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EAST LOTHIAN
COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE
Annual Report 2011/2012





FOREWORD

I am pleased to present Countryside Service`s Annual Report for 2011-12.

This report collates the work completed by the East Lothian Council Countryside Service within the past financial year. It summarises a suite of documents, principally individual site Annual Reports. In replacing these, this report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the multiple and varied nature of work undertaken in an easier to read format.

The detailed information is, however, still presented electronically and can be accessed online by going to eastlothian.gov.uk/countryside

Feedback on how you find the report, how easy it is to follow and depth of information should be directed to Neil Clark, the Principal Countryside Officer at: nclark@eastlothian.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maree Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'J'.

Maree Johnston
Landscape & Countryside Manager

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE AIM OF THE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE IS TO:

“protect East Lothian’s biodiversity and promote sustainable management, responsible use, enjoyment and awareness of an accessible countryside.”

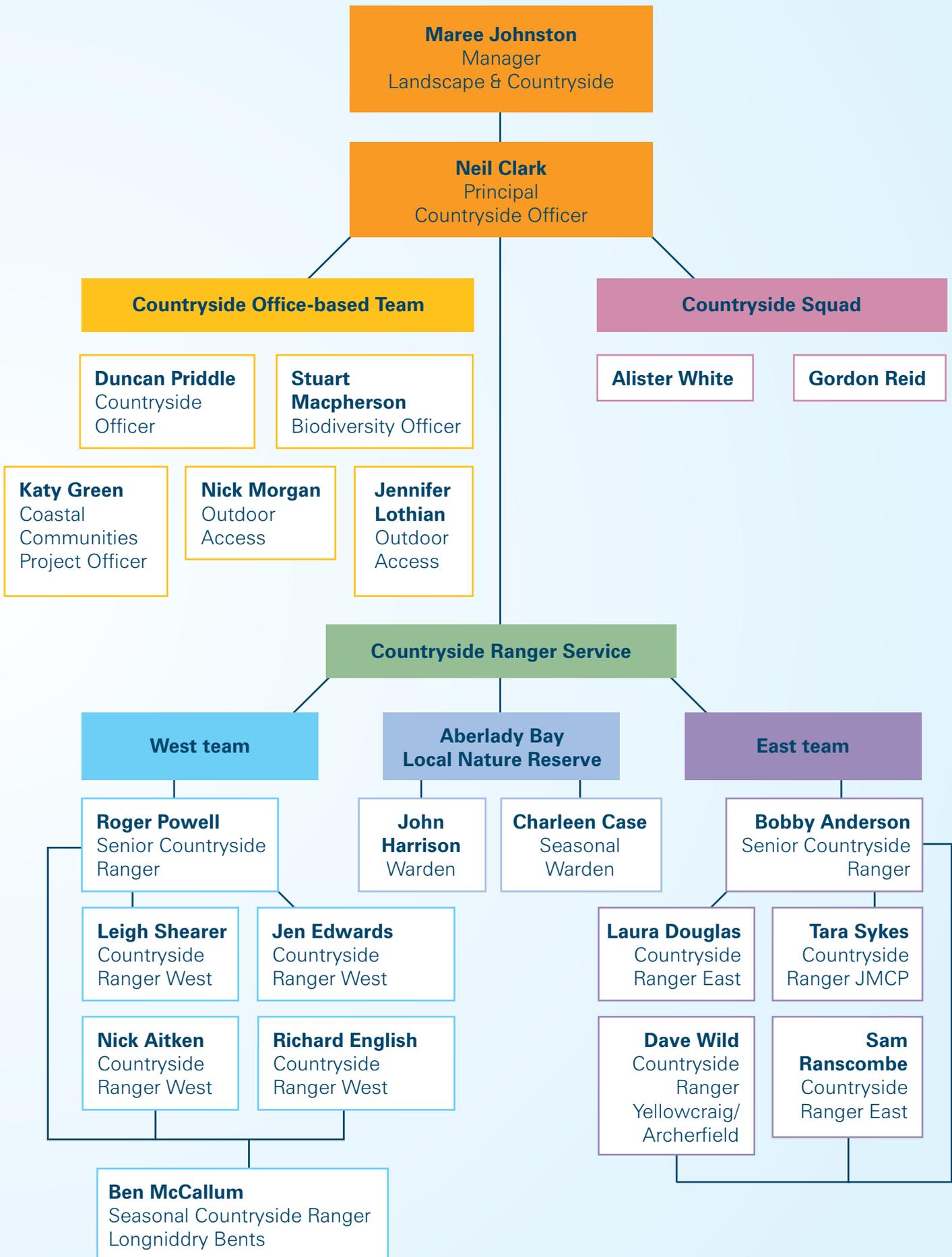
This fourth Countryside Report provides a summary of a series of individual reports (listed in appendix A), prepared to record the actions and events occurring within the defined remits of the Service during the April 1st 2011 to 31st March 2012 period.

As a large degree of the Countryside Service’s work is by definition, out of doors, weather patterns for the year can have a marked effect upon several aspects of project delivery – for example the number of people attending guided events organised by the Countryside Ranger Service.

1.2 STAFF

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Ben McCallum | Seasonal Countryside Ranger (06/11-11/11) |
| Richard English | Countryside Ranger |
| Leigh Shearer | Countryside Ranger |
| Sam Ranscombe | Countryside Ranger |
| Nick Aitken | Countryside Ranger |
| Tara Sykes | Countryside Ranger |
| Dave Wild | Countryside Ranger |
| Laura Douglas | Countryside Ranger (maternity leave from 15/07/11) |
| Jen Edwards | Countryside Ranger |
| Charleen Case | Seasonal Nature Reserve Warden (06/11- 11/11) |
| John Harrison | Nature Reserve Warden |
| Roger Powell | Senior Countryside Ranger |
| Bobby Anderson | Senior Countryside Ranger |
| Katy Green | Coastal Communities Project Officer |
| Nick Morgan | Outdoor Access Officer |
| Jennifer Lothian | Outdoor Access Officer |
| Stuart Macpherson | Biodiversity Officer |
| Duncan Priddle | Countryside Officer |
| Neil Clark | Principal Countryside Officer |
| Maree Johnston | Landscape and Countryside Manager |
| Alister White | Countryside Squad |
| Gordon Reid | Countryside Squad |

1.3 STAFF STRUCTURE



1.4 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR 2011-2012

April arrived with unseasonably warm and dry conditions, which extended into early May. Thereafter, cooler and wetter conditions became the norm and the summer failed to match conditions experienced in spring.

August and September were marked by extensive periods of rain, with precipitation occurring virtually on every day in August, often torrential in form.

The winter months were mild, overcast and windy with occasional showers. Snow fell on only one day and did not lie. Storm force winds on 26/12/11 brought down several trees, though wider damage was caused by a second storm on 03/01/12 when wind speeds of 106 mph were recorded in Edinburgh.

Milder and drier conditions returned in early February. This pattern continued into March which recorded only one day's precipitation and temperatures were exceptionally above the seasonal norm.





2.0

OUTDOOR ACCESS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This report details the work led by the Access Officers, Nick Morgan (full time) and Jennifer Lothian (three days per week), to achieve the objectives of East Lothian's Access Strategy (Draft) during the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

This work includes that undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, including Core Paths Planning; achieving the objectives of the East Lothian Sustainable Path Network Strategy; and other projects in which the Access Officers were involved.

2.2 DUTIES UNDER THE LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

The right of responsible access conferred by Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (the LRA) came into effect in February 2005. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which guides responsible behaviour by access takers and land managers, was also launched at this time.

With the LRA came various new duties and powers for local authorities. Some of the key duties that East Lothian Council was required to fulfil under the LRA included core paths planning (see 2.2.1), resolving access issues (2.2.2) and promoting responsible access (2.2.3).

The Scottish Government monitors the progress made by all local authorities and national park authorities under the LRA and we are required to report to the Scottish Government bi-annually.

2.2.1 CORE PATHS PLANNING. The Land Reform Act placed a duty on local authorities to draw up a plan for a system of core paths sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area. A Draft Core Paths Plan had to be drawn up by February 2008. Guidance produced by the Paths For All Partnership and Scottish Natural Heritage suggested a procedure for developing a core paths plan. This procedure involved two rounds of 'informal' consultations followed by the formal consultation that is required under the Land Reform Act.

Following comprehensive consultations the East Lothian Draft Core Paths Plan was produced in February 2008. After further consultations and a Local Inquiry by the Scottish Government's Reporters Unit, East Lothian's Core Paths Plan was adopted at a Council meeting in December 2010. The Plan is available to view on the Council's website and is about to be produced as a printed document, which also contains a lot of information about what happens in East Lothian's countryside and responsible behaviour.

2.2.2 RESOLVING ACCESS ISSUES. Under the LRA it is a duty of local authorities to uphold access rights. This entails asserting, protecting, keeping open and free from obstruction any route, waterway or other means by which access may reasonably be exercised.

There were 24 access issues reported to the Council during 2011/12. This was up slightly from the previous year when there were 21. The number of issues seems to have levelled off. It is speculated that this may be because of the greater awareness of the right of responsible access by both access takers and land managers. The Access Officers work closely with many landowners and land managers in East Lothian, and the Countryside Rangers are heavily involved in promoting responsible access and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code to the wider public.

2.2.3 PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE ACCESS. Section 10 of the LRA places a duty on local authorities to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC). The Access Officers continued to use opportunities to ensure the Code's continued promotion.

2.3 THE SUSTAINABLE PATH NETWORK STRATEGY

The overall aim of the Sustainable Path Network Strategy for East Lothian, published in 1998, is to: *'Develop a Strategy and Action Plan for a sustainable path network linking East Lothian's coast and countryside, for the benefit of all user groups (walkers, cyclists, horse riders) of all ages and abilities, for both local people and visitors.'*

Access Officers continued to work to achieve this aim with their **path development projects**, creating a network suitable for all users that link the communities in East Lothian as well as the coast and countryside. This aim complements the duties and powers of the local authority under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Some examples are presented in the following paragraphs.

2.3.1 JOHN MUIR WAY. The John Muir Way is East Lothian's coastal-corridor long-distance path, which links East Lothian with the City of Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders. Over its 73 kilometres the John Muir Way passes through many towns and villages, allowing walkers to take advantage of facilities and public transport.

The John Muir Way now features on Ordnance Survey maps and is promoted by means of a suite of leaflets produced by the Access Officers. The John Muir Way also features on other Council publications, including the 'Active Choices in East Lothian' map, and it is now a core path.

Various sections of the John Muir Way were badly damaged during a storm on March 31st 2010. After repairs to the ground had been undertaken, approximately 50 metres of the John Muir Way was re-surfaced in tarmac in September 2011. The path work cost £6,483, which was 50% funded by the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund.

At the mouth of the River Esk in Musselburgh a 115 metre section of the John Muir Way across the edge of some amenity grassland was surfaced in tarmac. This was an area that had been identified as a missing link in National Cycle Route 76. New signage, a bollard and a section of new hedgerow were also implemented. The project costs were £11,081, which was 50% funded by Sustrans.

In February 2012 East Lothian Council was offered £16,000 from SNH for two new bridges on the John Muir Way. The project was completed by the end of March at a cost of £16,657.

A Management Plan for the John Muir Way is currently being written. This will help with future maintenance and development of the route as well as marketing and evaluating the use of the route. It will also include an evaluation of the impact of coastal erosion on the John Muir Way.

2.3.2 RIVER TYNE PATH – HAILES TO HADDINGTON. The desire for a route along the River Tyne between East Linton and Haddington was identified during the core paths planning participatory appraisals. There is little sign of a path on the ground, although the route is claimed as a right of way by many local people.

The new section of path is 5 kilometres long. It was built by taking a mini-digger along the margin between the river and field edged to produce a level, 1.5 metre-wide, path. This has been left as a natural surface which will grass over and blend into the surrounding environment. It is wide enough to allow the Council's grass cutting machinery along the route. This path has also been adopted by two path wardens, which should help in the battle to control vegetation growth along the route.

Leader Funding awarded £30,000 to a project to develop a path along the River Tyne from East Linton to Pencaitland over two financial years (2010/11 and 2011/12). The East Linton to Haddington section is the first phase of this project. The total cost of this phase was £46,100, and to date Leader has paid £16,250 towards the project.



2.3.3 RIVER TYNE PATH – HADDINGTON TO PENCAITLAND. This is the second phase of the River Tyne Path project described in paragraph 3.3. The Leader funding also covers this second phase of the project.

Between Haddington and Pencaitland is approximately 8.5 kilometres. There is an existing right of way leading for about 800 metres down-stream from Pencaitland and, at the Haddington end, two kilometres of path has been developed over the last two

years. This involved upgrading a right of way, a short section of path developed by a community group, a bridge built by the landowner and three new sections of path developed by East Lothian Council (see 3.5).

This leaves about five kilometres of path still to be developed. There are four different landowners and two tenant farmers, along with a number of neighbouring householders. Although this section of river bank is far more challenging than the section down-stream of Haddington, one of the landowners is very supportive of the route and would be prepared to allow the path to be built in some areas he currently cultivates. Unfortunately two of the other landowners are less forthcoming and negotiations are still ongoing at the time of writing.

2.4 PATH WARDEN SCHEME

Early in 2011 Landscape and Countryside launched a Volunteer Path Warden Scheme. This scheme allows local people to adopt their local core paths, regularly inspect them and undertake minor maintenance tasks, depending on their ability.

Currently 27 people have volunteered to look after core paths close to where they live, covering the majority of the core path network. Path wardens report back the tasks they have undertaken, the time spent volunteering and any issues they have come across on their paths.

The Countryside Officer co-ordinates the work of the Path Wardens and maintains a record of the work they have done. All wardens are given induction training and a tool talk before they start volunteering. Some have been supplied with tools and there is a supply of tools that can be borrowed for specific tasks.

The Countryside Officer organises monthly team tasks where a group of volunteers get together to tackle larger projects. This is also an opportunity for the Path Wardens to get to know one another and for them to receive training for these tasks. So far work has included:

- Inspecting a new path along the River Tyne, tidying up and cutting back vegetation
- Repairing an eroded edge of path using willow sets on the River Tyne near Haddington
- Drainage work and cutting back vegetation on the River Esk Path in Musselburgh
- Installing way markers and cutting back fallen trees in Yester Estate
- Building a new path between Woodhall Picnic Site and the Pencaitland Railway Walk



Further work is planned throughout 2012. The Access Officers and the Countryside Rangers work closely with the Path Wardens to support the valuable work that they do. During 2011-12 the Path Wardens did more than 628 hours of voluntary work on 175 kilometres of the core paths network.

2.5 PATH MAINTENANCE/SIGNAGE

The **Path Cutting Programme** in East Lothian is revised annually to take account of the new and upgraded paths in the network requiring maintenance. The cutting programme also includes the application of herbicide and blowing off leaf litter where appropriate. This work is carried out by Amenity Services and their contractors on a regular basis.

The **Countryside Squad** has proved invaluable to ongoing maintenance work on the path network. This two-man squad is able to promptly undertake minor repairs to paths and path furniture such as fencing, gates and signage, as well as addressing minor drainage problems and forestry work.

The **Community Service by Offenders** team continues to do a lot of maintenance work on the path network. Work this year has included resurfacing paths in Haddington and Longniddry. Towards the end of 2011 the Community Services team successfully applied for £41,000 for machinery and materials to upgrade paths along the River Tyne, in Butterdean Wood and near Ormiston.

2.6 PATHS STEERING GROUP

The Paths Steering Group continued to meet on a quarterly basis throughout 2011-12 and continued to help guide the progress of the Sustainable Path Network project.

2.7 EAST LOTHIAN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum continued to meet on a quarterly basis throughout 2010-11. At each meeting the Access Officers reported on progress of the Sustainable Path Network, core paths and access issues.

2.8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Access Officers have encouraged consultation from the Planning Development and Planning Control Sections on proposed and consented planning applications for developments within East Lothian. This has allowed the Access Officers to work with the planners and increase awareness of the importance of access.

2.9 CROSS-COUNCIL WORKING

The Access Officers attended meetings with the Access Officers from Scottish Borders Council, West Lothian Council, Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council. These meetings proved to be very useful to discuss the duties under the Land Reform Act, especially Core Paths Planning, and to try and ensure consistency of policy and procedures.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The biodiversity process began at the Earth Summit in 1992 with a realisation that traditional conservation methods, such as designating nature reserves, were insufficient to protect wild habitats and species. The process also recognises that humans rely on biodiversity to sustain our way of life. The biodiversity process is therefore a human life support mechanism.

In East Lothian the local biodiversity process has four main principles: protect what we have; manage habitats to improve their quality; create new habitats and wildlife links; raise awareness of biodiversity and encourage participation.

3.2 PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE

All planning applications are sent to The Wildlife Information Centre to be screened against a database of notable species and designated sites. This highlights where an application may affect biodiversity and further consideration should be made. In addition, planners submit applications for biodiversity comment.

In 2011, steading conversions and small-scale turbine developments were common, both types of applications possibly affecting bats (a European Protected Species) and/or pink-footed goose (protected as part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area citation). A goose survey was established in autumn 2010 to provide data to inform planning applications and this survey continued in 2011.

There has also been continued input into development briefs for major development sites such as Blindwells. Although a former open cast quarry, areas of the site have re-colonised in a distinctive manner and now support a number of species that are rare in Scotland, including bee orchid which has been recorded from only two other Scottish sites.

SSSIs are a national nature conservation designation but East Lothian has adopted a local designation also. Originally developed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, these local habitats are now known as Local Biodiversity Sites.



A committee of local naturalists has been working on a means to identify and designate such sites so that they can be adopted as part of the new local development plan. Maintaining reasonably up to date information about each site is a major hurdle. An application to fund habitat and site survey work was submitted to the Central Scotland Green Network development fund. This application covers the four Lothian authorities and was lodged, on their behalf, by The Wildlife Information Centre.

3.3 **MANAGE HABITATS AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY**

The old Turf Nursery at Yellowcraig continues to be managed to support important populations of grassland flowers. Four other areas of wildflower grassland (three roadside verges and an area of Longniddry Bents) similarly were strimmed and raked in 2011 thanks to efforts by Community Service by Offenders. This habitat management appears to have worked well and the initiative will be expanded in 2012.

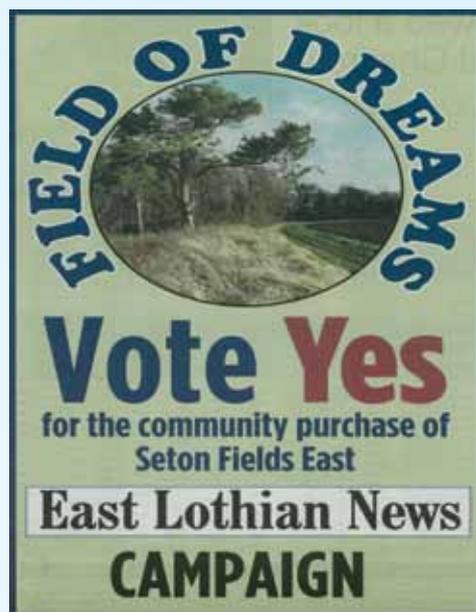
For the last three years areas of woodland, wetland and grassland on different estates in the Lammermuirs have been managed to support the remnant black grouse population. Black grouse numbers are at an all time low and there is a very real danger that they will become extinct locally. This work has been funded by Natural Power (developers of Crystal Rig wind farm) and the Scottish Rural Development Programme.



3.4 CREATE NEW HABITATS AND WILDLIFE LINKS

The communities of Cockenzie & Port Seton and Longniddry previously registered the right to buy land to the east and west of Seton Mains and the land came up for sale in 2011. The Seton Fields Community Company had been established as part of the right to buy process and that company has worked extremely hard to purchase the land. Community rights to buy have to follow a prescribed process of notification, consultation and submission of reports and business plans, not to mention the difficult task of raising money.

There are considerable biodiversity gains to be drawn from the community purchase, including the creation of a 10 hectare woodland to link Longniddry Dean and Seton Dean and the creation of typical farm habitats such as hedgerows and wild bird cover.



3.5 RAISE AWARENESS OF BIODIVERSITY AND ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

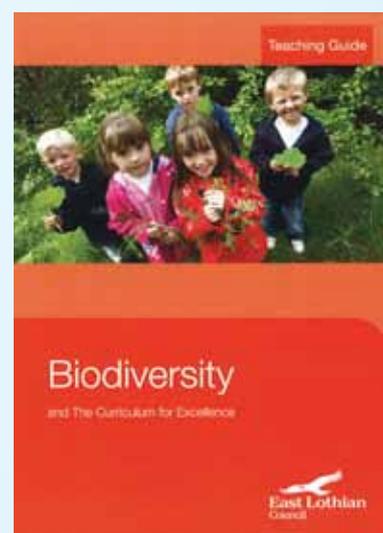
20 people took part in a survey of woodland wildflowers, providing plant records for 30 woodlands. Volunteer surveyors were asked to record the presence of 10 woodland plants, some of which were rare, or indicated woodland quality. Identification sheets and survey forms were provided and information was sent to The Wildlife Information Centre.

Curriculum for Excellence encourages teaching outdoors and a guidance booklet was launched to highlight what resources are available and people and organisations that can help.

18 applications for Grounds for Awareness funding were received. This grant has been very successful at getting children involved in conservation projects. In recent years children very often took the lead with applications, researching different plants or calculating the costs of a project – very much in the mould of Curriculum for Excellence.

The Haddington Agricultural Show is always a valuable event for talking with many people about biodiversity and 2011 was no exception. This year the biodiversity display was in partnership with National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Seabird Centre and the Police Wildlife Crime Unit.

A series of articles have been written for *East Lothian Life* magazine and these continued in 2011. 2011 was International Year of Forests so articles covered woodland flowers, woodland birds, woodland mammals and a review of East Lothian woodlands over the centuries. Articles have also been written for the Council's countryside newsletter, *Mud in Your Eye*.





4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the report records principle countryside projects undertaken during the year. Some have a specific objective or obvious output; others are part of a longer-term development both for the East Lothian Countryside and for the Service.

4.2 VOLUNTEERS IN EAST LoTHIAN'S COUNTRYSIDE

The work undertaken by individual/groups of volunteers continued to provide an invaluable mechanism to deliver projects on the ground across all countryside sites. People volunteered their time through a variety of opportunities (see table below). It is worth stressing that the extent and variety of work completed by the Countryside Section could not have been achieved without the support provided by countryside volunteers and we continue to be indebted to them.

By way of a small mark of appreciation on August the 18th 2011 a volunteer get-together and training session was run at Yellowcraig, attended by some 26 volunteers.

Building upon work in previous years, 2011-12 witnessed additional 'Friends' groups commencing at John Muir Country Park and Gullane Bents.



| | Volunteer Category | Group details | Primary duties / example |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | Individual unsung heroes! | | Litter picking of coastal / countryside sites |
| 2 | Site –specific ‘Friends’ groups at: | Aberlady Bay LNR | Practical conservation work |
| | | Gullane | Practical conservation work |
| | | John Muir Country Park | Practical conservation work |
| | | North Berwick Law and Glen | Practical conservation work |
| | | Yellowcraig | Practical conservation work |
| 3 | Path wardens | 27 path wardens | Path maintenance / improvements to core path network. Team tasks to address larger issues. |
| 4 | Conservation teams | BTCV Mid-week conservation team | Path construction, North Berwick Law |
| 5 | Monitoring projects: | Sheep ‘lookers’, Traprain Law and Aberlady Bay LNR | Checking numbers of stock and their condition |
| | | Coastal counts | Recording of people on the coast / activities being undertaken |
| | | Eider monitoring project, North Berwick | Monitoring productivity of colony |
| 6 | Criminal justice; Community Service for Offenders | | Path upgrading, River Tyne path; litter collection all countryside sites |
| 7 | Corporate group volunteers | Specific large projects | Franklin Templeton Investments, Sea Buckthorn Removal, Aberlady Bay LNR |

4.3 INTERPRETATION

4.3.1 COUNTRYSIDE NEWSLETTER – ‘MUD IN YOUR EYE’.

This publication, highlighting wildlife news together with information upon local places to explore, continued to be produced on a quarterly basis. 2,500 copies of each issue were distributed to local outlets and/or given out by hand to members of the public by the Countryside Ranger Service.



4.3.2 THE BEST OF EAST LOTHIAN'S WILDLIFE. Launched in September 2011, this guide provides people with ten recommended countryside sites within East Lothian, where they can enjoy a particular aspect of the county’s natural history. 3,000 copies were produced and copies, retailing at £4.50, have sold steadily.



4.3.3 ARTICLES FOR THE EAST LOTHIAN COURIER. The countryside ranger service continued to provide monthly articles for the local newspaper.

4.4 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

4.4.1 SEA BUCKTHORN. A non-native species to East Lothian, widely planted historically to stabilise sand dune systems; sea buckthorn is a plant that can aggressively dominate dune grassland systems to the detriment of local habitats and species.



2011-12 marked the fifth successive year when sea buckthorn control was undertaken by East Lothian Council, in accordance with strategic guidelines. Resource constraints, together with the appreciation that much of the large-scale removal work has now been completed, meant that mechanical removal was only confined to Aberlady Bay LNR.

Across other sites, regenerating shoots were sprayed with herbicide, which proved effective at killing off the shoots, and it was concluded that spraying would be an appropriate management technique to programme in at other locations. At Aberlady Bay LNR, herbicide spraying was employed for the first time.

4.4.2 TWO- SPINED ACAENA AND PIRRI-PIRRI BURR. Two-spined acaena (*Acaena ovalifolia*) and pirri-pirri burr (*Acanea novae-zelandiae*) are other non-native introduced species to East Lothian that share a similar preference for coastal dune grasslands. They are low growing, forming dense mats, 1-2cm above ground level. They colonise areas of the dune system due to the ease by which they seed (burrs) are transported by animals, the spreading nature of their tendrils and because they often grow undetected for many years.

Within East Lothian two-spined acaena has now been recorded at Aberlady Bay and Gullane Bents, with pirri-pirri burr at Yellowcraig and John Muir Country Park. Currently steps are being taken to both understand the nature of the plant better and to develop an effective control strategy; with one of the species being much more aggressive in its ability to colonise.



The origins of these plant introductions remain uncertain. It has been suggested that seeds may have come in with wool imported from the southern hemisphere into Leith docks.

4.4.3 ROE DEER IN GULLANE. Early in January 2012 Scottish Natural Heritage staff, using a combination of a thermal imaging camera and night vision equipment, carried out a second population count of roe deer in the Gullane area following a number of complaints about damage to private gardens. There are also concerns over the number of deer vehicle collisions occurring on surrounding roads and potential risks to public safety. The purpose of the counts was to provide information on deer numbers and distribution to better inform local decision making regarding roe deer impacts around the Gullane area. A cull was proposed and commenced. This was successful on private ground but was less so over public ground due to public presence creating only a limited number of opportunities.



4.5 CONSERVATION GRAZING SCHEME



Traprain Law and Aberlady Bay LNR continued to be grazed with sheep to agreed regimes, in order to meet the conservation and management objectives at each location. Countryside Ranger staff and countryside volunteers undertook regular checks of stock to ensure any health and welfare issues could be identified and, where relevant quickly addressed.

Measurements of sward height and botanical diversity were completed in order to monitor the effects of grazing.

At North Berwick Law a six acre plot on the south side of the Law was grazed by 13 cattle and followers for a second year.

During 2011-12 the Countryside Officer (in conjunction with other local authorities and conservation bodies) contributed towards drafting a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for capital funding which would enable the expansion of the grazing scheme. The application sought to include an additional site – Barns Ness – within the grazing programme; together with employing a stock manager and delivering a programme of engagement with all sectors of the countryside community in order to engender support and interest in the project, over a projected three year period.

Unfortunately, our joint partner in Scotland – Fife Coast and Countryside Trust – pulled out of the bid at a later date. With additional partners also withdrawing from the proposal from south of the Border, the decision was taken not to progress the application for the March deadline, but to re-group, resolve outstanding concerns, with the view to re-submit later in the year. This turned out to be the case, with *Plantlife*, agreeing to act as co-ordinator for the revised bid, which was submitted in December 2011.

If successful, the project will allocate approx £160,000 to East Lothian Council to co-ordinate the enlargement of the conservation grazing scheme. In order to secure match-funding for the project, additional funding has been sought from Viridor Landfill Tax and infrastructure costs for sites were also applied for under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) fund. Submissions were successful for Barns Ness and Traprain Law, with Aberlady Bay LNR and North Berwick Law applications being programmed in for the following year.

4.6 COUNTRYSIDE SQUAD

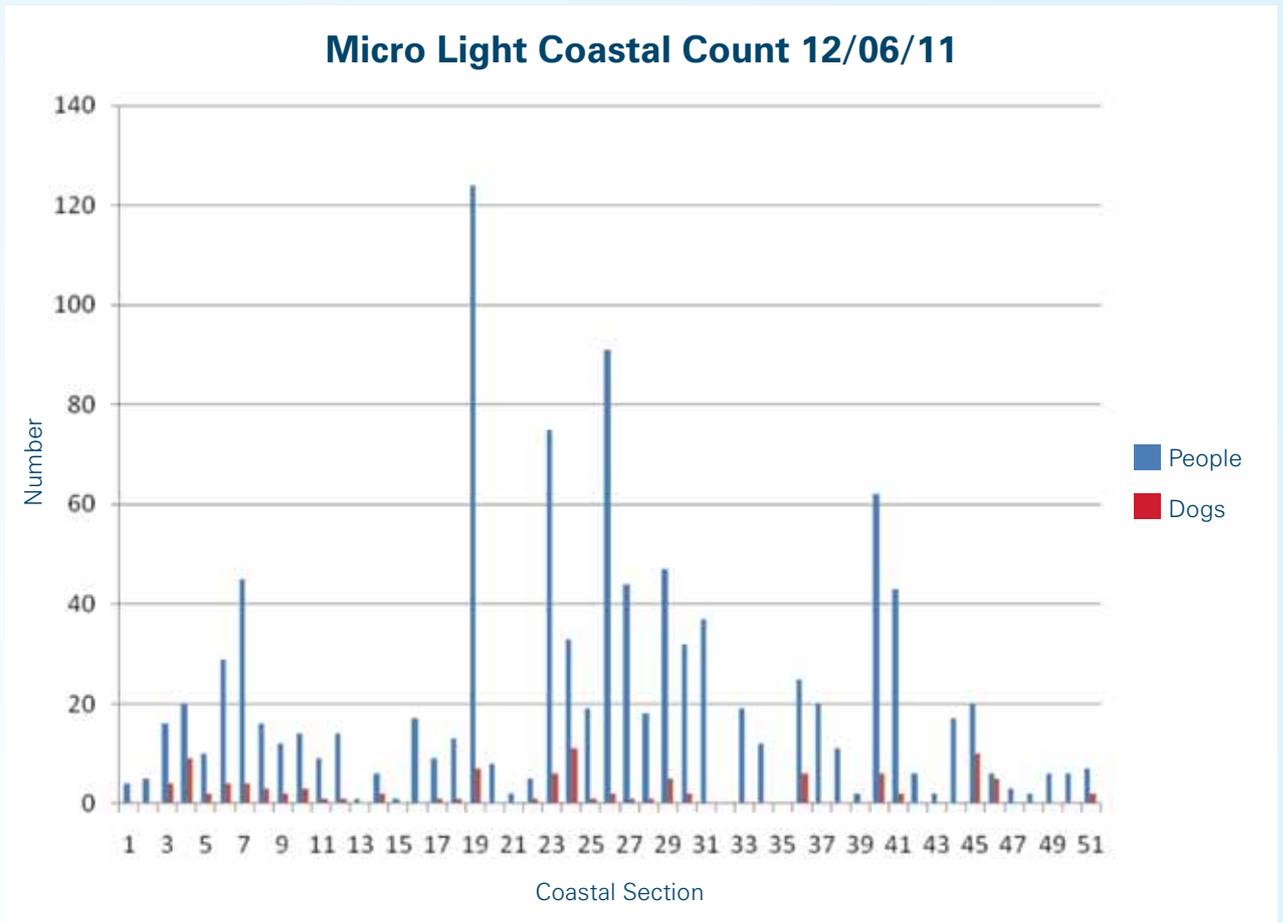
The operations of the Countryside Squad continued to provide an invaluable asset to the maintenance of the countryside portfolio. A number of estate duties were completed, from bridge construction, to tree planting and aftercare, to right-of way maintenance.

4.7 COASTAL PEOPLE COUNTS

Commenced in 2008, coastal people counts are undertaken during the summer period, to provide data on the number of people accessing the coast of East Lothian and the types of recreation/activity that people engaged in.

Three counts were programmed for the summer (12 June, 10 July, 14 August), using Countryside Rangers Service staff, countryside volunteers and with comparative counts being recorded from air by the employment of a micro light aircraft and recorder. Weather conditions precluded aerial recording from taking place on all but the June count and poor weather and a lack of recorders meant that no count of either mechanism was able to be made on the August date.

Despite these drawbacks, the counts that did take place produced a variety of useful data of spatial distribution of people along the coast and the types of activity being engaged in.



Further counts will be undertaken during 2012-13 to determine longer-term trends and also because the resource requirement to complete the surveys is not onerous and can be built into work programmes.

4.8 COUNTRYSIDE WORK PLACEMENTS

4.8.1 As part of a national programme co-ordinated by the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Natural Communities), East Lothian offered a one-year placement post of Coastal Communities Project Officer. This post was designed to identify gaps in current engagement between communities and their local coastline, together with providing mechanisms to ensure these gaps are filled. Katy Green was appointed to the post and commenced on 21/02/11. During 2011-12 Katy delivered on a range of projects, including the promulgation of LNR status for Levenhall Links, the mentoring of two 'Future Jobs' placements (see section 4.6.2, below), and the delivery of a number of coastal interpretative and practical conservation events with groups around the coastline. In January 2012 funding was secured to continue the post for a further year.



4.8.2 Under the Future Jobs scheme (a scheme to secure employment for the longer-term unemployed young people), and in conjunction with the Heart of Midlothian Football Club; during March – September 2011, two people were taken on placement as assistant countryside rangers. They were given exposure to the work of the Countryside Ranger team and asked to complete a number of practical and conservation-related tasks. Both Josh and Scott appeared to thrive on the opportunity and as a consequence of the experience, secured a place at Oatridge Agricultural College and at the Jewel and Esk College respectively.

4.9 PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS – APPROVED USER STATUS

The purpose of the scheme was to build upon a developing relationship with professional dog walking companies and promote good practice amongst dog walkers. The ‘approved user’ scheme was offered to businesses, who, upon application, would have their practice assessed by the Amenity Protection Officers and if deemed to be of a satisfactory level, would be given approved user status. This would allow them to use the council logo on their company information and also for their company to be listed upon the relevant section of the Council’s website. The scheme was launched on 01/01/12 and currently has a dozen companies registered.



4.10 SITE MANAGEMENT PLANS/STATEMENTS

Site management plans are produced for all principal Countryside sites, and are updated on a 5 year rotating programme. 2010-11 saw management plans revised and updated for Aberlady Bay LNR and Yellowcraig/Archerfield.

4.11 BUDGET SUMMARY

Costs and expenditure for the year were as follows;

| Item | Cost | Notes |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Countryside Costs | £681,857 | £539,746 = employee costs |
| Income | £82,605 | £ 10,000 Scottish Power; £42,695 Caledonian Heritable Ltd / Hamilton & Kinneil Estates; others |
| Net Expenditure | £599,252 | |

EAST LoTHIAN COUNTRYSIDE RANGER SERVICE

5.1 The aim of the East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service is to provide an awareness and understanding of the countryside; enhance the variety of people's experiences provided by East Lothian's countryside and coastal sites and to ensure these sites are managed in a sustainable manner.



5.2 In practice this has been achieved by **four objectives**;

- To welcome the local community and visitors to East Lothian's countryside and coastal sites and enhance their enjoyment of the sites
- To assist and advise on countryside access issues, including rights of way
- To provide an experience and promote understanding of the countryside through environmental interpretation and education for the community of East Lothian and its visitors
- To ensure the countryside and coastal sites owned or managed by East Lothian Council that have the potential for leisure, information recreation or nature conservation, are managed in a sustainable manner.

5.3 WELCOMING VISITORS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

5.3.1 The Countryside Ranger Service continued to manage countryside sites on a day-to-day basis, carrying out essential duties and minor maintenance tasks, including litter management, monitoring visitor use and ensuring site safety.

5.3.2 SEASIDE AWARD status was retained for seven coastal sites managed by East Lothian Council.



CASE STUDY 1

At Yellowcraig and Archerfield, a coastal litter clearance project was conducted by Keep Scotland Beautiful Volunteers alongside Renaissance Golf Club and East Lothian Council (ELC) staff, co-ordinated by the Countryside Ranger. This formed part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful National Spring Clean initiative. Renaissance organised access to the more remote areas and provided trailers to load up the litter. Three trailer loads were collected and removed by ELC. Items included hundreds of plastic bottles and cotton bud sticks, lobster creels, piping, shoes and tyres. The event was subsequently used as a case study example of good practice by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

5.4 ADVISING ON COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS ISSUES

The Countryside Ranger Service continued to respond to any access issues raised by the Outdoor Access Officers and to promote the Scottish Outdoor Access Code during countryside events.

A series of 17 guided hikes were undertaken to promote a greater understanding of countryside issues and to increase people's confidence in accessing the wider countryside.

The path network was monitored and minor repairs completed.

CASE STUDY 2

Following a review of our successful Hikes programme a few changes were introduced. We increased the number of hikes to 17 partly to accommodate the increase in interest and also to allow for greater variety in terms of distance and terrain throughout the year. We introduced a £4 fee to cover some of the costs of the hikes programme. We attempted to introduce a greater element of interpretation into the programme, with some of the walks introduced specifically to explore certain aspects of the wildlife and history of East Lothian.

Feedback from participants was very good and we aim to reproduce a similar programme for 2012. This year also saw us lead a two day hike along the old Herring Road from Dunbar to Lauder in conjunction with the Peter Potter Gallery in Haddington. This was part of a larger festival organised by the gallery. Those taking part in the hike used the experience to produce various art works which formed part of a display at the gallery.

5.5 PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

5.5.1 EDUCATIONAL GROUPS. 157 classes from 165 school and college groups were taken this year. Activities included tracks and trails, mini beasts, rock pools, food for free and geology.



5.5.2 OTHER VISITING GROUPS. 36 visiting groups were taken this year ranging from after school clubs to the Scottish Wildlife Trust on activities from general guided walks to survival skills.



5.5.3 TALKS. 16 talks were given to various local groups and societies on wildlife related topics

5.5.4 EVENTS ATTENDED. The Ranger Service attended seven events over the year including the Haddington Agricultural Show and the first Dunbar Science Festival.

5.5.5 TRAINING COURSES. Countryside Rangers attended 12 training courses.

CASE STUDY 3-5

The Countryside Ranger Service has a commitment to work with a variety of community groups to encourage all members of society to explore the coast and countryside in a responsible manner. Examples this year include:

Tranent Young Parents Group – the Countryside Ranger Service worked with the group, exploring ways in which young parents can access the countryside in a positive way with their children from seashore safaris to woodland games.

Go For It Girls! – A project involving a small group of girls in the early years at High School, referred by their school for a variety of reasons from lack of self-esteem to fears of bullying. The group undertook a series of activities assisted by the Countryside Ranger Service and the Outdoor Learning Team, designed to explore the environment, build confidence and work towards a John Muir Award. One of the girls followed up her activities by volunteering with the Ranger Service, using these experiences to gain a place on a countryside management course at Oatridge College.

Beyond Boundaries – This is an organisation that aims to provide and develop opportunities for people aged 16 plus with disabilities and mental health issues living in East Lothian to participate in adventure sports and outdoor activities. A one day event was held at Levenhall Links with a variety of agencies including Outdoor Learning and the Ranger Service providing examples of places to go and things to do and see throughout East Lothian that are accessible to people of all abilities.

5.6 MANAGING SITES IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER

Conservation volunteers continued to provide an invaluable input into the management and conservation of sites across East Lothian:

- **Volunteer Groups** – 17 volunteer groups were utilised by the Countryside Ranger Service
- **Volunteer Hours** – 4,400 hours of work of volunteer time was completed. This figure is a compilation of group time, individual placements and individual volunteers, but does **not** include community service hours and path wardens' time
- **Community Service by Offenders** squads undertook specific tasks, led by a dedicated supervisor employed by the Criminal Justice team. They greatly assisted in the management and maintenance of infrastructure across Countryside sites

- Individual projects were undertaken that utilised local people who volunteered their time and effort.

5.7 WILDLIFE MONITORING/CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Target flora and fauna continued to be monitored and managed in accordance with prescriptions contained in individual site management plans.

New in 2011, a first survey of the distribution of hairy violet, *viola hirta*, was completed at Longniddry/Gosford.



Members of the Countryside Service contribute towards the workings of five Advisory Groups. Each group is site-specific but share similar terms of remit. Groups will comment and advise on management plans, approve the annual work programmes, together with providing recommendations to East Lothian Council.

Annual Reports are produced for each Advisory Group, detailing the work completed by East Lothian Council's Countryside Service at each location, see Appendix A for further details.



6.1 ABERLADY BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1** Aberlady Bay was designated as Britain's first Local Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1952, due to its botanical, ornithological and geological interest. In 2001, the Reserve became part of the Firth of Forth SSSI and much of the site also lies within the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site.
- 6.1.2** The aim of the Reserve is **“to conserve the geomorphological and physiographical features, the habitats, flora and fauna found within the Reserve and the resultant landscape character”**.
- 6.1.3** The Reserve continues to be managed by East Lothian Council, with the support of an Advisory Group that represents landowners, conservation bodies and the local community. A Management Agreement exists with the landowners formalising and defining a management framework.
- 6.1.4** The Reserve covers an area of 582 hectares and represents the most extensive complex of sand dune, saltmarsh and mudflats in southeast Scotland. It also contains a wide range of associated habitats, particularly calcareous grassland and freshwater marsh; and supports a large variety of plant species with many Scottish and local rarities.
- 6.1.5** The main ornithological interest of the Reserve relates to the site's national or international significance as a feeding and roosting area for wintering wildfowl and waders, and its regional importance for several breeding species.
- 6.1.6** The main geological interest is a sequence of Carboniferous Limestones and Teschenite sills as well as the extensive naturally developing sand dune system.



6.1.7 SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

RESERVE MANAGEMENT

- Sheep grazing, between late September and late March, over a 20-hectare plot continued for a fifth year, following the successes of the previous years
- Sea buckthorn control continued on the Reserve with both heavy machinery and volunteer time used. This was the fourth year of a strategic, long-term plan which has seen the removal of around 2.5 hectares of buckthorn
- Removal of giant hogweed, two-spined acacia (pirri-pirri bur) and reedmace continued
- A mink was sighted in January. Rafts were deployed in order to attempt to catch these potentially very destructive animals

WILDLIFE MONITORING

- Peak counts of wildfowl were around or just below average with the notable exception of mallard
- A very high count of eider in February 2011 meant that the average count for this species now exceeds that of the threshold for national importance

- Numbers of pink-footed geese were much lower than the very large highs of the previous two years, peaking at 20,622 in September 2010
- Peak counts of wintering wading birds were generally at or slightly below average, Golden plover were notably low
- In spite of 2011 seeing another decrease in the number of breeding waders, it was the most productive for young fledged in over five years with lapwing raising nearly two chicks per pair
- The general trend in breeding birds was that there were much higher numbers of territories of long-distance migratory birds recorded while others species, particularly skylark, saw marked declines in occupied territories
- Key plant species and other key vegetation areas were monitored with data kept on Reserve file
- A butterfly transect was continued in its fifth year
- The Wildfowling Panel met in early August to receive a report on the 2010-11 season and decide on permit issue for the 2011-12 season

PEOPLE

- Volunteers carried out over 1,800 hours of work on a range of tasks including sea buckthorn removal, beach cleans, sheep lookering and biological monitoring.
- Charleen Case was employed as Assistant Warden for six months from June
- The Reserve Advisory Group met three times during the year, with the fourth joint annual tour visiting sites outwith the Nature Reserve

6.2 JOHN MUIR COUNTRY PARK

INTRODUCTION

- 6.2.1** The Countryside Commission for Scotland registered the Country Park in 1976. The Country Park currently extends to 713.5 hectares and comprises of a variety of habitats. The majority of the Country Park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with original designations that pre-date the Country Park status by some twenty-four years. These were designed to help protect the biological, geological and geomorphological features found within this environment. Two further, more recent, nature conservation designations have been put in place. The site is now incorporated into the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area and has also been notified as a Ramsar Site. (Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance as a Waterfowl Habitat, 1982.)
- 6.2.2** According to the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967, (the enabling act for the creation of the Country Park), a country park is "a park or pleasure ground in the countryside which by reason of its position in relation to major concentrations of population affords convenient opportunities to the public for enjoyment of the countryside or open-air



recreation". The landscape features, especially the vast expanses of sand, exposed when the tide recedes, have made this area a favourite location for a wide variety of recreational pursuits. Through the years since its establishment, visitor numbers have risen steadily, though poor summers in both 2007 and 2008 resulted in slight declines from the peak record returned in 2006.

6.2.3 The diversity of habitats within the Country Park is one reason why this area has proven such a magnet for public recreation. There has always been a realisation that the interface between the visitor and the natural environment needs to be managed. Since its inception, the Country Park has had a Management Plan, which continues to evolve by taking into account the ever-changing opportunities and pressures.

6.2.4 The overall management aim is **"to manage public recreation and conserve the geomorphology, geology and landscape, and sustain the biodiversity of the Country Park."**

6.2.5 SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

- Monitoring of flora and fauna continued this year in line with the management plan
- Control of invasive species was undertaken at the Biel Burn, Seafield Pond area, and Spike Island with giant hogweed removed to ensure visitor safety. On Whitberry Point and Spike Island pine sapling and sea buckthorn control was carried out to protect these habitats. Pirri-pirri bur was dug out and sprayed within Hedderwick plantation
- A third permanent bridge was installed over the creeks of the "horse" path over the salt marsh to redirect traffic over this sensitive habitat
- Site maintenance work was completed as required

- Monitoring of user groups and their interactions was regularly undertaken to gauge use of the site
- Two “future jobs” placements undertook tasks on site during the summer season
- The Friends of John Muir Country Park group was established and have undertaken three tasks
- One humpback whale was recorded tangled in creels off the battery and one pilot whale beached on Ravensheugh beach
- The Advisory Group would like to thank all those groups of individuals who volunteered their time during the year, to work on management projects within the Country Park

6.3 JOINT LAWS

INTRODUCTION



- 6.3.1** The Joint Laws’ Advisory Group covers two sites Traprain Law and North Berwick Law:
- 6.3.2** Both sites are striking upstanding features within the lowland East Lothian landscape. Both are designated RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) for their geological and geomorphological importance. Traprain represents a superb example of a laccolith, whilst North Berwick Law is a volcanic plug. Both features were heavily sculpted during the last glacial period resulting in their “crag and tail” shape today.
- 6.3.3** Traprain and North Berwick Laws are notified Sites of Special Scientific Interests due to their geology and botany – both having extensive areas of mineral rich unimproved grassland, which is a rare and declining habitat within East Lothian. In addition, the notification Traprain Law includes reference to the regional significance of the sites for the distribution of lichens found across the site.

- 6.3.4** Both sites contain archaeological evidence indicating extensive periods of human occupation. The large hill fort on Traprain Law is one of the best known prehistoric monuments in Scotland and, as such, has been notified as a Scheduled Ancient Monument by Historic Scotland under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The hill has been the subject of a number of excavations over the years and has revealed traces of use from the Neolithic period until about the 5th Century AD. Perhaps the most impressive find was unearthed in May 1919 when a hoard of flattened silver was recovered, which was later restored to its original glory, and is now displayed in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. North Berwick Law is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument although little fieldwork, has, as yet, been undertaken.
- 6.3.5** North Berwick Law is subject to a Conservation Agreement with the National Trust for Scotland.
- 6.3.6** The shared management aim for both sites is **‘to conserve and enhance the natural and human heritage’** this being delivered through the implementation of site management plans.

6.3.7 SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

TRAPRAIN LAW

- Successful fledging of three peregrine chicks and two raven chicks
- Continued support from SWT and their “Flying Flock” to continue the grazing regime
- Replacement of the quarry fence continued
- Discussions taking place on a new footpath to the climbers crags
- ‘Please Take Your Litter Home’ policy in place
- Archaeological excavations on a possible rampart line on the south side of the hill.

NORTH BERWICK LAW

- Management plan 2011-2015 published
- Maintenance work to improve lower summit path completed by British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)
- Marsh fixed point photographic monitoring continued
- Gorse fixed point photographic monitoring project started
- Monitoring of badger activity started
- Monitoring of maiden pink and the lichen *Ramalina polymorpha* continued
- John Muir Award citizenship project with local school to improve and develop site interpretation continued

6.4 LEVENHALL LINKS



INTRODUCTION

6.4.1 Levenhall Links is a 120 hectare area of mixed grassland, woodland and wetland situated adjacent to the mouth of the River Esk on the East Lothian coastline. The entire site is land that has been reclaimed from the sea using pulverised fuel ash (pfa) a by-product of Cockenzie Power Station. Areas that have reached capacity for the disposal of pfa have been landscaped to provide habitats that are of significant value both for recreation and wildlife conservation.

6.4.2 The site is popular with local people who use it for informal recreational pursuits. Additionally there are regular visits from water sports enthusiasts and those interested in natural history. The bird reserve and lagoon 8 (an active ash lagoon still used for the disposal of pfa) have gained national recognition for their importance for wildfowl and wading birds and were notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in 2001. These areas have also been included in the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar designations. Because of this the Links has developed as a nationally respected and recognised bird watching venue.

6.4.3 Levenhall Links is jointly owned with Scottish Power. The post of Countryside Ranger is co-funded by Scottish Power. In addition to the full time Countryside Ranger based at Levenhall a Seasonal Countryside Ranger is employed from April to September; this post being solely funded by East Lothian Council. The Countryside Rangers are responsible for the day-to-day management of the site and also provides a programme of educational and interpretational events throughout the year.

6.4.4 The overall management aim for Levenhall Links is **‘to create and maintain open space for recreation and nature conservation; while enhancing the visitor experience and landscape’**.

6.4.5 SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

- Public consultation process began to designate Levenhall as a Local Nature Reserve
- Trials were undertaken using a new technique in weed clearance on the boating pond

- Trials on meadow management started with an aim to restoring a more diverse ground flora on the hay meadow.
- Continued monitoring of flora and fauna as outlined in The Management Plan
- A group of travellers set up camp in Levenhall for three weeks in September 2011
- Unusually high winds in May caused significant damage to wooded areas at Levenhall. This was followed up with further high winds in January causing further damage. An unusually mild winter.

6.5 YELLOWCRAIG/ARCHERFIELD ADVISORY GROUP



INTRODUCTION

- 6.5.1** The stretch of coast from Gullane to Broad Sands was notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1967 and was subsequently incorporated into the Firth of Forth SSSI in 2001. The Firth of Forth itself is a Special Protected Area (SPA) and a Ramsar site as a result of the nature of its birdlife and wetland habitat.
- 6.5.2** Managed since 1944 by East Lothian Council and falling within the SSSI boundary, Yellowcraig has a long history of public use and sensitive management. The site is very popular with both with locals, holiday makers and day trippers from further afield.

- 6.5.3** Archerfield Estate was privately owned by Hamilton & Kinneil (1987) Ltd and as an agricultural site had limited public use. However in 1999 the eastern section of Archerfield Estate was sold to Caledonian Heritable Ltd (CHL) and in 2001 CHL lodged a planning application for two golf courses (Archerfield Links), 100 houses, 50 holiday cottages, hotel, clubhouse and the restoration of Archerfield House.
- 6.5.4** Lying to the west of Archerfield Links is Renaissance Golf Club. Similar to Archerfield, this land formed part of the Hamilton & Kinneil Ltd estate but was instead leased to Renaissance Golf Club on a 99 year agreement. The golf course is currently open for play and the construction of a hotel, clubhouse and associated facilities are ongoing.
- 6.5.5** The management area stretches from Eyebroughy in the West to the Eel Burn in the East and includes land at Archerfield Links and Renaissance Golf Clubs alongside work with Dirleton Community.
- 6.5.6** The overall management aim is to ensure **'The conservation and enhancement of the natural and historical heritage of the Management Area, via the joint workings of ELC, CHL and Scottish Natural Heritage.'**

The management of visitors within the Management Area so as to prevent so far as is reasonably practicable, direct access from CHL land to the SSSI and generally to minimise disturbance to the immediate and wider SSSI.'

6.5.7 SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

- Seaside award achieved for the 18th year
- Work conducted on eradication and control of invasive species
- Volunteers completed 440 hours work within the Management Area
- Camping noted on 25 occasions with some associated littering and damage to vegetation
- The sea buckthorn barrier within Archerfield Links ownership was cut back beyond the levels agreed by the Management Plan. Remedial work is scheduled to take place early spring/autumn 2012
- Strong winds in December affected golf course and Yellowcraig woodlands with widespread windblow damage to trees.

6.6 NORTH WEST QUARRY



- 6.6.1** Quarrying at this site, close to and south of Dunbar, has ceased and consent has been granted to create a water feature with associated grassland and woodlands. To guide the restoration a Working Group has been established by East Lothian Council to work with the owners, LaFarge.
- 6.6.2** Representatives on the Group include RSPB, Scottish Ornithologists` Club, Sustaining Dunbar and local community, land use and business enterprises.
- 6.6.3** The remit of the Group is to:
- Formulate a vision for the North West Quarry NWQ as a resource based primarily on its developing and potential value for wildlife
 - Guide the restoration and development of the NWQ so as to provide a high quality asset for East Lothian
- 6.6.4** The RSPB proposal to enhance the natural heritage interest of the quarry as well as providing environmental education opportunities is supported by the Working Group. During the year the detail of a management accord between Lafarge, RSPB and ELC was progressed. In the autumn of 2011 Lafarge created a bird watchers hide in the north-west corner of the site to improve vision over the water-body for the general public.
- 6.6.5** The Water body level has continued to rise almost reaching the predicted maximum. East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service (ELCRS) began monitoring within the quarry in March 2009 and since that date a fixed point photograph has been taken on every monthly visit. The photographs below show the change in water levels since the first visit to the the most recent visit.

MARCH 2009



MARCH 2010





- 6.6.6 MONITORING DATA.** To date, 65 different species have been recorded from within the footprint of the site. It is hoped that by tapping into the network of those using the hide, a more complete picture of the bird assemblage can be obtained, as the site matures.
- 6.6.7** One negative aspect is that a fair number of people have been noted walking within the quarry fence line. To date, eight people have been spoken to by the Countryside Ranger Service whilst they were on-site or immediately after they had left the site. In the main they were wandering in because, in their eyes, there didn't appear to be anything actually happening in the former quarry area. Three of those approached were walking dogs.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A | REPORT WEB LINKS

Advisory Group Annual reports. Can all be accessed by visiting <http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/countryside>

- John Muir Country Park
- Joint Laws
- Levenhall Links
- Yellowcraig/Archerfield
- The annual report for Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve is not available online, due to a long-established principle of non-promotion for the Reserve. Copies can, however, be supplied to anyone interested, by contacting:
Neil Clark, Principal Countryside Officer, at nclark@eastlothian.gov.uk

APPENDIX B | CORE PATHS PLAN

Can be downloaded at http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=1422&fileID=3902

APPENDIX D | LIST OF IMAGES

Inside front cover Haresfoot clover

P3 Coast at Dunbar

P6 River Tyne inflood

P7 View from Garleton Hills to Haddington

P10 River Tyne at Abbey Mill

P11 Path warden volunteers at work

P13 i Wind turbine, Stenton
ii Bee Orchid

P14 Yellowcraig turf nursery

P15 Seton Fields Community buy-out poster

P16 i Small tortoiseshell
ii Volunteer cutting back vegetation

- P18
 - i Sea Buckthorn Berries
 - ii Pirri-pirri burr
- P19
 - i Roe deer print
 - ii The flying flock at work
- P21 Future Jobs work placements with countryside rangers
- P23 Beech wood, Humble
- P25
 - i Tranent Young Parents Group, Butterdean
 - ii Beyond Boundaries event, Levenhall
- P27 Hairy Violet
- P28 A moorhen contemplates itself
- P29 Aberlady Bay LNR
- P31 Tyne estuary, John Muir Country Park
- P32 Traprain & North Berwick Laws
- P34 Levenhall Links
- P35 Yellowcraig and Archerfield
- P37 North West Quarry development
- P38-39 Changes in the water levels at the NW Quarry



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