

Cammo Estate – declaration of Local Nature Reserve summary document

Introduction

Cammo Estate is a rural semi-natural park in western Edinburgh comprising of farmland, semi-improved neutral grassland, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, plantation woodland, wetland and ornamental canal. It contains protected mammals and locally notable plant and bird species. The site forms part of Edinburgh's green network, establishing an important link to the River Almond riparian corridor. It is historically culturally important and is an oasis for a variety of wildlife. It is an important site for recreational activities, educational provision and a hub for local community events and activities.

What is a Local Nature Reserve?

A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is an area of land declared under Section 21 of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by a local authority because of its special nature interest and/or educational value. LNR's are areas of high natural heritage interest, which are not just protected but are managed and improved, with the conservation of nature as a priority concern. Of late, community participation, education and informal recreation have also become established as desirable management objectives (Scottish Natural Heritage [SNH] website).

Why should Cammo Estate be declared a Local Nature Reserve?

In order to meet the legislative requirements of the 1949 Act, it is essential that a proposed LNR should:

1. *Be managed* – Cammo Estate was feued to the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) in 1980 by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) with an associated Conservation Agreement, subsequently site management plans have been produced and implemented. A prerequisite was the formation and quarterly convening of the Cammo Advisory Group consisting member representation from CEC, NTS, Friends of Cammo Estate, Cramond and Barnton Community Council, Cramond Association as a public meeting.
2. *Provide special opportunities for study and research of British flora and fauna and the conditions in which they live and for study of earth sciences of special interest in the area; and/or preserve the special natural or earth science interest in the area* – biodiversity and conservation interest in Cammo Estate is high. Large numbers of a range of educational and health improvement establishments use the site on a regular basis. Some locally rare flora is

apparent and the site hosts healthy populations of invertebrates, both small and large mammals, small birds and raptors. The RSPB launched their “Aren’t Birds Brilliant” campaign in 2008 at Cammo Estate aimed at highlighting illegal raptor killing with the first buzzard nest viewing project also being launched, the first in Scotland within city limits.

3. *Consist predominately of British flora or fauna* – Cammo Estate is a historic designed landscape and its cultural heritage is nationally important. Due to its once formal presentation and relics, Cammo Estate hosts some exotic tree species within the small Pinetum area, some of which are rare and of special importance. The majority of flora and fauna is native with Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) almost completely absent.
4. *Have the study and research into, or preservation of, nature or the earth sciences as a priority objective and not as an incidental land management consideration* – the current and preceding site management plans clearly demonstrate this to be the case alongside important cultural heritage, see https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory_record/377101/cammo_estate
5. *Lie within the jurisdiction of the local authority concerned* – Cammo Estate, Cammo Road, Edinburgh, EH4 8AW. Site centroid NT 317503 674688.
6. *Be owned or leased by the local authority or under an agreement from the owner or tenant* - The house, policies and surrounding farmlands at Cammo were bequeathed to the NTS in 1975 following the death of Percival Maitland-Tennent, the last occupier of Cammo House. The NTS feued the estate to the CEC in 1980.

The selection and designation of new LNRs is in accordance with the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP). The Scottish Biodiversity Duty section of the EBAP contains an action to ‘Continue programme of developing and designating Local Sites.’

Cammo Estate is:

- a Local Biodiversity Site
- an area of Greenbelt
- an Area of Great Landscape Value subsequently Special Landscape Area
- a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation

- completely protected by a whole site Tree Preservation Order
- a Designated Historic Garden & Designed Landscape
- listed as a nationally important designed landscape in the Scottish Government's Inventory Supplementary Vol: Lothians, p13-17
- host to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) - Cammo Standing Stone (Ref: 6189); Cammo Canal (Ref: 6440)
- host to Listed Buildings - Cammo House (B); Stable Block (B); Gate Lodge (B); Gate piers, railing and boundary wall (B); Bridge including quadrant walls and estate boundary walls (B); Walled Garden, gate piers, out buildings and bee-boles (C); Cammo Home Farm including boundary wall and gate pier (C)

Other considerations

SNH also recommends that sites should be selected which:

- a. provide accessible, positive, current (or potential) informal opportunities for raising people's awareness, understanding and enjoyment of, and involvement with, their local natural heritage; and
- b. are (or have the potential to be) of special natural heritage interest in the area, through good management and safeguarding of the site.

Cammo Estate meets the legislative requirements of the 1949 Act and fulfils the additional site recommendations by SNH. Ownership of Cammo Estate was transferred to the CEC in 1980 from the NTS. The site is managed by the Council as publically accessible, natural greenspace and the Natural Heritage Service has produced a comprehensive 10 year management plan for the site. The site is inspected on a weekly basis with the visitor centre opened twice a week by Natural Heritage Officers and volunteers from the Friends of Cammo (FoC).

There is a management steering group for Cammo Estate, the Cammo Advisory Group. FoC are a very active group comprised members of the local community who have existed for over 15 years. Regular activities are scheduled and significant amounts of additional grant funding has been sourced and spent within Cammo Estate administered by FoC.

Historic landscape surveying and assessments have been undertaken in the early nineties that have guided the future direction of Cammo Estate and subsequent management plans developed from these documents

Under Section 21(6) of the 1949 Act, a local authority may only declare a LNR after consultation with SNH, although the Act does not specify when or what format the consultation should take. Any comments made by SNH are simply advice; it has no mandatory powers regarding site selection and management. SNH local officers are aware of the proposed declaration and support the CEC in declaring Cammo Estate a LNR. Engagement with SNH Area Officers and CEC Natural Heritage Service is consistent due to similarities and overlap working in this particular role and although a management facility can be utilised, CEC Natural Heritage Service would not require such input.

Consultation hub and other opportunity to comment

Following consultation, a notice of declaration must be published 'in a manner which appears best suited to informing the persons concerned'. In this instance it will involve placement of certified copies of the declarations in public libraries and in appropriate Council offices.

The proposed declaration of this LNR should raise public awareness of the estate and put in place measures to protect and manage it for the benefit of both local people and the wider population of Edinburgh. It will also contribute towards achieving many of the aims and targets of the Habitat and Species Plans contained within the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan.

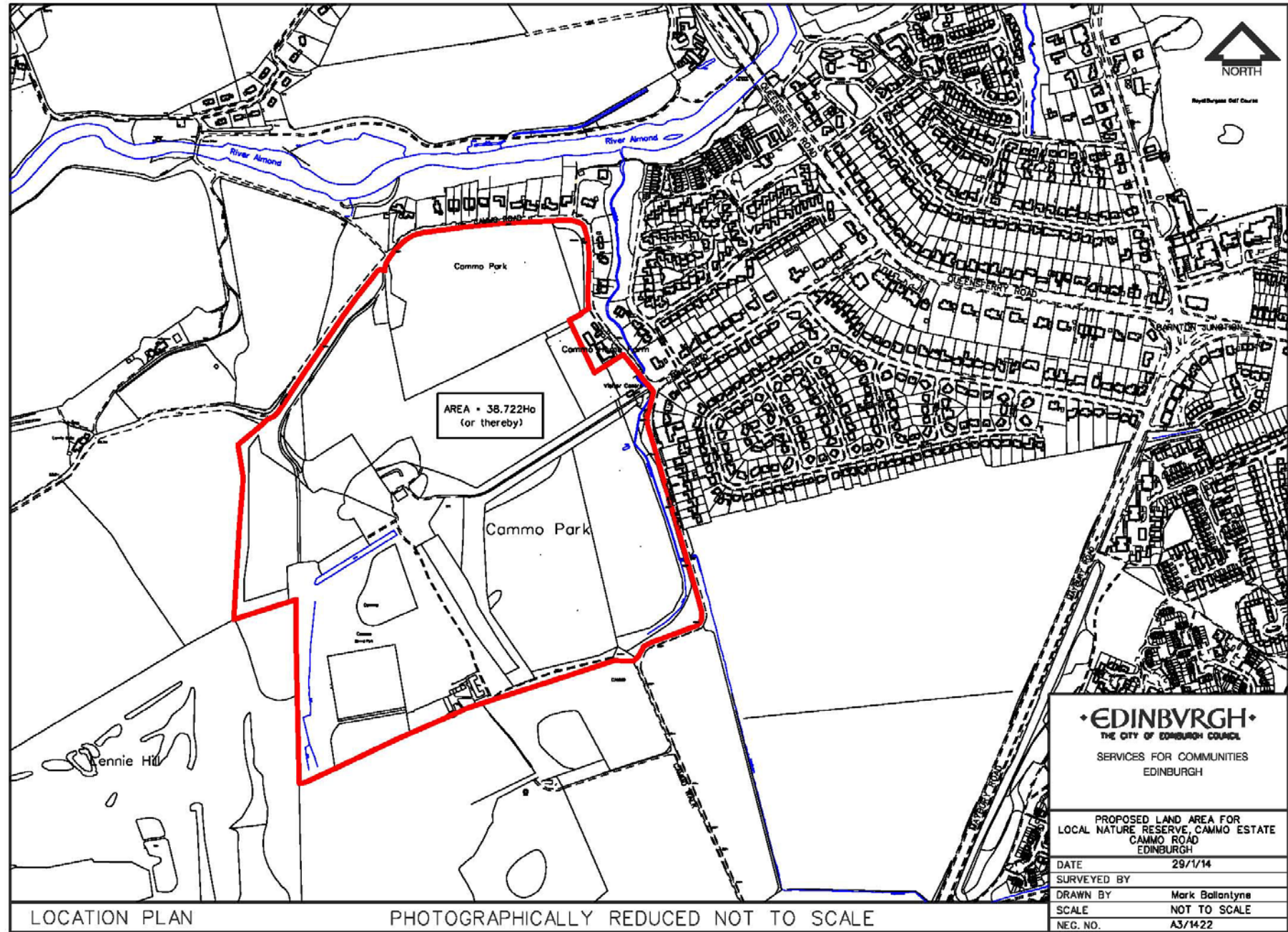
NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
CAMMO ESTATE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE NO. 1 DECLARATION [2016]

IN pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the abovementioned Act (“the Act”), and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, The City of Edinburgh Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) hereby declares that the land extending to 38.722 hectares or thereby, situated at Cammo Estate, Cammo Road, in the City of Edinburgh Council area and shown delineated in [red] (but excluding those areas shown out with) on the plan annexed hereto has been acquired and is held by the Council AND in pursuance of Section 19(2) of the abovementioned Act and all other powers aforesaid the Council further declares that the said land is being managed as a Nature Reserve.

This declaration may be referred to as The City of Edinburgh Council Cammo Estate Local Nature Reserve No. 1 Declaration [2016]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents typewritten on this page together with the plan annexed hereto are subscribed on behalf of the said The City of Edinburgh Council by [_____], one of the Proper Officers of the said The City of Edinburgh Council at Edinburgh on [*insert date*] and witnessed by [_____] of [*insert witness address*]

Cammo Estate area map



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