

Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2018-2027

Picture/s (from consultation competition)

DRAFT

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1. Introduction and Statement of Intent

Nestled between the peaceful residential areas of Braidburn and Craiglockhart, Easter Craiglockhart Hill rises dramatically through cliff-faces and steeply wooded slopes to a plateau of rabbit-cropped turf, featuring views out over the Forth, the Trossachs, the Pentlands and East Lothian, as well as the fascinating city-scape all around. A short walk around the Nature Trail - devised and maintained by a group of local residents - reveals a surprising variety of habitats. The park was awarded a Green Flag in 2009 and continues to retain this award in recognition of it being a quality greenspace.

The Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is owned and managed by City of Edinburgh Council Forestry and Natural Heritage (CECFNH) with active input from the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH). It was previously managed by a management group which included the two landowners: City of Edinburgh Council Forestry and Natural Heritage (CECFNH) (formerly the City of Edinburgh Council Countryside Ranger Service and separate Forestry Service); and Edinburgh Napier University plus representatives from the local community Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail, (now FECH). This includes an area of land previously owned by Edinburgh Napier University, which will increase the previous area of land managed by approximately 50%. The Local Nature Reserve can therefore be extended and managed with the continued support of the local community.

Easter Craiglockhart Hill has a wide variety of natural habitats, flora and fauna so its proximity to a large urban area makes the need for careful management of the LNR a fundamental element in this management plan. It is the intention of this management plan to provide guidance on social, historical and ecological aspects relating to the LNR, as described in the following statement of intent:

“To secure the long-term future of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve (ECHLNR) by conserving and enhancing both the natural and the designed landscapes, and promoting its continued enjoyment by the public.”

1.1 Scope of the Management Plan

The previous Management Plan for Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve ran from 2011-2016. This new management plan will run from 2018 to 2027. It includes all CEC owned land which includes that transferred by Craighouse Ltd in 2018 of the woodland compartments to the north and south of Craighouse Campus. It is a site-specific document produced by the CECFNH with input from FECH, in consultation local community groups and other interested parties.

CECFNH manages 13 Natural Heritage sites across the city with an emphasis on conserving places of natural, cultural and historical interest. The service also seeks to increase public understanding, appreciation and care for the countryside in and around Edinburgh, as well as being responsible for the city's public tree stock.

The FNH service undertakes this by:

- Ensuring that all 13 sites are clean, safe, and well maintained,
- Working in partnership with other organisations for the benefit of the sites and the local communities,
- Working in conjunction with Friends and local community groups to ensure that the public are involved with the management of the sites and,
- Ensuring that we are efficient in how we work and that our work is of a high standard.

Services that are provided include conservation management, community involvement,

corporate volunteering, interpretation, and environmental educational facilitation. The management plan is intended to offer guidance to all aspects of the management of ECHLNR. Where actions are specified, they will be prioritised to focus work programmes accordingly.

Despite the range and number of actions that could be undertaken on ECHLNR, the plan is meant to be implemented in the real world of financial restrictions and limited staff availability. These actions focus on those which are specific, realistic, and achievable.

A yearly report on the actions of the workplan should be undertaken and recorded to ensure knowledge of actions and objectives is kept up to date. The management plan should be reviewed after 5 years to account for any major changes that would affect operations.

1.1.1 The Plan in Relation to Legislation

There have been many changes over the years in legislation which affect the management of sites like Easter Craiglockhart Hill, the most notable are:

- Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011- This Act amends three pieces of primary legislation:
 - The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953;
 - The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and
 - The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conversation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

The Act harmonise aspects of historic environment legislation with the planning regime; improves the ability of central and local government to work with developers and their partners; and improve the capacity to deal with urgent threats and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of deterrents (Historic Scotland Website). If a monument is both listed and scheduled, only Scheduled Monument Consent is required for any work. However, listed building consent may still be required for any structures outside the scheduled area. For ECH LNR the Natural Heritage Service will be required to consult with Historic Scotland and CEC Archaeological Services over consent required to carry out works on this site.

- The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (WANE) – The Act amends a number of other pieces of legislation including the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and aims to modernise game laws, introduces new wildlife offences (vicarious liability), adds further regulation to snaring, updates to the ways Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are dealt with, updates to the licensing system, amendments to deer stalking and deer management, strengthens protection of badgers, makes changes to Muirburn practices and operational changes to Site of Special Scientific Interest management.
- The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy 2015 – this document aims to provide a guiding framework for national, regional and local mitigation, control or eradication initiatives helping to reduce the detrimental impact of INNS.
- The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - This has opened the area up to use by a much wider range of people and recreational pursuits, which, at times can cause conflict. However, the area is regularly monitored by CECFNH and volunteers, who provide advice to users on responsible access.

An example of a responsible new expansion of recreational activity is the publication of an Orienteering map for the site (see FECH website <http://www.craiglockhartwoods.org/>).

- The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: Aspects under the Act for which CECFNH have responsibility in relation to the management of land and water, are as follows:

Biodiversity: Duty to further the conservation of biodiversity:

It is the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

Public bodies operating in Scotland are obliged to consider, and account for, the impacts which their activities and policies have on the overall balance and health of the natural biological environment, at a local, regional, national and international level. CEC are required to act, in ways which are consistent with the exercise of their other statutory functions, to ensure that the conservation of that naturally-occurring biological diversity is encouraged and advanced.

- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 - Badgers and their setts are comprehensively protected by this Act as amended by the WANE Act 2011.

It is an offence to:

- wilfully kill, injure, take or attempt to kill a badger;
- possess a dead badger or any part of a dead badger;
- cruelly ill-treat a badger;
- use badger tongs in the course of killing, taking or attempting to kill a badger;
- dig for a badger;
- possess, sell or offer for sale any live badger;
- mark, tag or ring a badger.

It is also a crime to interfere with a badger sett by intentionally or recklessly causing or allowing:

- damage to a sett or any part of it;
- destruction of it;
- sett access to be obstructed, or any entrance of it;
- a dog to enter it;
- disturbance to a badger when it is occupying it.

- The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995: The Act aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face. This Act has been significantly extended, including by the Disability Discrimination Act (2005). It now gives disabled people rights in the areas of: employment, education, access to goods, facilities, and services. The Act requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. As land managers, CEC and must ensure as much of the space as possible is accessible to people who have problems walking, for those who use wheelchairs and buggies.
- The Equality Act 2010 – The Act requires to ensure decision makers have regard for the desirability of reducing socio-economic inequalities; to reform and harmonise equality law; to enable certain employers to be required to publish information about the differences in pay between male and female employees; to prohibit victimisation in certain circumstances; to enable duties to be imposed in relation to the exercise of public procurement functions; to increase equality of opportunity; to amend the law relating to rights and responsibilities in family relationships; and for connected purposes.
- Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003: The Act has 2 principal aims. The first of these is to amend the offence of dog fouling so that the offence consists of failing to clear up after a dog rather than of allowing a dog to foul. The second aim is to establish new enforcement provisions relating to the offence by enabling local authorities and police constables to issue fixed penalty notices to persons suspected of committing the offence.

- Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960: The City of Edinburgh Council's liability to users of Parks owned by the Council derives from this Act. This act makes provision regarding any hazards or dangers on land. It requires the "owner in respect of any dangers which are due to the state of the premises or to anything done...on them... [to take] such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the person will not suffer injury or damage due to any such danger."

Scottish law does not allow the transfer of liability where the landowner is negligent. However, CEC's "Park Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace 2013" does apply to all users of the park.

1.1.2 The Plan in Relation to Council Policies and Plans

There are many relevant policies and plans that the Council have produced these include:

- Edinburgh City Local Development Plan 2016 - Sets out the Council's policies to guide development in the city and its proposals for specific sites. The Plan covers the whole of the urban area, and part of its rural Green Belt fringe.
- Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 – 2018: The Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (ELBAP) outlines its context for action in relation to legislation and responsibilities throughout the plan: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity>
- Edinburgh Core Path Plan 2008: This was produced, through consultation, as a requirement under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. It identifies key routes for non-motorised access through out Edinburgh. It supports sustainable transport objectives, contributes to better health, provides social benefits, and contributes to tackling climate change. Easter Craiglockhart Hill contains two core paths. These are the path leading from Glen Lockhart Road to Craiglockhart Terrace and the path leading from Craighouse Road to Craiglockhart Pond, with exits through Craiglockhart Terrace and Craiglockhart Sports Centre.
- Capitalising on Access: An Access Strategy for the City of Edinburgh : The Strategy sets out a framework for developing inclusive access for everyone who lives in, works in, and visits Edinburgh. The priority action outlined by the Strategy relating to this area and relevant to ECHLNR is:

Linking of greenspace networks with residential areas is vital. Areas such as Holyrood Park and Braid Hills provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation close to where many people live. Information and signage can help raise awareness locally, so these areas realise their full potential. The ECHLNR management plan will consider the relevant management.

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy (CEC, 2006): The purpose of the Strategy is that it sets realistic aspirations and shows the way forward to achieving them. The Strategy is a means of matching the availability, function and role of parks and gardens with the changing requirements as identified by user surveys. The study focused on parks and gardens within the urban area including ECHLNR. Under the parks classification system recommended in the Strategy ECHLNR is classed as a Natural Heritage Park. Natural Heritage parks are described as follows:

These are generally large areas, the functions of which are determined by topography and ecology. In the main, these parks will tend to be dominated by woodland but also include coastal areas with topographical features such as hills and river valleys. The semi-natural character of these parks means that management for biodiversity is of

fundamental importance, many of which are designated or proposed Local Nature Reserves, Urban Wildlife Sites or Sites of interest for Nature Conservation as defined in the Edinburgh Urban Nature Conservation Strategy and Local Plans. Therefore, these areas are well suited to informal environmental education. Access is likely to be via car hence they will generally include designated car parking areas within their boundaries.

2. Site Description

2.1 Site Location

Site name	Easter Craiglockhart Hill
Grid reference	NT 232 706 (Centre): 1:50,000 OS66
Area	23.1 Ha
Height	158m

2.2 Ownership and Tenure

The site is owned by The City of Edinburgh Council, Place, as shown on the boundary map, Appendix A, and managed by the CECFNH Service.

Stakeholders: Easter Craiglockhart LNR is open to all members of the public who wish to use the site in a responsible manner, particularly the local community in the form of the FECH who take a very active role in managing the reserve.

Main users: The site is used by many different user groups including: walkers, schools for educational activities, dog walkers, cyclists, runners, horse riding and as a location for events such as weddings, theatre productions, orienteering competitions, and geocaching.

Adjacent Landowners: to the south, the site is bordered by the Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Course. The north, east, north-west, and south-west of the LNR is fringed by private properties, with sizeable gardens containing a variety of ornamental and indigenous flora. The last portion of the west boundary is taken up by Craiglockhart Sports Centre.

The importance of so much greenspace around the LNR, providing both a buffer zone to urban sprawl and additional foraging for wildlife, cannot be underestimated. Consequently, maintaining good relations with adjacent landowners is critical. Green Belt policy designation of the surrounding fields will likewise assist in safeguarding the adjacent landscape.

2.3 Conservation Status

Craiglockhart Hills were first designated a Conservation Area in March of 1977 and updated in 1993 to include the area north-east of the pond. The current LNR was identified as an Area of Great Landscape value, and of specific nature conservation interest in 1992. These designations were then effectively superseded by the site's identification as an Urban Wildlife Site, in the City of Edinburgh Council's Urban Conservation Strategy for Edinburgh, (1992). This was updated when the area was awarded Local Nature Reserve Status in 2005, under the terms of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. As such, the park now enjoys statutory protection as a nature reserve. It was listed as a Local Biodiversity Site, Designated Conservation Area, and Area of Great Landscape value in the Edinburgh City Local Plan which was adopted in 2016. It is also a Geodiversity site.

Within the LNR there are additional designations, including the Ancient Woodland of Plantation origin covering more than 3.5 Hectares, Semi-natural Park, and Semi natural greenspace.

The area of Local Nature reserve currently extends from the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance, south to Glenlockhart Road and then up the hill to the upper grassland which encompasses

the hilltop. The boundary of the LNR will be extended to include all transferred land from the Craighouse Development. This includes Craighouse Woodland and the locally called "Meadowspot Woodland".

2.4 Conservation Assessment

This wildlife site has been evaluated against, and passed, the CEC Local Biodiversity Sites (2006+) assessment system for identifying sites of local importance for nature conservation and is recognised and protected as a Local Biodiversity Site (Local Nature Conservation Sites) in the Planning Authority's Development Plan.

Assessment description:

A diverse area of woodland, wetland, unimproved grassland and scrub all of which are uncommon in the area. The plant species diversity is average but there are several local grassland and freshwater rarities. The site is a large, partly natural area of mixed habitat which is important for walking, dog walking and boating and provides a significant view-point over the city. The area is used for some interpretive and educational purposes.

Assessed habitats (see Habitat Type map in Appendix C):

• Broadleaved semi-natural woodland	4.7 Ha
• Broadleaved plantation woodland	10 Ha
• Dense continuous scrub	1.2 Ha
• Unimproved neutral grassland	0.8 Ha
• Semi-improved neutral grassland	3.6 Ha
• Semi-improved acid grassland	0.1 Ha
• Coniferous plantation woodland	0.4 Ha
• Mixed plantation woodland	0.3 Ha
• Marsh/Marshy grassland	0.3 Ha
• Tall ruderal	0.1 Ha
• Amenity grassland	0.1 Ha
• Ephemeral grassland/short perennial	0.1 Ha
• Mesotrophic standing water	1.4 Ha

It is a Local Biodiversity Site notable for the following characteristics:

- Diversity of habitats
- Diversity of species
- Rarity of habitats
- Rarity of species
- Naturalness of site
- Extent of site

The site also contains fragile habitats, has educational potential and amenity value.

2.5 LNR Natural Environment

The CECFNH uses spreadsheets, which enables them to record flora and fauna on the sites they manage. The information about individual sites is then used to monitor species and manage the habitats on these sites. Occasional specialist wildlife surveys of the site take place including a fungal survey in 2017, fungi, butterfly and other records from visits of groups

such as the Edinburgh Natural History Society, and The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) the local biological records centre.

2.6 Soil

The area consists predominantly of Brown forest soils with gleying, non-calcareous gleys (poorly drained and leached grey soils).

2.7 Plant Communities, Habitats, Flora and Fauna

2.7.1 Woodlands

The mixed deciduous woodland on the site is of several distinct types. The majority, is dominated by sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, elm *Ulmus sp.* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*. The shrub layer within the wood is patchy with a predominance of elder *Sambucus nigra*. The ground flora is well developed and has been undisturbed in some areas for many years so includes woodland maturity indicators such as wood sanicle; dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, dog violet *Erythronium Pagoda*, bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*. Part of the woodland grows on very steep slopes, indeed cliffs, which have undoubtedly kept parts safe from human interference. However, the nature of the terrain prevents the growth of very mature trees which might otherwise be expected.

There are good specimens of horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, over 200 years old, along the east edge of Craiglockhart Wood and the north edge of Craighouse Wood. There are also many mature beech trees along the base of the hill, several of which have recently been removed. Other species of trees present include sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, yew *Taxus baccata* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*.

Regeneration is occurring abundantly throughout the woodland. The main canopy species are all regenerating successfully, creating woodland with mixed ages of trees, indicating a lack of disturbance for some time. Sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus* and ash, *Fraxinus excelsior* are regenerating most successfully throughout the wood, with elm, *Ulmus sp.* being the most dominant species, particularly at the lower, northern edge of the woodland.

Another section of mixed woodland, to the north of the marshy area is quite different in character, it graduates from a wet willow *Salix sp.* dominated habitat, nearest the marsh, to an area of drier woodland dominated by silver birch *Betula pendula* and sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus* to the north. Despite the dense canopy there is a ground flora of tall herbs in many parts of this woodland. The trees are all young, growing close together with apparently successful regeneration of all species. Regeneration of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and yew *Taxus baccata*, from outside this area, is also occurring. And this woodland has been extended in recent years through the planting up with native species of the former derelict hotel building site by the local woodland group.

2.7.2 Plantations

There are three areas of plantation within the site. The largest plantation is coniferous, predominantly of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* with a few European larch *Larix decidua* and an extremely poor and sparse ground flora. The small area of plantation where the old curling pond used to be is dominated by yew *Taxus baccata*. The deciduous plantation below Craighouse is of beech *Fagus sylvatica*.

2.7.3 Scrub

There are patches of the scrub species including gorse *Ulex europaeus* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* in some areas of the grassland. This is a valid habitat in its own right and should be regarded as a positive asset to the site. Scrub is particularly beneficial for bird species providing food and shelter for nesting and roosting. However, control of gorse is carried out due to the safety implications from fire as well as its tendency to create monocultures if allowed to dominate. Loss of habitat will be offset by introduction of other native species including blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, juniper *Juniperus communis*, and holly *Ulex aquifolium*. Juniper was previously planted but not successful, however, further attempts are being made.

2.7.4 Grassland

The large area of neutral unimproved grassland, central to the site, is being invaded by tree species from the woodland which surrounds it on three sides and by gorse *Ulex europaeus* which already dominates quite large areas. The main area of grassland is dominated by tall false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* with other species including cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat grass *Trisetum flavescens* and timothy grass *Phleum pratense*.

In two or three areas, the vegetation is indicative of a more acidic substrate with sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex tenuifolius*, tormentil, *Potentilla erecta*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and heath woodrush *Luzula multiflora*. Other smaller patches of vegetation which include harebell, *Campanula rotundifolia* wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*; purple milk vetch *Astragalus danicus* and crested hair grass *Koeleria macrantha* are indicative of strongly calcareous conditions. Thus, a wide variety of grassland species are found within a very small area.

Other parts of the grassland are dominated by stands of tall herbs such as rose-bay willow herb *Epilobium angustifolium*; nettles *Urtica dioica* and creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*. Close to the woodland, particularly on the north, north east and North-West boundaries of the grassland, regeneration of species from the woodland is quite rampant. There is also some tree planting in the north-west corner. The species regenerating are mainly sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and ash, *Fraxinus excelsior* with some European larch, *Larix deciduas*, wild cherry/gean, *Prunus avium* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*.

2.7.5 Marsh

The marsh area between the boating pond and the wet willow woodland is dominated by two species, hairy willow-herb *Epilobium parviflorum* and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, with branched bur reed *Sparganium erectum* common throughout. Around the edge of the marsh are several young trees - elder, ash, elm and whitebeam, which do not appear to be encroaching.

This area has two native orchid species present, the northern marsh orchid, *Dactylorhiza prupurella*, and the common spotted orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. The first has the Status of "local" and second the Status of "quite widespread" throughout Edinburgh, as listed in The Plant Life of Edinburgh and the Lothians (2002). Also present are two less common species - reed sweet grass *Glyceria maxima* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*. Along the stream side nearest Lockharton Crescent, are many garden escapes, including buddleia *Buddleja davidii* and monkshood *Aconitum sp.* The marsh and stream provide very successful breeding sites for frogs *Rana temporaria* and toads *Bufo bufo*. Also present are sticklebacks *Gasterosteus sp.* and large leeches.

2.7.6 Open water

The open water of the Craiglockhart Boating pond provides a breeding ground for mute swan *Cygnus olor*, coots *Fulica atra*, goosander *Mergus merganser*, and mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and is regularly visited by tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, moorhens *Fulica atra* and heron *Ardea cinerea*. The north end has been planted with two areas of vegetation that provides shelter for young birds, and increases the biodiversity of the pond.

2.7.7 Fungi

Species of fungi are abundant in the LNR. All of our records come from recorders and the general public and are passed on to The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) where we have a list of species found. Some such as dead man's fingers *Xylaria polymorpha*, oyster mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatus*, and tar spot fungi *Rhytisma sp.* and *Trabutia sp.*, are common, and often reflect the healthy nature of the woodland.

2.7.8 Mammals and invertebrates

The LNR is host to a wide range of mammals and invertebrates including, but not limited to, Bats, Birds, Badgers, and Butterfly. The pond hosts a healthy variety of both transient and resident populations of birds. This includes the many of the common gulls, *Laridae*, ducks, geese, and swans *Anatidae*, to the less common merganser *Mergus merganser*. The woodland regularly supports large populations of finches, *Fringillidae*, and often green and spotted woodpeckers, *Picidae*. The woodland also supports populations of Badger, *Meles meles*. Several species of bat can be found on site, with the pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* being the most common. Butterflies can also be found around the hill, especially during warm summers around the wildflower meadow. You can find species such as the Red Admiral, *Vanessa Atalanta*, and Peacock butterfly, *Aglais io*, as well as any others. You can find a full species list by request from FNH or TWIC.

2.8 Significant Key Features

2.8.1 Landscape

The landscape is formed mostly of volcanic rock modified by glacial moulding during the last 30,000 years to form a crag and tail landform. There are also areas of Old Red Sandstone which formed 400 million years ago under a shallow sea. About 325 million years ago, volcanoes erupted, which cooled to form the hard igneous rock which makes up most of Easter Craiglockhart Hill. This can be seen in the lava outcrops. The softer green coloured rock on the edge of the hill is Volcanic Tuff which is volcanic ash, expelled when the volcano erupted. Later, earthquakes caused the rock to split leaving steep sided cliffs. Approximately 17,000 years ago a huge sheet of ice covered the area. When it melted the valleys were scoured leaving the hills that are now present. A geological overview of the seven hills of Edinburgh can be found here: http://edinburghgeolsoc.org/downloads/rigsleaflet_craiglockharta4.pdf

2.8.2 Archaeology and History

A brief history of the area is provided on the nature trail leaflet (Appendix A). CEC Archaeologists have confirmed that the area of the LNR contains no known archaeological remains. Given the very common occurrence of prehistoric sites on almost every other similar hill (e.g. the Late Iron Age Hill Fort atop the adjacent Wester Craiglockhart Hill) within Edinburgh we could expect to discover some trace of prehistoric occupation on this site. Accordingly, any future proposal which would require ground-breaking works (e.g. new paths, drainage, extensive new tree planting), especially on or around the hilltop, should be discussed with the Council's Archaeological Service in order to assess what if any archaeological impact it may have.

It is thought that the name Craiglockhart may come from either the Lockhart Family, who owned the land in the 14th century or it is a description of the area i.e. A rocky hill by a loch: Craig- Loch- Ard (Gaelic).

In 1773 the estate was sold to the Munro family (a famous medical family). Alex Munro planted trees on Easter Craiglockhart and allowed local residents to walk there.

In 1917, the war poets, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen were treated in hospital at the Craiglockhart Hydropath, built in 1880. It was during this time they wrote their most moving poems.

Above Easter Craiglockhart LNR, the magnificent 1894 neo gothic building of Craighouse Hospital still stands. These buildings were then the site of Edinburgh Napier University's Craighouse campus from the mid 1990's until 2011 when the property was sold to Craighouse Development for residential housing. While the residential estate will be sold separately, the mature woodland surrounding was transferred to CEC in perpetuity in early 2018.

The area to the west of the site around Colinton Road is known locally as "Happy Valley", which comes from the many historical connections the area has with recreational pursuits. A Victorian curling pond was built at the end of Craiglockhart Terrace and in 1875 Craiglockhart Pond was built for ice-skating. By the early 20th century there was also boating here and by the 1920's there was a dancehall and amusement centre on the site. Tennis has a long association with the area and the adjacent Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club dates to 1907. The present LNR and Craiglockhart Sports and Tennis Centre continue this long association with social and recreational activities.

3. Site Evaluation

The following section outlines what has been carried out in the past and what is being done at present.

3.1 Partnerships

The CEC has been involved with this site for over 20 years and has developed many partnerships over that time. Although the FNH manage the site, several other departments within the City of Edinburgh Council are also involved, these include: Planning: Planning Initiatives: City Wide Team, other members within Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries such as Greenspace managers and the South-West Locality Team and Waste and Cleansing. Also included are Archaeological Services (CECAS) who provide an archaeological curatorial advisory and management service for the Council, they advise on impact of any new landscaping / development scheme and on aspects related to heritage interpretation and promotion.

There is strong and longstanding community support and involvement in the LNR. The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (formally Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail (FECH)) has over 300 members and takes a very active interest in the management of the site. Over the 18 years since the group was formed they have raised funds and arranged for many projects to improve and up-grade the area. These included:

- Funding the demolition of an old hotel and annex buildings that used to be on the site
- Resurfacing the old curling rink to provide community and play space
- Producing the nature trail
- Providing seating and landscaping at the view point by the pond

- Ordered and planted thousands of native bluebells and replanted a low woodland area with rowans and shrubs.

3.2 Access and Recreation

There are five main access points for the site. Glenlockhart Road in the South, Craighouse Road and Craiglea Place in the East, Lockharton Crescent and Craiglockhart Sports Centre in the north, and Craiglockhart Terrace in the West. There are two access points specifically designed for wheelchair access (see Appendix A). Efforts have been made to improve all the entrances and to ensure that they are welcoming and accessible.

Major path works took place in 2008 which included the construction of a ramp, new wooden steps and path upgrades within the site. The section of path that runs from Craiglockhart Pond, behind Craiglockhart Sports Centre and private gardens to the junction at golf course wall was carried out later in 2011, with major drainage also being installed.

The area is much appreciated and well used by local people as a place to take children, to walk dogs, to appreciate nature or to exercise. One of the entrances, that from Craiglockhart Terrace, is often used for boules or petanque as well as a children's play trail starting from there and carrying on along the pond. Birdwatchers particularly enjoy the area around the pond as well as families with young children who make regular trips to watch and feed the ducks.

All the paths are well used by walkers enjoying the opportunity to experience the countryside within the city. The nature trail can provide a focus for a structured walk. Regular use is made of the site by dog walkers. It is also a popular route for runners and cyclists, with cycle racks at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance and outside the sports centre. Due to its elevation, the LNR can be seen from all over the city.

The CECFNH and volunteers monitor access and recreation through regular patrolling which is logged at the Natural Heritage headquarters at the Hermitage of Braid. This information is used to prioritise works requiring to be carried out by FNH and the various groups that they work with. Any work that cannot be carried out by the Natural Heritage department of CECFNH, such as tree work (e.g. involving climbing), will be passed to the Forestry section. In addition, funding will be sought to bring in contractors for larger projects e.g. extensive wall repairs or the upgrading of paths.

3.3 Outdoor Education

The local nursery school makes very good educational use of the LNR. The children are regularly taken on walks so that they can appreciate nature throughout the year. Local schools make field visits to the site to support their class work. The CECFNH work to facilitate schools and community groups on site.

A forest school programme has run on the site since 2010 With local schools and nurseries visiting every week of the year and other groups running forest school programmes during the holidays.

3.4 Marketing and Events

All Parks are marketed through the CEC website:

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/naturalheritage>. It informs the public about Edinburgh's variety of Parks and Greenspaces, how to get to them, what's happening in those spaces and all relevant contact information. The City of Edinburgh Council's Parks, Greenspace, and Cemeteries department also promotes parks through. Social Media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, facilitated through Edinburgh Outdoors. See: <https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk> .

Other things such as a parks photo competition increase the visibility and recognition of the City of Edinburgh Parks. For important events, or to advertise information about local community group activities and projects, the FNH makes use of press releases, both in smaller local newspapers as well as the Edinburgh Evening News. These press releases are important to reach out to different groups and promote knowledge of the park and activities.

3.5 Interpretation

The main audience to this area are people who live in the local area and visit the area regularly. There are occasionally visitors and tourists from further afield, and even local people do not always know much about the area's history. The message conveyed by any interpretation should reflect the park's fascinating history and importance in the past to people and today as home to a surprisingly wide range of animals and plants.

The FNH manages 13 sites throughout the city and therefore wishes to keep interpretation on these sites within recognisable style guidelines. They are also to be brought in line with the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries branding guidance. With this in mind:

- The interpretation should match the style and colouring of interpretation produced on other parks
- Made from sustainable hard-wearing material, vandal proof, can either be easily replaced or cleaned
- Must include CEC logo and the logo of any grant providers
- Fonts must be easy to read and distinguish letters in good contrasting colours
- Must be physically accessible and comply with government legislation

The content and final media which would be used will, within the aforementioned guidelines, be decided in conjunction with local community. This may include a variety of media or keep to only one; the decision will be made once the local community have been consulted. The content will include information about the history of the area as well as the wildlife that uses it today; the past and present will be explained through interpretation – either by an interactive trail, art or other media. Please see appendix ? for more detailed plans.

There are currently three sponsored information boards showing a map of the area and giving information on relevant wildlife. These are at the entrance on Craighouse Road, the entrance on Craiglea Place and on the wall by the causeway.

There is also the Friends of Craiglockhart Nature Trail leaflet which was last updated in Spring 2010 and is available at www.craiglockhartwoods.org. The website describes the flora and fauna, geology and history of the site. There is also a feedback page asking for users views.

In addition to the 3 information boards put in place in 2010 to replace the old wooden ones, more will be installed at main entrances. These allow Natural Heritage and Friend's to keep locals updated with events and what's happening.

To ensure the involvement of members, the FECH produces and circulates a quarterly newsletter to all members and to the local community. They have committed to working towards issuing all future newsletters by email to reduce paper usage. In addition, they have

also participated in the upgrading of the Nature Trail Leaflet, which is available via the website, which shows more clearly the access points and locations of bus stops. The website also has links through to Lothian Buses timetables. There is also a link to the orienteering map.

3.6 Safety

FNH has always informed the police of certain types of anti-social behaviour on Easter Craiglockart Hill. The service has also developed a good working relationship with the Wildlife Crime Officers within Police Scotland to monitor any suspicious activity regarding wild animals such as badgers, foxes or raptors in our parks.

The lighting of fires seems to be a regular activity even though it is advised against doing so by the City of Edinburgh Council's Park Management Rules. Liaison is undertaken with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required enabling access for fire appliances, 4x4 vehicles and fire-fighters on foot, where sources of water can be found on the Hill and the logging of incidents attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Any woodland work or conservation activities where arisings are generated are kept from path edges/accessible areas at the request of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The Environmental Wardens who are based within Localities through the Community Safety teams assist FNH by providing a visible presence, if required, with the aim of reducing dog fouling and littering offences. They will take enforcement against anyone found to be contravening the Dog fouling (Scotland) Act 2003. Any person found failing to pick up immediately after their dog is issued a Fixed Penalty Notice of £60, reduced to £40 if paid within 28 days. They also take the issue of littering very seriously, leaving or depositing litter is a criminal offence, therefore anyone seen to be contravening the Environmental Protection Act 1990, will be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice of £50.

3.6.1 Ezytreev

Ezytreev is a data management tool used by FNH Trees and Woodlands Officers for onsite tree data collection, surveying and reinspection. Tree works can be ordered and budgeted. Enquiries can be logged on a complaints management system. There are digital mapping and GIS capabilities and it provides a complete tree risk management strategy is followed.

Trees may need to be felled for public safety due to storm damage or the age of some of the trees and their susceptibility to disease. Wherever possible these are monolithed to maintain as much biodiversity value as possible in addition to stumps being retained on site.

3.7 Sustainability

As Easter Craiglockart Hill LNR is a Natural Heritage Park, it does not use plantings that require peat.

Leaf litter, tree branches and fallen wood are left in situ if this is safe, or moved to areas away from paths if necessary, but are not taken away as waste. Any large items of rubbish removed from the park, particularly any fly-tipping, are taken to the local recycling centre where it can be separated rather than deposited in landfill.

This site is fortunate in having limited invasive species present which are managed in many ways. These include:

Reed mace – hand pulled
Giant hogweed- not present

Japanese knotweed- stem injection
Himalayan balsam- pulled by hand
Yellow Archangel – dug out

At present, herbicide application is only used when cultural practises will not provide adequate control i.e. on ivy roots on the remains of buildings. Only affected areas are treated and only then using strategies that are sensitive to the needs of the public and the environment. All operatives are trained to the approved certification level for the application of chemicals.

ECHLNR is well served by the local bus routes on nearby Glenlockart Rd, Craighouse Rd and Colinton Rd, see <https://lothianbuses.co.uk> for up to date details.

There is a small amount of car parking on the street at Lockarton Crescent, Craighouse Rd and Craiglockhart Terrace with good links to the nearby canal for walkers and cyclists. Visitors are encouraged to walk or cycle to the area if they live locally and to make use of the cycle racks, or use the bus.

3.8 Maintenance

This aspect is managed by FNH, and carried out by Localities or estates team. Work is identified and if it cannot be remedied immediately while on site it is then reported and prioritised. Alternatively, volunteers may be brought in to assist or a contractor used, depending on the requirements. Areas and Responsibilities include:

- Cut grass and strimming
- Entrances and around furniture
- Informal Hedge
- Curling rink
- EC pond
- Biodiversity/ Meadow - Cut and raked
- Woodland
- Path/hard Standing
- Various paths throughout Estate
- Pond/wetland

3.8.2 Path Upgrades/spending plan

Within the transferred sections of land, there are works and upgrades to be carried out. Funds transferred along with the land will be used for these upgrades. See Appendix D for breakdown.

3.8.2 Litter

There are litter bins available for visitors at main entrance points. They are emptied on a regular basis by Waste and Cleansing. Litter is picked by FNH staff while carrying out site inspections and any fly-tipping is removed as soon as possible. The Friends of Easter Craiglockhart and other local organisations such as Brownie/Guide and Cub/Scout groups also undertake litter sweep of the site. This ensures that the site is kept to a high standard of cleanliness. There is an expectation that all users are responsible and take their rubbish home with them or use the bins provided.

3.9 Park Quality Assessment and Green Flag

CEC carries out quality assessments of its parks and gardens annually. The results are recorded as a Park Quality Assessment (PQA) score. The scoring system and criteria used is based on the Green Flag Award. Easter Craiglockhart Hill LNR consistently scores very highly,

scoring 80% in 2017. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces. The Green Flag scheme in Scotland is currently administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful (see <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org>) and CEC holds 26 Green Flag Awards.

4. Management Recommendations and Work Program

4.1 Overall Management Aims

1. To maintain and enhance the nature conservation interest of the different semi-natural habitats which occur within the site: -
 - Marsh
 - Woodland
 - Scrub
 - Grassland
 - Open water
2. To safeguard and where necessary enhance the populations of any threatened, endangered or typical species
3. To maintain the aesthetic value of the site
4. To provide educational opportunities for the local community, schools and visitors through interpretation
5. Continue and increase community involvement
6. To encourage responsible access and manage conflict
7. To meet all legal obligations with regard to the site

4.2 Prescriptions

Aim 1

To maintain and enhance the nature conservation interest of the different semi-natural habitats.

Habitats:

Continue programme of fixed point photography every 3 years. Initial sets of photographs were taken in 2001 to build up a library of images to primarily facilitate an accurate monitoring system of several factors. This includes: path erosion; spread of scrub and; encroachment of undesirable species etc. This was previously being implemented as an action within the photography department of ENU as part of that landowner's contribution to the management actions. However, it will now be overtaken, as far as possible, by CECFNH.

- Marsh:

- Maintain paths around marsh area by cutting back vegetation in summer, brushing fallen leaves in autumn and resurfacing with whin dust as required.
- Monitor wetland area for informal paths.
- Remove variegated reed Canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and other garden escapes by hand. Remove Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*. Much of this work can be done using volunteer groups who are looking for conservation tasks.
- There should be periodic reduction and control of Bull Rush *Typha sp.* And Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*.

- Woodland:

Generally: - Monitor all management and human impact on the woodlands. Monitoring should be recorded in site inspection logs based with the FNH at The Hermitage of Braid. This monitoring is in addition to the fixed-point photography and should be designed to systematically record any vandalism, dumping, fire-raising etc. Any management by the local authority or other landowners can also be noted for comment or action as required.

CEC has completed a survey of all mature trees beside paths and buildings, including those within the newly acquired sections of woodland. This information is available to FNH through Easytreev.

Management of tree population on the site: - Continue to replace elms *Ulmus sp.* which have been lost due to removal (Dutch elm disease) with woodland species such as Oak *Quercus sp.* or Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Several (up to 5 trees) should be planted for each large elm lost to maximise the chances of successful establishment. These trees will need to be thinned in the future if they all survive. Whips should be used to maximise rate of establishment and minimise vandalism. Local seed should be used wherever possible. Possible sources include: on-site seed collection, the Lothian Conservation Volunteers (LCV) tree nursery, Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) from Bawsinch Nature Reserve native species arboretum at Duddingston.

- In accordance with the CEC management of dangerous trees these should be reported via CECFNH to the Trees and Woodlands officer.

- Debris which falls from trees (branches) should be kept clear of paths. This debris should certainly not be removed from the site, due to its nature conservation value. However, attempts should be made to give the site a generally cared for look - which can help reduce vandalism.

- Fallen and cut trees can be left to be used for building furniture, drainage etc. Branches overhanging paths and trees which show evidence of disease (e.g. fungi) should be removed by CECFNH or if too large for them then reported to the Trees and Woodland Officer to be removed by the Forestry Unit.

- Dead and dying trees should be left standing wherever possible as they provide essential nest sites for birds, roost sites for bats, habitats for invertebrates and fungi.

- Regeneration which is very successful in some parts of the site needs to be controlled in favour of native species. Regenerating specimens of natives should generally be left but those of non-natives removed.

- There are some exceptions, even in the woodland, where ash regeneration totally dominates to the exclusion of other trees, shrubs and ground flora. In these circumstances the ash *Fraxinus excelsior* must be thinned and monitored to allow healthy specimens to 'get away'. This is due to CEC's Ash dieback policy which seeks to remove, as quickly as possible, all trees infected. Thinning of young trees like ash *Fraxinus excelsior* can be carried out by CECFNH using groups like Forest School Groups and local schools who wish to help with management of the site.

- Where sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, is regenerating most should be removed. However, sycamore is a very important element in this woodland. To aim for a native only situation would be rather false, therefore it is best to control sycamore regeneration and encourage other species by the removal of young sycamore trees and saplings.

- Where the desired habitat is woodland adjacent to the marshland the similar selective thinning of the willow *Salix sp* and birch *Betula sp.* is required. This type of selective thinning can be carried out quite quickly by unskilled labour or volunteers if trees are first marked.

- Thinning is also required in the plantations. Here glades and rides can be opened up to benefit wildlife. This will generate a possible resource for surfacing (shredded brush wood). In the coniferous plantation areas native broad-leaved trees and shrubs can be planted at the woodland edges and within the plantations themselves.

- The areas of laurel *Prunus sp.* must be monitored and cut back if it looks to be encroaching on other parts of the site.

Management of the woodland shrub layer: -Protect the newly regenerating shrub layer species particularly holly *Ilex aquifolium* from detrimental over shading. This involves the removal of any less desirable species such as sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* or even herbaceous or other scrub species such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* from the immediate locality to prevent smothering or stunting of the plants.

-Plant other native shrubs such as honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, which although expensive to buy can greatly improve the quality of the woodland. Cuttings could be taken, on site and grown on . This would ensure the provenance of seed bank is maintained.

Management of the woodland ground flora: - Growing on site is typical semi-natural woodland flora such as dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, these should be encouraged to spread into suitable areas where they are lacking (possible source locally from Hermitage of Braid). This can be done by transplantation e.g. bluebell bulbs can be moved after flowering. (Owner's permission essential) Bulbs could also be rescued from sites under threat. Bluebells of known provenance has already been planted in the wood to the north of the marsh on the derelict building site and along the woodland edge.

- Control the spread of garden escapes, ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria* and ivy *Hedera sp.* to be monitored and removed in areas where there are no other species growing.

- Scrub

- Monitor and maintain the spread of gorse and continue to control the open area of the, particularly splitting large swards to create fire breaks. There is however no need for any reduction in the actual area of scrub as it is a desirable habitat in its own right.

- Only small plants either isolated within the grassland or at the edges of the scrub area need to be removed, to maintain the status quo. This management can be carried out by hand. It is important to monitor the situation with the scrub particularly if mowing and scarifying techniques are applied to the adjoining grassland, which may allow undesirable seedlings of scrub to reappear within the grassland.

- Below the Easterly view point, looking north towards Meadowspot, is an area of scrub dominated by gorse but with a greater component of brambles *Rubus fruticosus*. It would appear that this area has had inappropriate tree species planted into it in the past, including larch *Larix sp.* and sycamore. As this area of scrub is different from the others and has a different aspect it would be appropriate to maintain its special character and remove these non-native trees. There is also the risk that they will grow up and obscure the excellent view from this 'lower' viewpoint.

- Grasslands

-Mowing of selected areas of both types of grassland found in the 1994 and 2004 National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys is recommended. This will continue with the strimming by CECFNH and the hand removal of cuttings being undertaken by LCV twice a year in May/ June and late September/October on the wildflower meadows. Wildflower seeding/planting for meadow improvement will occur as appropriate.

- The spread of scrub onto the grassland will be halted in the areas where mowing occurs but must still be monitored in the uncut areas. Trees are also spreading into areas of grassland (MG1) next to Craiglockhart Wood which has a significant tall herb element. The encroaching trees must be removed to maintain the character of this area. The trees are mainly ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and will rapidly turn this area into an extension of the woodland if not checked; they will also obscure some views.

-The spread of tall ruderal herb species must be monitored – the fixed point photography will allow long term monitoring.

- Open Water

- The two fenced off habitat creation areas to the north end of the pond continues to thrive providing a valuable area for nesting water birds like coot *Fulica atra* and moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. The fence was originally to keep swans out and allow the vegetation to establish. However, they have gotten through and created a nest. This does not seem to have affected the nesting of smaller species and has naturally kept the expansion of the bull rush in the area in check. This area should continue to be monitored, managed and maintained to keep dogs out. This can be done by the CECFNH and volunteers.

- previous edge planting provides nesting areas for water birds, while the platform provides a nesting area for the swans *Cygnus olor*. This would keep them away from the ducks and other water birds and potential predators like dogs and foxes *Vulpes vulpes*. However, their new

habitat has a high success rate, with four of five signets surviving to adulthood in 2017. The pond is a small one and cannot support more than one swan family so no more nesting platforms would be required. However, potential for a central island is being considered. The existing areas will be monitored for continued success and repaired as required.

- Continue to maintain the height of the eastern hedge to allow birdwatching but maintain a barrier to limit access for dogs to the water and the disturbance to wildlife. The hedge needs to be protected by adding woven willow to the base to prevent further erosion.

Aim 2

Safeguard and, where necessary, enhance the populations of any threatened, endangered or typical species

- It is Council policy to limit the use of chemicals in their local nature reserves, this will continue.
- Monitor marsh orchid populations.
- Control any invasive species.

Aim 3

Maintain the aesthetic value of the site

- Remove trees from the upper part of the north facing slope to prevent the views from the upper, open regions of the site becoming obscured. Regard must be made, however, for views outwith and towards the site as well as from the site.
- Litter removal and other general tidying up projects will be continued, particularly involving local youngsters and volunteers. Further letter drops to local people with an explanation of the problems caused by dumping garden refuse and the legal responsibilities is also recommended in conjunction with CEC Environmental Wardens.
- The FECH will continue to raise funds for works and organise at least two litter task days each year.
- Grass cutting regime to be continued.
- Regular inspections with the identification of broken or worn items and their replacement or repair

Aim 4

Provide educational opportunities for the local community, schools and visitors through interpretation and Marketing.

- Continue to encourage the use of the site by local schools and groups, particularly repeat visits as this will encourage local children to develop a sense of ownership.
- Publicity for any events must be arranged to maximise the profile of the area if it is to fulfil its functions as a Local Nature Reserve. Events at ECHLNR are marketed, along with other CECFNH events through posters, on notice boards through Council and friend's websites and social media.
- Continued connection and communication with events such as Environment Week and other City-wide initiatives is recommended. Getting events into their programmes, which must be organised well in advance, is very productive.
- Websites are a useful way of both marketing and disseminating. The CECFNH website can be found at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/naturalheritageofficers>, and the FECH website at www.craiglockhartwoods.org. These are updated on a regular basis. Leaflets and information for teachers and other group leaders can be downloaded and used on site.
- Continue to update and widely publish current FECH nature trail leaflet and improve the way mark trail which complements this leaflet.
- Posters are put up to highlight issues like garden waste, dog fouling, responsible cycling and thin ice on the pond as required. Environmental Wardens will be called on to deal with issues like illegal dumping of garden waste, dog fouling etc.

Aim 5

Continue and increase community involvement and work with local FECHs

- The FECH will continue to represent the community views on the area and will formally seek views from the community each year at their AGM.
- It is essential to sustain the existing high level of community interest and involvement. The FECH will continue to hold a community/fundraising event such as the fete at least once a year.
- It is important that links continue to be maintained with the Craiglockhart Community Council and the South West Neighbourhood Partnership who are very supportive of the LNR. A representative of The FECH will continue to attend the community council as a co-opted member.
- In terms of the wider community links will continue to be maintained with the other Friends groups in the city.
- A City Volunteer Ranger Service was set up in 2009, however, the service was unsustainable. A senior FNH officer and the FECH are considering the sustainability of a new, similar group. They, along with the CECFNH, would monitor the site, record wildlife, carry out minor works, pick up litter and record larger tasks for action through site inspection logs and maintenance sheets which are found at the Hermitage of Braid.
- CECFNH to continue to offer ECHLNR for practical tasks to corporate and other volunteers groups

Aim 6

Encourage responsible public access and manage conflict

- Display cases will be erected at the entrances to update changes in the LNR and bring everything under CEC standard.
- Improve access points by rebuilding or replacing old and broken steps and gates.
- Provide information and advice to users and manage the site to reduce conflict.
- Continue to monitor and maintain all paths, identify and action repairs as required or to prioritise larger works.
- Clearly define routes by way markers, as part of the nature trail or simply for a casual walk. This can be a cheap but effective way of helping to stop people entering more sensitive areas and increasing the satisfaction of a visit for visitors. Funding will be sought to replace the current way marking with something clearer and longer lasting.
- Access to bikes on steep slopes can be reduced by planting up shrubs to block potential desire lines this will also reduce conflict with speeding bikes and walkers, reduce erosion on areas susceptible to erosion and improve water retention in areas of flooding.

Aim 7

Meet all legal obligations regarding the site

- Regular patrol and monitoring of the site undertaking repairs as necessary and reporting defects where appropriate, ensuring that the site is safe and well maintained.
- Investigate to determine ownership prior to works being completed with particular reference to boundary wall responsibilities.
- Ensure that actions do not impact on the flora and fauna of the site and enhance biodiversity where possible and practicable.
- Ensure that works do not adversely impact on neighbouring properties.
- Promote opportunities for access for all and consider ways to improve accessibility on the site in any works being carried out.
- Report any offence to the appropriate governing/ legal body.

4. Ten Year Management Programme

Partners
 The City of Edinburgh Council Forestry and Natural Heritage
 Friends of Easter Craiglockhart
 Volunteers
 Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Acronyms/Abbreviations.
 CECFNH
 FECH
 Vols.
 SEPA

Objective	Actions	Actioned By	Year(s) for action										Report/Comments	Cost (£)
Hydrology/Wetlands														
To conserve and enhance the wetland habitats of the LNR.	Leave overhanging trees as areas of protection for smaller aquatic birds/fish/amphibians	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Improve biodiversity and pond cleanliness by introducing fully aquatic plants. Marginals, emergents, and submergents.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Monthly litter clearance	CECFNH & Vols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Monitor and remove invasive vegetation within Marshland	CECFNH & FECH		2			5			8				
	Conduct regular monitoring of water quality	SEPA & CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To improve public safety awareness at water features	Ensure 'thin ice' signs and any other information needed are placed at appropriate watercourses when needed	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

Geology and Geomorphology														
To preserve the geological and geomorphological landforms	Monitor site regularly through patrols, ensure no potential damaging operations take place.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To enhance public awareness about geology	Conduct geological guided walks across the LNR	FECH& British Geological Survey & CECFNH		2		4		6		8		10		
Soils														
To increase knowledge of soil profiles in LNR	Facilitate research projects and collect information	CECFNH and Tertiary Education Groups		2			5			8				
Woodland														
Refer to 2017 Craighouse woodland inventory.														
To ensure the woods have a diversity of age structures and species mix.	Initiate actions proscribed in the CEC "Trees in the City" Trees and Woodland Action Plan	Trees and Woodlands officer, Forestry Team, CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To retain the landscape design elements of the woodlands	Retain tree avenues, replacing as necessary	CECFNH and Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
To ensure the woodland is kept in a safe condition	Removal of Elms affected with Dutch Elm Disease, outside the breeding bird season	Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Clearance of dangerous limbs and trees	CECFNH and Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

To conserve the woodlands as a habitat for native flora and fauna	Continue to leave dead wood in situ, where safe	CECFNH and Forestry Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	New tree plantings to be species of native stock & high wildlife value	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Apply relevant actions to enact Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	"Beat up" areas already planted with trees	CECFNH & Volunteers		2			5			8				
	Thin plantations to form glades/rides	CECFNH & Volunteers				4				8				
	Ensure survival of existing shrub layer species by thinning/pruning as required	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Update species lists for the wood	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Protect shrub layer by removing undesirable regeneration and garden escapes.	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Planting of early flowering natives (snowdrops/bluebells) where appropriate	CECFNH & Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Scrubland														
To contain the spread of gorse on ECH and maintain a sufficient scrub habitat for wildlife	Creation of fire breaks within gorse stands, measuring 10 metres across	CECFNH & Volunteers		2		4		6		8		10		

	Conduct a survey to determine priority areas for nesting birds, consult the public about the temporary closing of paths to promote breeding birds	CECFNH & Volunteers				4												1000
	Investigate and potentially replace gorse with plantings of Blackthorn, Hazel and other native shrub species	CECFNH & FECH	1		3								9					1000
Grassland																		
To conserve and enhance existing grassland habitats	Undertake cuts of amenity areas May - September	CEC Estates Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
	Monitor ECH and repair damaged areas by reseeded with native grass mix	CECFNH & Volunteers		2			5			8								
	Annual cut and lift of the wildflower meadows to retain diversity	CECFNH, Estates team, Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						100/yr
	Expand and introduce new areas of meadow as appropriate	CECFNH, Estates team, Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
Ruderal Communities																		
To limit the spread of invasive weed species	Measure status of ruderal communities, and where they are increasing, deploy suitable control	CECFNH, Estates and Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						

	techniques, such as strimming.																
	Monitor and reduce identified invasive plant species, e.g. Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , reed canary grass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , Yellow Archangel <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum</i> , etc.	CECFNH, Volunteers, and Estates team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
	Remove garden escapes, exotic and naturalised regeneration aside from historically planted species.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Flora																	
To conserve and enhance the population levels of native flora present within the LNR	Identify important plant species currently extinct or receding through surveys and comparison with historical records	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols			3		5		7		9						
	Where possible, work towards reintroducing important floral species or protecting small populations where they occur, e.g. Crag/Rock Whitebeam	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols			3		5		7		9						
	Implement, where relevant, recommendations of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					

Fauna														
To conserve and enhance the LNR for native fauna and increase understanding amongst the public.	Monitor and assess habitat boxes, replace or add new ones as necessary to ensure a diversity of habitats	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Undertake Breeding Bird Survey in spring and enter records	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Undertake counts of waterfowl at ECH Pond	Volunteers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Conduct Butterfly survey and submit records to Butterfly Monitoring	CECFNH & Biodiversity Vols	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Implement, where relevant, recommendations of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Improve knowledge about less well recorded fauna via survey work	CECFNH & Tertiary Education Groups			3		5		7		9			
	Monitor Bat Boxes		1		3		5		7		9			
	Monitor Bird Boxes			2		4		6		8		10		
	Monitor Badger Setts	CECFNH & Edinburgh Badger Grp	1		3		5		7		9			
The Historic Environment														
To preserve and upgrade the historic features of the LNR	Improve interpretative signage associated with historic features	CECFNH, Edinburgh Archaeology group							7	8	9			

	Maintain 2 path systems for access by special needs groups (Craiglockhart Terrace and Craiglockhart Sports Centre) and seek new ways of providing access.	CECFNH and FECH/Vols															
Monitor, maintain, and upgrade paths	Monitor path network, arrange repairs as required and identify areas requiring major upgrades		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
	Install benches on site for rest stops		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
	Upgrade West path to hilltop		1	2											See Appendix D		
	Upgrade East path to hilltop		1	2											See Appendix D		
	Upgrade Wildflower Meadow Path continuation(s) from Wren path		1	2											See Appendix D		
	Upgrade paths within South Craighouse Woods		1	2											See Appendix D		
	Block informal paths causing erosion on slopes. Use either fallen timber or plant native shrubs		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Recreation																	
To encourage and facilitate responsible	Develop closer links to all recreational user	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					

access and recreation	groups (ie: orienteering, horse riders)															
	Reduce incidence of dog fouling through education and interpretation.	CECFNH & Environmental Wardens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
	Monitor mountain bike use and remove inappropriate features such as jumps/berms - attempt dialogue with cyclists wherever possible.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
	Regular inspection during site inspections of all physical features, and repairs undertaken as necessary	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
	Litter bin provision & twice within 4-day shift cycle emptying of all litter bins	CEC Localities (south west)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
Retain open aspect from viewpoints	Monitor and remove vegetation which obscures views from the two look out points.	CECFNH & Estates team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
To support and develop the 'Friends' group and assist where applicable in project implementation	Attend and support the Friends of ECH meetings and events	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1 per year minimum			
	Provide updates and information regularly to the FECH	CECFNH and other CEC depts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				

	Provision of technical and practical assistance to group projects .	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Undertake at least two task days per year	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Fund raise to support maintenance and improvement works	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Interpretation and education	Update and Distribute 2010 Nature Trail Leaflet for 2020, if not sooner.	FECH	1	2	3									
	Employ Educational and volunteer coordinator to facilitate groups	FECH, CECFNH	1	2									To review after 2 years	
	Develop guided walk program	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		50/2hr 150/½ day
	Continue to update web pages, include a map on CEC website	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Update FECH website	FECH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Replace wooden sign boards with up to date interp.	CECFNH		2	3									16,000
	Review interpretation											10		
	Replace and upgrade ECH Nature Trail markers	FECH	1	2	3									
Involve local people in management	Visitor Survey to get locals perception of ECH&LNR	CECFNH	1				5					10		3,000/ Consultation
	Training for Site inspections and maintenance work	CECFNH → FECH	1	2			5					10		

	Survey training	CECFNH → FECH												Birds, Wilflower meadows, Bats, Butterflies	
To continue to facilitate a wide variety of educational and interpretative talks and visits to the public.	Promote and support all age/ability groups to use the site.	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Creation and facilitation of Tertiary Study Programme	CECFNH & Tertiary Education Groups	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Across all Objectives															
	Compile an annual work plan with further detail as required (include actions identified during patrols)	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Creation of up to date species list	CECFNH, TWIC, biodiversity volunteers		2		4		6		8		10			
	To monitor and evaluate success of actions	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Conduct a review of the management plan in 2022	CECFNH					5								
	To produce a revised management plan for 2028	CECFNH										10			
	Regularly update Confirm	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Implement, where relevant, recommendations of the annual Park Quality Assessment	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			

	Work to resecure a Green Flag award for the LNR every year to recognise the high quality of the site as a public park and further site improvements	CECFNH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Undertake regular site inspections; identify vandalism, graffiti, dog fouling, littering, fly tipping, garden waste dumping etc. and take remedial action as required	CECFNH - Env Wardens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Extend Boundaries of LNR to include Craighouse woodland	CECFNH	1	2										

DRAFT

5. Acknowledgements

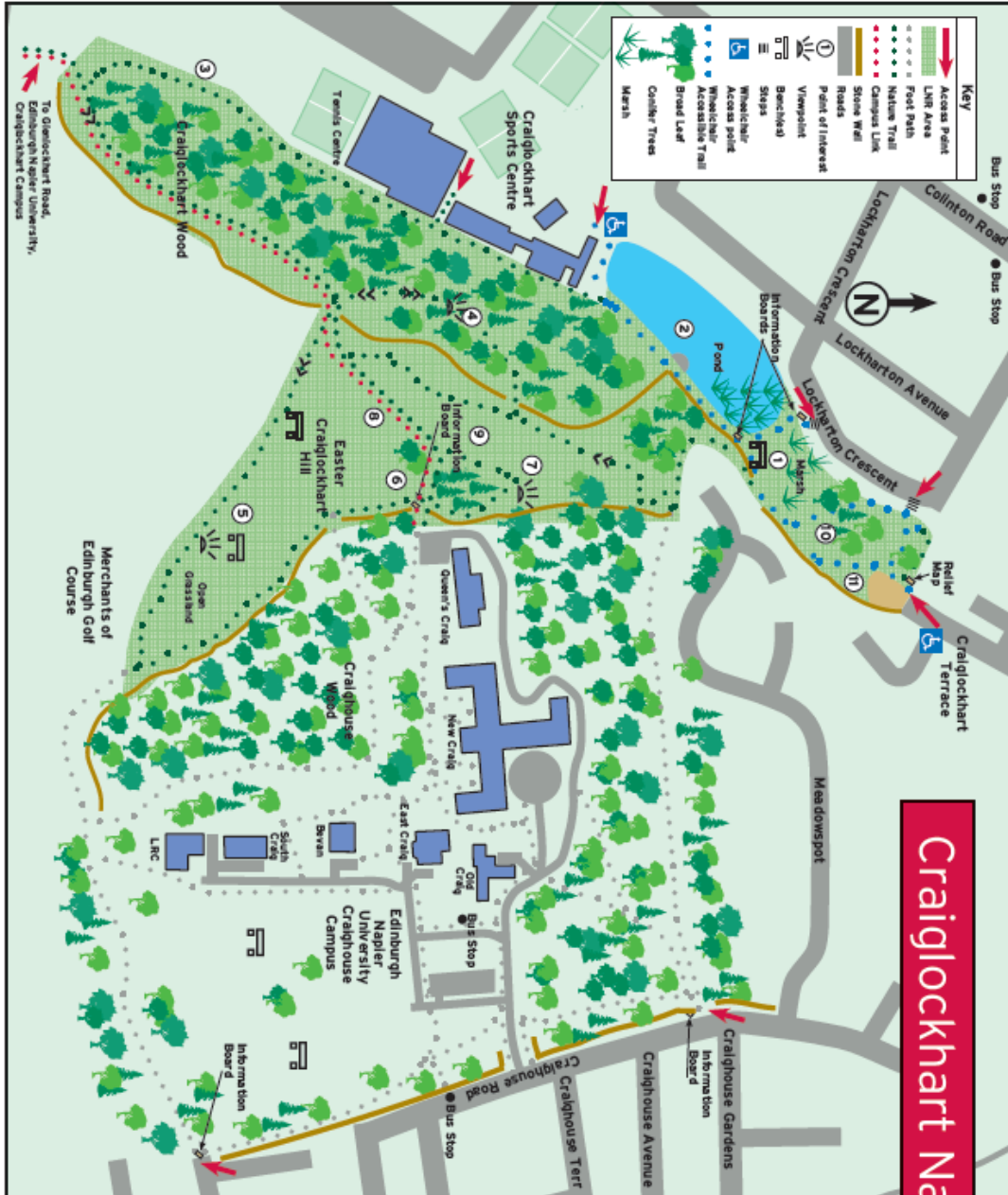
Since 1988, the local community in the form of the Friends of Craiglockhart Nature Trail and the Craiglockhart Woods Group, the City of Edinburgh Council Natural Heritage Service and adjacent landowners (first Lothian Health Board and then Napier University, now Craighouse Ltd.) with financial support from local businesses such as Allingham and Co and numerous urban nature conservation funding bodies, have promoted the Craiglockhart Nature Trail and the primary management of the area as an urban wildlife site. The evolution into a formal Local Nature Reserve in 2005 was the culmination of dedicated and focussed work by all towards the vision of the nature conservation maintenance of, and public access to this important urban natural greenspace resource. It is hoped this good work can be carried on to include the new portions of land and extend the LNR in the near future.

Every year from 2009 the site has been awarded Green Flag status which is testament to the continued hard work and commitment that those noted above have invested in the site to ensure its continued success.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix A Nature Trail Interpretation leaflet and map (2010)

Paid for Edinburgh Napier University and Dunedin Canmore Housing Association and can be downloaded from www.craiglockhartwoods.org



Craiglockhart Nature Trail



Points of Interest

- 1 A mesh like this is home to frogs, toads and many wild flowers.
 - 2 Once a boating pond, now home to swan, coot and moorhen.
 - 3 Look at the layers of woodland - each level is home to insects, birds and mammals.
 - 4 Enjoy views across Edinburgh and beyond.
 - 5/8 Grassland and scrub are great for birds and insects to live in.
 - 6 This plantation includes Scots pine and larch (a deciduous conifer)
 - 7 Craighouse Hill is part of the same volcano on which Edinburgh is built.
 - 9 The cliffs were formed when earthquakes split weaknesses in the rock.
 - 10 White-barked silver birches form most of this wood.
 - 11 The yew you see here are hundreds of years old.
- The trail is steep in parts (as indicated by >>). The entire walk takes approximately one hour.
Map not to scale

Craiglockhart Nature Trail

East Craiglockhart Hill is unique in this area of Edinburgh by having a wide range of habitats in an accessible publicly managed natural greenspace promoted as a Nature Trail. These habitats include open water, marsh, woodland and grassland. The information below describes what you will see throughout the Hill. The numbers (1) to (11) refer to the points on the map, and the marker points distributed throughout the Nature Trail.

Marsh and Pond

Marsh areas are rare in Edinburgh which makes this marsh (1) particularly important: it was created using overflow water from the pond. You can find flowers like northern marsh and common spotted orchid as well as frogs and toads. Look for the great willow herb, the tall pink flower which grows here in summer and autumn.

The pond (2) was originally built for boating in 1887. It is home to many birds, look for nesting swans, coot and moorhen in summer and tufted duck in winter.



Woodland

These woodlands were planted over 200 years ago and today you can see a mix of sycamore, elm, beech and ash. (3) Can you spot dogs mercury on the ground? It only grows in very old woodlands like this one. You can also see sarsile, common dog violet and the English bluebell. Along the edges grow horse chestnut and sycamore trees. Near Craighouse you will see oak and a plantation of pine and larch (6), then near the pond silver birch (10) and yew (11) grow. This range of tree species and ages make a healthy home for many birds and animals. Look and listen for birds like great tits, wren and blackbirds.



Geology

Old red sandstone formed 400 million years ago under a shallow sea, then about 325 million years ago, volcanoes erupted. When they cooled they formed the hard igneous rock which is East Craiglockhart Hill. You can see this rock as lava (7) outcrops at viewpoint (4). The softer green coloured rock on the edge of the hill is volcanic tuff which is volcanic ash (9), expelled when the volcano erupted. Later, earthquakes caused the rock to split leaving steep sided cliffs. Then 12,000 years ago a huge sheet of ice covered the area. When it melted the valleys were cut leaving the hills you see today.

View (5,8)



History

The name Craiglockhart probably comes from either the Lochart Family, who owned the land in the 14th century or it is a description of the area i.e. a rocky hill by a loch - Craig - Loch - and (Gaelic).

In 1773 the estate was sold to the Munro family (a famous medical family). Alex Munro planted trees on East Craiglockhart and allowed local residents to walk there. In 1871, the war poet, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen were treated in hospital at the Craiglockhart Hydrogash, built in 1880. It was during this time they wrote their most moving poems. This is now Edinburgh Napier University Craiglockhart campus. Above East Craiglockhart LNR, the magnificent 1894 neo gothic building of Craighouse Hospital still stands, now Edinburgh Napier University Craighouse campus. For more information - Charles Smith, Historic Edinburgh, Vol 2 (Charles Skilton, Ed London).



East Craiglockhart Hill was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in April 2005. This means the area is protected by the local authority for its local natural interest and educational value with involvement from the local community.

The LNR Management Group, which includes the land owners: City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Napier University, and representatives from local bodies such as The Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail, manages the area through implementing a Management Plan. The Plan can be viewed at www.craiglockhartwoods.org

Aims

The LNR Management Group aims to promote East Craiglockhart Hill for the enjoyment of visitors whilst enhancing and protecting the Local Nature Reserve's wildlife value. The pond has been developed to attract more bird and insect life by planting vegetation for food and cover. This area also has flat access suitable for everyone; the wide paths allow wheelchair access. Local people are involved in work days and decision making. If you would like to find out more please contact:

Countryside Ranger Service
0131 447 7145
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/countryside_rangers

Edinburgh Napier University
0131 455 3747 www.napier.ac.uk/environment

Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail
Contact details on website: www.craiglockhartwoods.org

Acknowledgements

The LNR Management Group wish to thank the following for funding: CEC Community Grants, WREN, Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan, Scottish Natural Heritage, East Craiglockhart Local Nature Reserve Management Group, Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail. Special thanks to Dunedin Canmore Housing Association for their contribution towards the publication of this leaflet and Allingham and Co. Solicitors for their sponsorship of the public work days since 1989.



easter
craiglockhart hill

nature trail guide and local
nature reserve information

Access Code

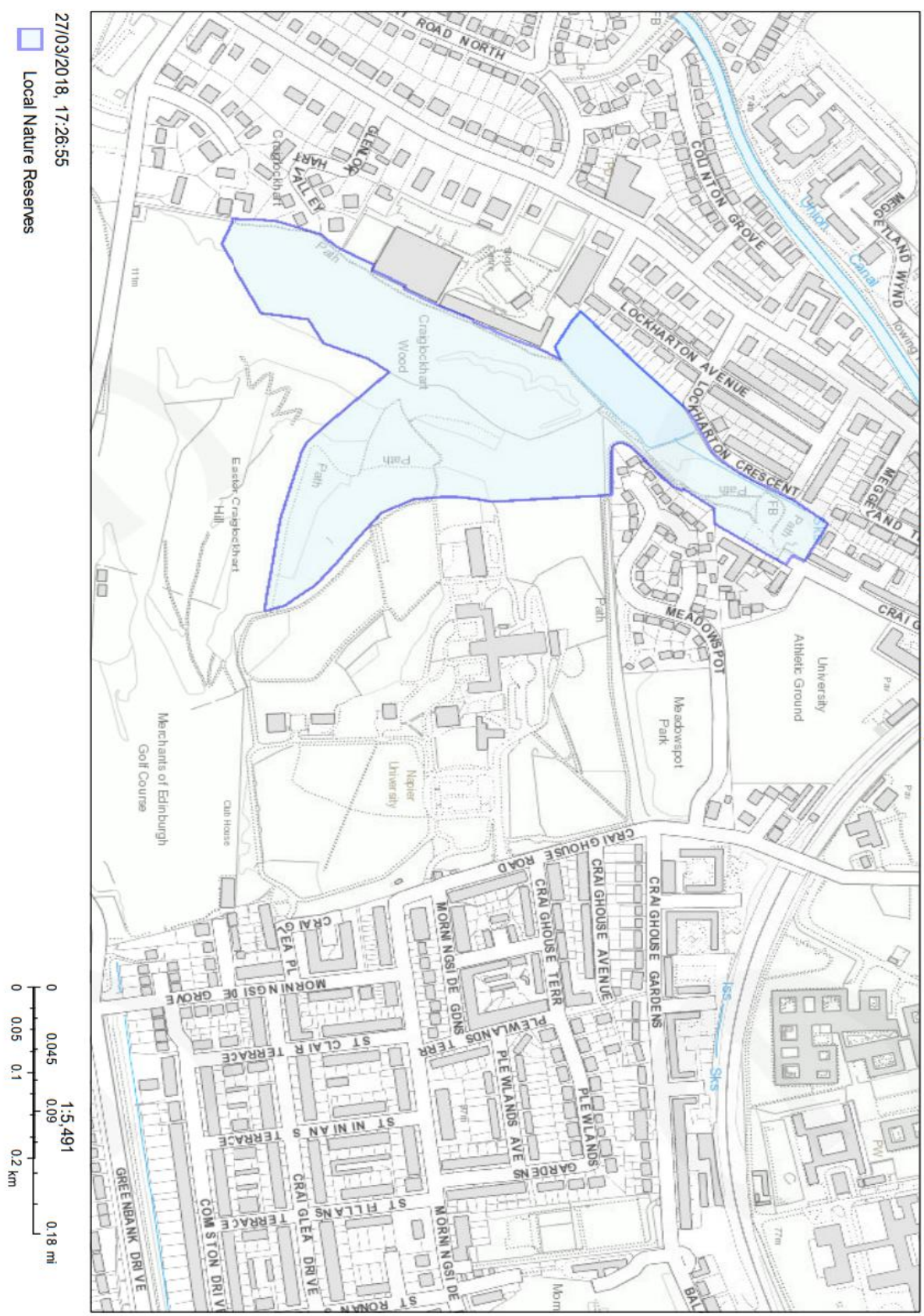
When you visit East Craiglockhart please remember to respect other users:

- Take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely;
- Respect people's privacy and peace of mind;
- Care for your environment and take your litter home and dispose of dog waste appropriately;
- Keep your dog under proper control.

Find out more by visiting
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

6.2 Appendix B Ownership Maps 2018

Map A – Current ECH LNR Boundary



ECH LNR Boundary 2018

Mab B – Area Transferred in 2018 (Hilltop LNR Area included – W3)

Section 75 Areas			
Area	Approved Area	Proposed Area	Difference
Public Open Space (POS)	4.18ha	4.18ha	0ha
Woodland Area 1 (W1)	2.07ha	2.34ha	+0.33ha
Woodland Area 2 (W2)	3.30ha	3.14ha	-0.16ha
Woodland Area 3 (W3)	4.40ha	4.36ha	-0.04ha
TOTAL AREA	13.95ha	14.43ha	+0.48ha



- Public Open Space (POS) Area
- Woodland Area 1
- Woodland Area 2
- Woodland Area 3

1	Approved	10/10/2018	10/10/2018
2	Approved	10/10/2018	10/10/2018
3	Approved	10/10/2018	10/10/2018
4	Approved	10/10/2018	10/10/2018

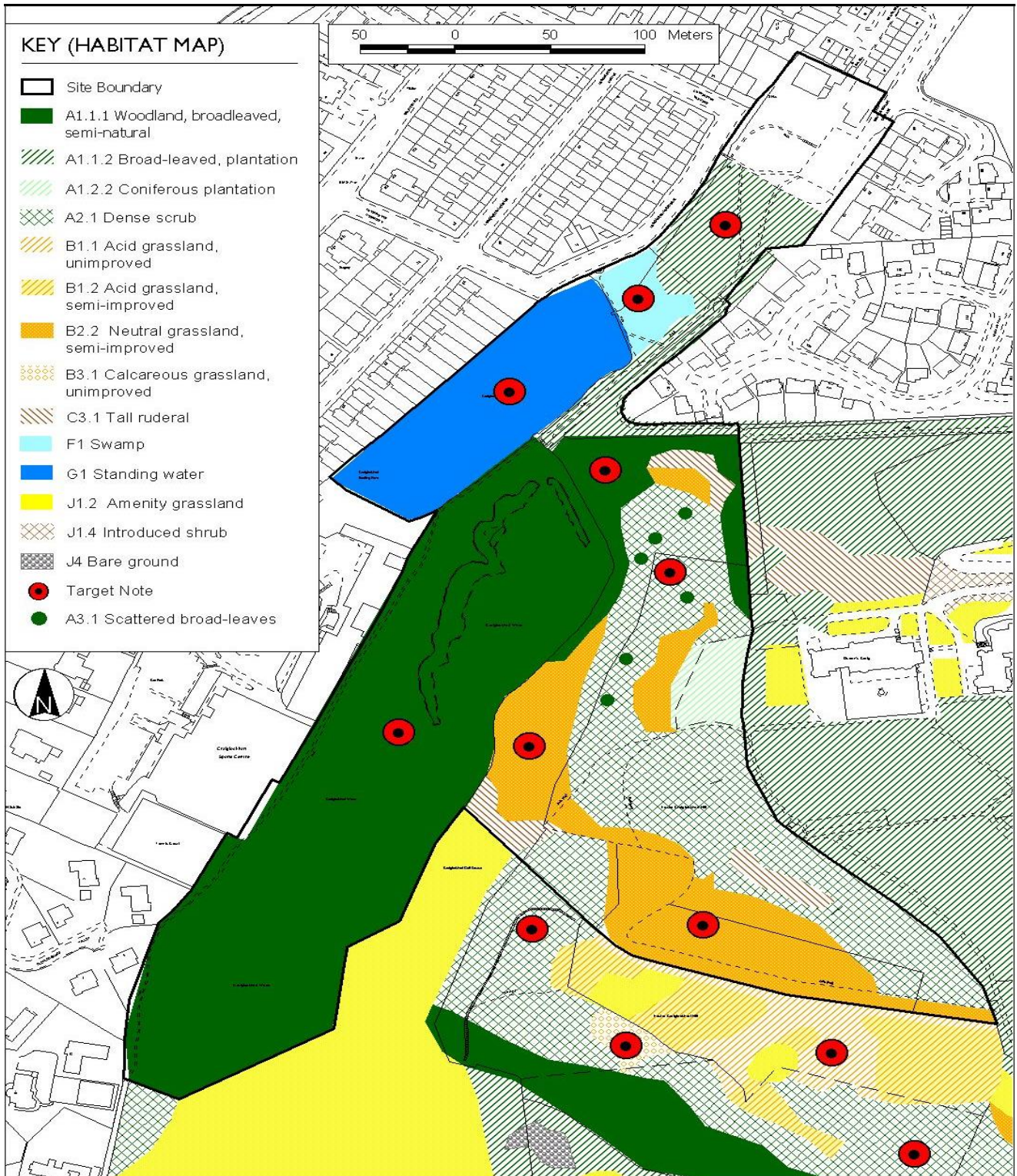
Client: **Crangmoor Ltd**
 Project: **Crangmoor**

Site: **Woodland and Open Space**
 Ref: **5172296-003**

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6.3 Appendix C Phase 1 Habitat Types Map (2001/2 Survey)

Areas can be extrapolated to the boundary map in appendix B (6.2 Map A)



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6.4 Appendix D Craighouse Path Upgrades/Spending Plan

The City of Edinburgh Council Atlas



Paths:

- Continuation of path from Craiglea Place path to eastern hillside – southernmost path 100m of 1.5m wide type 1 and whindust path. 80% full tray 20% half tray with drainage ditch. Estimated Cost: £3,500

- East Craighouse Woodland Path 250m of 1.5m wide “As Dug” path or half tray whindust path with drainage ditch, piped culverts. Estimated cost: £7,750 for “As Dug”, £7,500 for half tray whindust.

- West Craighouse Woodland path – as East path (250m)
- West steps to ECH Hilltop.

50m of stepped path. 1.5m wide type 1 and whindust.
Estimated Cost: £3,500. £5,000 for 75m

- Wildflower meadow path.

100m, 1.5m wide type 1 and whindust path ditch drainage with piped culverts
Estimated Cost: £3,800

- Zig-Zag Path into north woodland (previously gated). 50-75m, 1.5m wide “As Dug” path with drainage and piped culverts
Estimated Cost: £2,000

Estimated costs include welfare.

Estimated Total: £29,800*

*Prices do not include VAT and are based on similar projects in 2014.

Interpretation: New/upgrade – £20,000

Site Furniture: Benches/Picnic tables – £5,000

(To be Confirmed) Green Gym: Suggested site, Pine Woodland area. Cost similar – £38,000 in 2011 for 16 pc.

Unused site funds will be used for seed funding and projects which include the transferred area outlined above and be controlled by CEC as per transfer agreement within Section 75 document.