustain the restored land. Therefore, reconnecting people and the landscape is as essential as reestablishing proper hydrology or cleaning up contaminants. It is medicine for the earth.*

Robin Wall Kimmerer

# Theme 2: Temporality

Roy Map image of Lenzie Moss 1747-1755




Sophie told me what little she knew about the former occupants, Jane Vary Campbell and David Sinclair Campbell. Jane was born in Glasgow in 1817, to parents Richard Vary and Flora Bell, who are documented as having an 'irregular marriage' on 19 May, a month after Jane's birth. The day after the wedding, Jane was baptised. In 1839, aged 22, Jane married David, a wine and spirit merchant. They moved to the house in Lenzie at some point in the 1870s, but not before they had four sons and two daughters. These included their eldest, Richard Vary Campbell, who went on to have a distinguished career in law; and David Alexander Campbell, who followed in his father's footsteps, presumably working for the family business. David is recorded as living at Heathfield after both his parents had died. He was eventually buried in the same place, at Auld Aisle cemetery in Kirkintilloch, a short walk north from Lenzie. Sophie has visited the grave, and she showed me a photograph.

# Give the bog a chance to recover

This raised bog is 8000 years in the making.

Please stay on the main paths to limit erosion from trampling and help give this sensitive habitat time and space to grow back.

Thank you

 East Dumfriesshire Council  
www.eastdumfriesshire.gov.uk

# Theme 3: Play and creativity

Toby Paterson, Dug Macleod and Simon Whatley worked as a creative team to develop 3 art works for Lenzie. 'Stacks', made of Black Basalt Aggregate Concrete (cast in collaboration with Gabion Designed Concrete Surfaces) are sculptural works made specifically for Lenzie Moss.





Rabindranath X Bhose,  
Belladonna Paloma and Oren Shoemith







## **Fauna**

- Sparrowhawk
- Kestrel
- Pink-footed Goose
- Meadow Pipit
- Grasshopper Warbler
- Skylark
- Fossorial Water Vole
- Roe Deer
- Cuckoo
- Linnet
- Treetreeper
- Swallow
- Swift
- Goldfinch
- Dunnock
- Robin
- Great Tit
- Blue Tit
- Jackdaw
- Thrush

## **Flora**

- Sphagnum Moss
- Sundew
- Cottongrass
- Heather (Ling and Bell)
- Silver Birch
- Blaeberry
- Common Valerian
- Ragged Robin
- Meadow Geranium
- Bracken
- Raspberry
- Blackcurrant
- Birch Polypore (Fungus)

## **Selected books referenced in the blog**

Devine, T. M. (2018). *The Scottish clearances: A history of the dispossessed, 1600–1900*. Allen Lane.

Douglas, A., & Fremantle, C. (2022). *Thinking with the Harrisons: Conceptual art and ecological responsibility*. Manchester University Press.

Fowler, A. (2022). *Peatlands*. Profile Books.

Haraway, D. J. (2016). *Staying with the trouble: Making kin in the Chthulucene*. Duke University Press.

Kimmerer, R. W. (2013). *Braiding sweetgrass: Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants*. Milkweed Editions.

Macfarlane, R. (2023). *Is a river alive?* Hamish Hamilton.

Macfarlane, R., & Morris, J. (2017). *The lost words*. Hamish Hamilton.

Mason, S. (2018). *Ride to the midnight sun: A journey into the heart of Norway*. Eye Books.

Monbiot, G. (2013). *Feral: Searching for enchantment on the frontiers of rewilding*. Allen Lane.

Murakami, H. (2008). *What I talk about when I talk about running* (P. Gabriel, Trans.). Harvill Secker. (Original work published 2007)

A scenic landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, with a bright yellow glow from the setting sun on the horizon. In the foreground, a wooden boardwalk made of dark planks leads from the bottom center towards the horizon, curving slightly to the right. A small, fluffy white dog is standing on the boardwalk in the lower-middle ground, facing the camera. The surrounding area is a field of tall, dry grasses, and a line of trees is visible in the distance under the colorful sky.

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