

# Springfield Mill



Management Plan  
2010–2015

**SMAG**



## Overview of the Management Plan

The purpose of the Springfield Mill Management Plan is to identify issues relating to the management, maintenance and development of the site and to set out the management vision, aims and action plan to enable improvement of the site over the next five years.

### Vision

**To manage and improve Springfield Mill as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it provides one of Midlothian's best places to experience the natural environment.**

The document draws on previous plans and policy documents used to direct activities within the site to create a holistic plan that integrates all the activities undertaken by the Council and other organisations such as the local community group and volunteers. The Action Plan and Marketing Plan together cover maintenance activities, improvements, promotion and community involvement over the next five years.

The Plan will be available to all interested parties including the local community, elected members and Council staff to explain the rationale behind management policies, decisions and actions. The Plan will also assist in applying Green Flag criteria as part of the Green Flag Award Scheme to enable better understanding of the quality of management at the site.

This management plan was produced in February 2010 to cover a 5 year period by Midlothian Council's Land Services Section in association with Midlothian Ranger Service and The Springfield Mill Action Group.

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<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page no.</b>
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Location and Outline Description</b>	
<b>1.01</b>	Ownership	1
<b>1.02</b>	Contact	2
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Scope and Purpose of Management Plan</b>	2
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Vision and Aims</b>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Vision</b>	4
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Aims</b>	4
	Table 1. Plan Aims and Green Flag Criteria	5
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Context</b>	7
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Policies and Designations</b>	
<b>3.0.1</b>	Midlothian Council Policies	7
<b>3.0.2</b>	Core Paths Plan for Midlothian	7
<b>3.0.3</b>	Historic Buildings	7
<b>3.0.4</b>	Woodland Classification	8
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Strategic Significance</b>	
<b>3.1.1</b>	Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network	8
<b>3.1.2</b>	Biodiversity Action Plan	9
<b>3.1.3</b>	Path Routes	9
<b>3.1.4</b>	The Midlothian Open Space Audit	9
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Historic Background</b>	9
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Management Rules</b>	11
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Community Involvement</b>	11
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Surveys and Assessments</b>	12
<b>3.5.1</b>	Woodland Management	13
<b>3.5.2</b>	Biodiversity	13
<b>3.5.3</b>	Archaeology	13
<b>3.5.4</b>	Open Space Audit	14
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Context for Improvement</b>	15
<b>4.1</b>	<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	15
<b>4.1.1</b>	General	15
<b>4.1.2</b>	Finding the Site – External Access	16
<b>4.1.3</b>	Finding the Site - Internal Access	16
<b>4.1.4</b>	Information on Access	16
<b>4.1.5</b>	Social Access	16
<b>4.1.6</b>	Aspect of Design	17
<b>4.1.7</b>	A Welcoming Place - Actions	17
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	
<b>4.2.1</b>	Health and Well Being	18
<b>4.2.2</b>	Equipment and Facilities	18
<b>4.2.3</b>	Safer Parks Emergency Procedure	18
<b>4.2.4</b>	Security	18
<b>4.2.5</b>	Staff and Volunteers	19

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
	19
	19
	19
	20
<b>4.3 Well Maintained and Clean</b>	
4.3.1 Litter and Waste Management	21
4.3.2 Ground Maintenance	21
4.3.3 Buildings Maintenance	21
4.3.3.1 Habitable Buildings	21
4.3.3.2 Unoccupied Buildings and Structures	21
4.3.4 Equipment Maintenance	22
4.3.5 Cleanliness	22
4.3.6 Well Maintained and Clean - Actions	22
<b>4.4 Sustainability</b>	
4.4.1 Introduction	23
4.4.2 Environmental Management	23
4.4.3 Pesticides	23
4.4.4 Use of Materials	23
4.4.5 Resource Conservation and Waste Management	24
4.4.6 Recycling	24
4.4.7 Horticultural and Arboriculture Management	25
4.4.8 Pollution Reduction	25
4.4.9 Water Efficiency	25
4.4.10 Energy Efficiency	25
4.4.11 Air Quality	25
4.4.12 Sustainability - Actions	25
<b>4.5 Conservation and Heritage</b>	
4.5.1 Woodland Ecology	26
4.5.2 Other Habitats	26
4.5.3 Fauna	27
4.5.4 Cultural Landscape	28
4.5.5 Water Management	28
4.5.6 Geological and Physiographic Features	29
4.5.7 Conservation of Landscape	29
4.5.8 Conservation of Historic Artefacts	29
4.5.9 Conservation and Heritage - Actions	29
<b>4.6 Community Involvement</b>	
4.6.1 Patterns of Use	31
4.6.2 Community Involvement in Management and Development	31
4.6.3 Facilities	31
4.6.4 Children's Play	31
4.6.5 Education Facilities	31
4.6.5.1 Formal Environmental Education	32
4.6.5.2 Informal Education	33
4.6.6 Accessibility for all	33
4.6.7 Community Involvement - Actions	34
<b>4.7 Marketing</b>	
4.7.1 Introduction	35
4.7.2 Information Provision and Interpretation	35
4.7.2.1 Leaflet	35
4.7.2.1 World Wide Web	35
4.7.3 Events	36
4.7.4 Marketing plan and Site Promotion	36
4.7.5 Marketing - Actions	36

<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
<b>4.8</b>	<b>Management</b>	
	<b>4.8.1</b> Land Services	37
	<b>4.8.2</b> Management	37
	<b>4.8.3</b> Management Plan	37
	<b>4.8.4</b> Management - Actions	37
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Action Plan / Work Plan</b>	38
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Marketing Plan</b>	42
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Local Biodiversity site assessment</b>	43
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>Maintenance schedule and map</b>	48

## SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Location and Outline Description

Springfield Mill is located in the valley of the River North Esk on the southwest edge of Polton Village. Bonnyrigg is located 1km to the east and Loanhead 1.5 km to the northwest. Penicuik is situated 6km to the southwest, while the City of Edinburgh is 4km to the north.

The site occupies the east bank floodplain of the River North Esk and is overlooked by the steep sides of Hewan Bank SSSI to the west. The site is roughly circular in shape, with a maximum width of 320m. The car park is located at grid reference point NT 289648, which is opposite the small residential cul de sac of Stevenson Place.



**Map 1 Springfield Mill – Site Layout**

The site covers an area of 6.3ha, of which 3.3ha is woodland. The remainder is open ground, most of which was covered in a layer of rubble from the former, and now demolished, mill buildings and which was recently remediated and landscaped. This newly landscaped area has been seeded with various native wildflower and grassland seed mixes.

Among the attractions of the site are a mixture of accessible woodland and riverside paths, viewing platforms and an interpretation panel sited in the car park with map, information and a notice board.

Historically the site was the location of the former Springfield Paper Mill, dating from 1742 to 1960 and was one of a series of mills stretching along the River Esk from Penicuik to Lasswade. The popular sites of Roslin Glen Country Park and Rosslyn Chapel are located upstream to the southwest of the site. All locations are linked with signed public paths.

### **1.0.1 Ownership**

Springfield Mill is the newest of Midlothian's Countryside Sites and was opened on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The majority of the site is owned by Midlothian Council and managed by the Land Services Section via the Midlothian Ranger Service. There is a small section of the site that is under private ownership and which the Council also manages.

### **1.0.2 Contact**

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## **1.1 Scope and Purpose of Management Plan**

A Woodland Management Plan was produced for Springfield Mill in April 2008 by Mark Hamilton Landscape Services. This Plan covers a five year period, and the recommended works for the site to be implemented as funding allows. Tree safety works have been carried out by Midlothian Council and volunteers are currently working on priority thinning and planting areas with the Ranger Service.

In addition the following reports are relevant to the management of Springfield Mill:

- Springfield Mill Management Plan 2001-2006: Scottish Wildlife Trust (baseline survey)
- Springfield Mill Proposed Wildlife Site 1999 – Feasibility Study: Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership
- Midlothian Local Plan. 2008
- Springfield Mill Woodland Management Plan
- Core Paths Plan for Midlothian. 2009.
- Midlothian Parks and Open Spaces Audit. 2009.
- Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan 2006

A further woodland management plan will be prepared by the summer of 2010 for the riparian catchment along a three mile stretch of the River North Esk as part of a partnership project involving various landowners. The Forestry Commission is supporting this project and to date wishes to see the plan carried out for which funding should be available. Sites

include Roslin Glen, Mavisbank House, Roslin Country Park and will include Springfield Mill and its environs. It is proposed that a Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme is developed for the Esk Valley between Springfield Mill and Roslin Glen. A funding submission is likely to be submitted in October 2010.

This site Management Plan draws on the previous plans and policy documents listed above. The purpose of the plan is to identify issues relating to the management, maintenance and development of the site and to set out the management vision, aims and objectives.

This Plan will be available to all interested parties including elected members, the local community and council staff and will explain the rationale behind management policies, decisions and actions. In addition, the plan will indicate the level of resources required to achieve continuous improvement.

The Plan covers a 5 year period between 2010 and 2015 and includes detailed management proposals.

The Plan is also intended to assist in gaining Green Flag accreditation for the Site. The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national quality standard for parks and other open spaces. Following pilot work by Edinburgh and Dundee Councils the scheme is now being rolled out in Scotland. The Green Flag Award Scheme criteria provide a quality standard against which Springfield Mill can be assessed. In 2009 1,000 parks and green spaces held the award including 11 sites in Scotland.

## SECTION 2 – VISION AND AIMS

### 2.0 Vision

Midlothian Council's Corporate Plan sets out key areas for improving the local environment and under Objectives 1 and 2 there is a requirement to:

- *Improve people's health and well-being*
- *Conserve and improve Midlothian's natural environment*

Springfield Mill is one of Midlothian's key countryside sites for outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the countryside and contributes strongly to these objectives.

In developing this management plan the Springfield Mill Action Group (SMAG) were consulted on the vision for the site which is:

**To manage and improve Springfield Mill as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it provides one of Midlothian's best places to experience the natural environment.**

### 2.1 Aims

The management of Springfield Mill requires a balance between a variety of interlinked and sometimes conflicting interests. Ten management aims have been derived as steps towards achieving the overall vision for the Site.

- a) **Conservation**  
To increase the biodiversity value of the site.
- b) **Landscape**  
To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.
- c) **Recreation**  
To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
- d) **Community Involvement**  
To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use Springfield Mill as an environmental educational resource.
- e) **Cultural**  
To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and industrial heritage value.
- f) **Sustainability**  
To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.
- g) **Legal**  
To ensure that the site management works comply with all legal obligations

**h) Maintenance**

To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the site and meet visitor expectations.

**i) Safety**

To ensure the safety of visitors to the site and staff working on the site.

**j) Marketing**

To positively promote Springfield Mill to Midlothian schools, residents, volunteers and potential visitors to the area.

Table 1 below shows how the aims have been linked to the eight criteria of the Green Flag Award Scheme.

**Table 1 Aims and Green Flag Criteria**

No.	Green Flag Criteria	Aim
1	A Welcoming Place	b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.  c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
2	Healthy, Safe and Secure	i) To ensure the safety of visitors to the site and staff working on the site.  g) To ensure that the site management works complies with all legal obligations.  c) To provide a place to enjoy informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.  c
3	Well Maintained and Clean	h) To ensure that a maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the site and meet visitor expectations.
4	Sustainability	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.
5	Conservation and Heritage	a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site.  e) To protect and conserve all features of cultural significance and industrial heritage value.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Green Flag Criteria</b>	<b>Aim</b>
<b>6</b>	Community Involvement	d) To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities on site and to use the area as an environmental educational resource.
<b>7</b>	Marketing	j) To positively promote Springfield Mill to Midlothian residents and potential visitors to the area.
<b>8</b>	Management	<p>f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.</p> <p>d) To engage with the local community and user groups, and to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities on site and to use the area as an environmental educational resource.</p>

## SECTION 3 – CONTEXT OF THE SITE

### 3.0 Policy and Designations

#### 3.0.1 Midlothian Council Policies

The Midlothian Local Plan identifies the following planning policies which relate to Springfield Mill.

- RP 1 Protection of the Countryside (from development)
- RP 6 Area of Great Landscape Value (protection from development)
- RP 9 Esk Valley Landscape Assessment Protection of River Valleys
- RP 12 Regionally and Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites (Gunpowder Mill only)

Part of the site lies adjacent to the Conservation Area for Mavisbank Policies, which consist of a Category "A" listed historic building and its associated designed landscape.

#### 3.0.2 Core Paths Plan for Midlothian 2009

The Core Paths Plan for Midlothian identifies key path routes for the Midlothian area. The site is well served by three Core Paths (two of which are Rights of Way), providing off road access to and from the site. The Core Paths include:

- **No.7** A 2km section of path that connects the site and Polton Village to Lasswade
- **No.7a** A 800m section of path that connects the site and Polton Village to the wider network extending to Bonnyrigg and the Penicuik to Dalkeith Foot/Cycleway
- **No 8/11** A 2km section of the path that connects the site and Polton Village to Roslin Village and the Loanhead Foot/Cycleway

#### 3.0.3 Historic Buildings

The site has been greatly altered by human activity and occupies ground once used as a paper mill. The first mills became operational in 1742 and the last mills at the site closed in 1967. The remnant buildings had a variety of industrial uses, including as a gas works, until they were demolished in the 1990's. Sections of the former mill lade and the weir spanning the River North Esk can still be seen at the southern extent of the site.

The south-eastern section of the site once formed part of the garden and policy woodland of Glenesk House, the former mill owner's residence. Several specimen trees are still prominent and the newly excavated seasonal ponds are on the site of an earlier and much larger ornamental pond . The ice house, which served Glenesk House, is located on the eastern perimeter wall of the site. This structure is now properly gated and is a potential home to roosting bats.

The history of the site and some of the remaining historic features have potential for interpretation which could generate more interest for visitors.

### 3.0.4 Woodland Classification

The woodland areas within the site can be broadly divided into three categories.

The first is made up of groups of young natural regenerated trees which are establishing on areas of disturbed ground in the north of the site.

The second consists of remnants of the gardens of Glenesk House in the south of the site which includes a variety of mature specimen trees mixed with younger self seeded species.



*Monkey Puzzle is one of the remnants from Glenesk House*

The third is sycamore dominated woodland located on the spoil heap from the former mill.

Birch dominates the site with willow common in the low lying and wetter parts. Many of the willows appear to lack strong root development and have suffered from wind blow.

The site forms part of the River North Esk valley corridor much of which is semi-natural woodland with the nearby designated wooded areas at Roslin Glen Country Park and Scottish Wildlife Trust SSSI Reserve and downstream Dalkeith Country Park.

### 3.1 Strategic Significance of the Site

The site has a strong strategic significance within the region as part of the Esk Valley and is important as a wildlife corridor, path link and as a green open space, within easy reach of population centres.

#### 3.1.1 Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network

The Edinburgh and the Lothian's Forestry Habitat Network plan has mapped and designated the site and surrounding area as a Core Woodland Area, containing very high quality woodland. The woodland within the site combines with woodlands to the east and south to provide a valuable and extensive area of gorge woodland.

### **3.1.2 Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) contains Habitat Action Plans for Woodlands, Rivers, Ponds and Brownfield Sites which are all relevant to Springfield Mill. The site is specifically mentioned in the LBAP as a key brownfield site and the development of its pond is listed as an objective of the Action Plan for Ponds.

The site is listed as a Local Biodiversity Site (See Appendix 2) due to its biodiversity combined with its accessibility to all abilities and usage by schools and groups for educational and recreational purposes. The site management and development is carried out by Midlothian Council's Land Services Section with the support of Midlothian Ranger Service and in consultation with the Springfield Mill Action Group.

### **3.1.3 Path Routes**

The fully accessible paths within the site provide a varied route through grassland, woodland and freshwater habitats, with view points and interpretation. The site is well served with links to three Core Paths leading to Roslin Village, Roslin Glen Country Park, Loanhead, Lasswade and the Penicuik- Dalkeith Foot/Cycleway.

### **3.1.4 The Midlothian Open Space Audit**

The Midlothian Open Spaces Audit recorded all the key public open spaces within Midlothian. Each site was given a PAN 65 Typology code and quality assessed in terms of access, attractiveness, biodiversity, functionality and community benefits. Springfield Mill was not fully remediated and landscaped at the point of the quality assessment but in the Council's view is likely to score highly due to the quality of the facilities, the emphasis on biodiversity, community involvement and access by all abilities which are key measures of the audit.

## **3.2 Historic Background of the Site**

Springfield Mill was one of a series of mills stretching along the River North Esk from Penicuik to Dalkeith. In 1742 Walter Ruddiman, printer of the Jacobite paper 'The Caledonian Mercury', Robert Flemming, printer of the 'Edinburgh Evening Courant' and John Aitken, a bookseller joined together to found The Springfield Mill. In 1756 the business was transferred to Robert Fleming Jnr. and John Hutton, an Edinburgh warehouse owner and in 1763 it was one of the three mills in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh turning out 6400 reams of paper annually to meet the needs of the Edinburgh printers. As papermaking became more widespread the business became uncertain and in 1776 the mill was sold on behalf of creditors. In 1866 William Todd Jnr. of Lasswade acquired the mill. After extensive renovations and improvements, including the purchase of air drying machines and the use of esparto grass imported from Portugal, production of a high quality paper began. It is believed that the first paper to be made was for The Scotsman.



*Operational paper mills and dumped waste in the foreground (date unknown courtesy of the Bryce collection)*

The mill closed in the late 1960's and the site was inherited by Lothian Region and Midlothian District Council in 1975. Over the years the site became more derelict and overgrown and in 1987 in recognition of the unsuitability of the site for continued industrial usage the Regional Councils produced its feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the area. This report proposed that Springfield Mill be restored to open green space with a small housing element (20 units) to generate funding for the project. This represented a relaxation of the policy of the North Esk Valley, which is to resist building in the valley which is recognised as an Area of Great Landscape Value. In addition, since 1975 it had been Midlothian District Council's policy to maintain a green corridor between Bonnyrigg and Loanhead.

In 1999 the Springfield Mill Action Group (SMAG), consisting of over 100 members was formed to promote the use of the site as a wildlife site and as an alternative to the proposed housing development. The group campaigned for the removal of the site from the Register of Housing Land Supply in the Local Plan and in November 1999 submitted a report to Midlothian Council prepared by The Turnbull Jeffrey Partnership. Details can be found at [www.springtec.f9.co.uk/SMAG/tjpreport/springreport.htm](http://www.springtec.f9.co.uk/SMAG/tjpreport/springreport.htm)

Midlothian Council Strategic Services division fought and won two planning inquiries to establish the use of the site as a wildlife site in the Local Plan.

The Council's Strategic Services division secured funding from the Scottish Executive to undertake site investigations, the removal of contamination and five monitoring wells were installed to ensure that any risk to the public of recontamination is monitored as part of the first phase of the rehabilitation of the site. As well as Council capital funding, grants were also obtained from SNH, ENTRUST and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) to fund the

landscaping of the site, the creation of the ponds, the construction of the footpaths and car park and the new information board. SMAG also obtained funding from Midlothian Council and the private sector for the project. SMAG, the Council's Strategic Services and Commercial Services divisions have worked very closely to design and successfully implement the wildlife site.

Site restoration was completed by Midlothian Council's Strategic Services division and Land Services Section in 2009. An official opening and celebration, with over 250 visitors was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

### **3.4 Community Involvement**

Springfield Mill has benefited from the sustained interest of the local community. The Springfield Mill Action Group (SMAG) has been the main contributing local organisation to the management of the site for over 10 years.

SMAG was formed and constituted in 1999 and currently has over 100 members. The group operate in partnership with Midlothian Council, Midlothian Ranger Service and local residents to enhance the site.

The aim of SMAG is *to preserve and enhance the value of Springfield Mill to wildlife and people.*

Key objectives set by the group to realise this aim are:

- To increase the biodiversity of the site
- To increase the amenity value of the site
- To encourage community participation and use of the site as an educational resource.

SMAG works with the Midlothian Ranger Service to undertake small scale conservation tasks such as pond planting, wildflower seed sowing, tree works and installation of bat / bird boxes etc. The group has proposed to fund and install perches on site.

The Lothians Conservation Volunteers and the Edinburgh University student volunteer group 'The Dirty Weekenders' have a good relationship with the Ranger Service and have been involved at the site undertaking practical vegetation management tasks.

During the last six months over 20 Ranger-led groups have visited for educational, recreational or conservation purposes. Over 250 participants have taken part in Ranger-led activities. The Midlothian Criminal Justice team has also carried out extensive woodland thinning works and are beginning to upgrade a 300m stretch of footpath.



*Volunteers from Lasswade High School after conservation event*

### **3.5 Surveys and Assessments**

There are a number of Plans and Reports which are relevant to the past and ongoing development of the site as described in the sections below.

#### **3.5.1 Woodland Management**

The Woodland Management Report was produced in 2008. The purpose of the report is to examine existing information relating primarily to the woodlands and to survey, assess and record their current condition. In addition the report identifies safety issues relating to the trees on the site with proposals to deal with the associated concerns.

The key aims for the site, included in the report are:

- To improve recreational provision and thus enhance the site for public use
- To enhance the habitat and wildlife value of the site

To date the proposals of the Woodland Management Report have been implemented as per the recommended specifications. This work has included:

- Small scale thinning and removal of arisings
- Removal of dangerous trees
- Extensive tree planting on newly landscaped areas and at riverbank locations
- Removal of trees growing on the riverbank and retaining wall
- Litter removal
- Creation of fully accessible paths
- Side pruning of vegetation to widen path corridors

Forthcoming works for 2010 include:

- Removal of laurel and rhododendron
- Continued small scale thinning
- Enrichment planting in recently thinned areas
- Hedge planting
- Continued site maintenance

The maintenance of the site is undertaken by the Midlothian Ranger Service. Seasonal maintenance tasks include:

- Ensuring scheduled works are implemented and are of high standard
- Monitoring of grasslands and wildflower meadows to include instruction on desired cutting regimes
- Raking of meadow risings
- Path strimming
- Invasive species removal
- Clearance of overhanging branches encroaching onto the path
- Litter removal

### **3.5.2 Biodiversity**

Springfield Mill was designated as a Local Biodiversity Site in 2008 (See Appendix 2). Biodiversity Actions are linked to the Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan covering areas of habitat enhancement, creation and ongoing management.

The site forms part of the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network and the riparian wildlife corridor for the River North Esk. To the south of the site, woodland cover extends through to Roslin Glen with patches continuing to Auchendinny. To the north, woodland cover continues to Hewan Bank and Mavisbank, with larger areas at Melville Castle and Dalkeith Country Park.

The woodlands at Springfield Mill are dominated by birch with willow and some sycamore and ash along with a number of large specimen trees. Enrichment planting consisting of over 1000 tubed and staked native trees and shrubs has taken place on newly landscaped open areas and under planting is planned in recently thinned woodland compartments.

Dog's mercury is present within the woodland ground flora indicating the presence of woodland cover over a significant period of time. Also present are pendulous sedge, great horsetail, hop trefoil, remote sedge, marsh valerian, creeping jenny, ramsons, ivy, nettle, mosses and grasses.

The opportunity has been taken to increase the biodiversity value of the site by importing over 200 tonnes of soil to cover the rubble arising from the demolition of the former mill buildings. This area was seeded following research into appropriate mixes of native wildflower seed. This meadow, seeded in the late spring of 2009 will be cut and the clippings lifted to encourage further diversity of the meadow, which is a central feature of the site.

The site of the former ornamental pond has been excavated to create two medium sized seasonal ponds and a pond dipping platform constructed. Enhancement planting took place later in the year over three days with SMAG, members of the local community and over 20 pupils from Lasswade High School. Over 250 square metres of the surrounding banking areas were also seeded with a wetland edge native seed mix.

### **3.5.3 Archaeology**

The site was once part of the gardens of Glenesk House . Several specimen trees remain on site which were once associated with the garden and policy woodland around the house. Sections of the former garden walls remain as well as the well preserved (and recently cleared and gated) ice house.

The original paper mill buildings on site have been demolished, however a sluice, mill lade and weir across the River North Esk remain in place and may be looked at in the future as a potential restoration project.

#### **3.5.4 Open Space Audit**

This Midlothian Open Space Audit was carried out before the site was remediated. Using the same audit criteria for quality assessment Springfield Mill would score highly based on its focus on biodiversity and community benefit as well as accessibility.

## **SECTION 4 – ANALYSIS**

An analysis of the site is given below with recommendations contained within the Action Plan in Section 5.

### **4.0 Context for Improvement**

Based on the Turnbull Jeffrey feasibility study (1999), Midlothian Council's Land Services Section working with Strategic Services produced design plans for the rehabilitation of the site for the benefit of people and wildlife (See section 3.2). The design took into account the Springfield Mill Action Group's detailed study to restore the area for wildlife and people.

The Woodland Management Report and design plan for Springfield Mill has to date been used to manage improvements at Springfield Mill.

Midlothian Ranger Service became involved at the final stages of site completion and is responsible for the daily and ongoing management of the site in partnership with SMAG and other interested groups. At this stage it was felt that a more comprehensive management plan that linked to the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria would provide a more holistic basis for improving the quality of the site and links to the community.

### **4.1 A Welcoming Place**

#### **4.1.1 General**

An important feature of any green space is to make visitors feel comfortable using the site. Springfield Mill is well designed and attractive to visitors. The site is naturally situated in a striking location on the inside of a steep sided meander of the River North Esk. The site is well maintained, has been designed to be in keeping with the surrounding area and has facilities to welcome visitors such as a small car park, interpretation panel and notice board, various path routes and a diversity of habitats.

The local community are also daily users of the site and act as a key contact to visitors as well as contributing to site projects and future plans.

#### **4.1.2 Finding the Site - External Physical Access**

The site lies within the village of Polton with easy access by public road from Bonnyrigg and Loanhead. The car park is located on Polton Bank Road, opposite the entrance to the small residential cul-de-sac of Stevenson Place, on the banks of the River North Esk.

The grid reference is NT288648 and can be located on the OS Landranger series No 66 Edinburgh map.

On foot Springfield Mill can be accessed using the following routes which are shown on the [Midlothian Core Paths Plan](#)

- From Bonnyrigg by taking "the Cast" (Core Path Map 5 - Route 7a) from Polton Road West on the South West side of Bonnyrigg.
- From Roslin by taking the Roslin to Loanhead Cycle Path (Core Path Map 5 - Route 11) and taking the right fork to Polton (Core Path Map 5 - Route 8) before

the Bilston Viaduct.

- From Kevock Road in Lasswade by taking the path along the River North Esk (Map 5 Core - Path 7)
- From Loanhead using the Loanhead Cycle Path (Core Path Map 5 - Route 11) and taking the left fork to Polton (Core Path Map 5 - Route 8) before after the Bilston Viaduct.

The site is also easily accessible by public transport with regular bus services from Edinburgh City Centre to Polton Road West, which is 1km from the site car park.

Lothian Buses: 31, 49,  
First Scotland East: 90, 140

Contact Traveline for more details – 0871 200 22 33 (cost 10p per minute)

#### **4.1.3 Finding the Site - Internal Physical Access**

The site has a small, tar-surfaced, level car parking area with good lines of sight for 4 cars, which is open at all times. A height restrictor of 2.2m prevents access to the main car park by large vehicles such as buses and caravans. These larger vehicles are able to use a widened area on Polton Bank Road adjacent to the site.

There is a good path system which is detailed on the orientation panel at the site entrance. There are good opportunities for disabled users, including a fully accessible tarred path to the riverside view point. Other paths surfaced with a fine red blaes lead through to a woodland circuit and to a riverside route. Paths were designed to be accessible for multi-use and to travel through the range of habitats on site, whilst minimising the impact to fragile areas. Routes to the seasonal ponds are grassed paths, which are narrower and have a less formal appearance, leading to more secluded and quieter areas within the site.

#### **4.1.4 Information on Access**

An information leaflet about the site, including an illustrative map, is widely available from Midlothian libraries, leisure centres, Council Offices and other key visitor centres.

A large orientation board located within the car park shows the location of the site in relation to surrounding landmarks and features.

The site is featured on the Midlothian Council website with directions, site details and a downloadable copy of the site leaflet, information panel and management plan.

The site is also listed annually in the Lothian's and Borders 'Outdoor Diary of Events and Activities' which is available in printed form and also as a website. Details of the location and forthcoming public events are listed.

The Springfield Mill Action Group has a website at [www.springtec.f9.co.uk/](http://www.springtec.f9.co.uk/) SMAG

#### **4.1.5 Social Access**

The Springfield Mill Action Group (SMAG) is a consultative forum where the Council can receive feedback on ideas for maintaining, using and improving the site. SMAG, in

conjunction with the Council's Strategic and Land Services Sections and the Ranger Service, organised the official opening event on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009. This celebration was very well attended, with over 250 visitors taking part in an opening with teas and activities ranging from natural history such as pond dipping and mini beast hunting, wildflower seed planting and crafts as well as talks on the cultural heritage.

The site includes the following access related facets:

- An on-site information Panel which is regularly updated with information of events, legislation (SOAC) and details of the Springfield Mill Action Group.
- A site leaflet.
- A local community member who overlooks the site, visits frequently, reports any issues to the Ranger Service and removes dog fouling from the paths.
- Patrols by Midlothian Ranger Service, providing face to face contact with visitors.
- A number of local residents who use the site on a regular basis and are in contact with the Ranger Service.

#### **4.1.6 Aspects of Design**

The site has been designed to be welcoming to the public and to provide an attractive amenity space for informal recreation and education. Improvements to the site will be carried out in consultation with the Springfield Mill Action Group and other stakeholders

#### **4.1.7 A Welcoming Place - Actions**

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Regularly update information on the information panel at the site entrance to include details of events and SMAG updates.</li><li><b>2</b> Install a wooden sign by riverside entrance to raise profile of the site to passers-by<br/>Install hard-standing under notice board to allow improved access</li><li><b>3</b></li><li><b>4</b> Upgrade and improve the path to the mill lade and weir.</li><li><b>5</b> Include the site as part of the Midlothian Walking Festival.</li><li><b>6</b> Hold an annual event on site, open to the community and public</li><li><b>7</b> Prepare strategic bid for funds to improve Esk Valley between Polton and Roslin</li></ol> |
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## **4.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

### **4.2.1 Health and Well Being**

The site offers a range of opportunities for recreation, health and well being.

- A good path system which provides opportunities for a variety of routes suited to a range of fitness levels.
- Opportunities for responsible cycling and horse riding.
- Clear lines of sight along major walking routes.
- Links to long distance routes outwith the site
- Attractive areas suitable for quiet relaxation.
- Opportunities for conservation volunteer work
- Opportunities to make contact with the local community

### **4.2.2 Equipment and Facilities**

The principle facilities are the car park, information and orientation panel and various pathways. These are inspected by the site Ranger and in addition SMAG members and local residents also report problems as they arise.

Required works are undertaken by the Ranger service and/or Land Services staff to resolve issues promptly where this is feasible. There are a range of improvements that could be undertaken to improve the current car park and the frontage to the site.

Design of the site has included open views to create a sense of being introduced to a countryside setting yet to also provide a feeling of security. This has involved ongoing thinning of woodlands and improvements to paths to ensure people feel safe and that all users are welcome.

The information board comprises a framed notice board with a range of information on activities within the site and in the surrounding area. The board has contact details for the Ranger Service and SMAG.

### **4.2.3 Safer Parks Emergency Procedure**

In the event of an emergency the contact details of the Ranger Service, Midlothian Council and the local Community Police are available at the information board in the site car park. This includes an emergency 24 hour council contact.

### **4.2.4 Security**

A sense of security is also provided by the proximity of the local village which is just across the road with views into the car park area. The Ranger Service patrols the site and is often on site at other times when undertaking management tasks and leading group visits. Individuals from the village keep a close eye on the site. The local community police patrol the site occasionally and are informed of any incidents relating to site security.

#### **4.2.5 Staff and Volunteers**

The Ranger Service patrol the site and are trained to enforce the management rules, resolve conflict and ensure accordance with the Nature Conservation and Land Reform Acts as well as meeting and greeting the public. The Ranger Service also has procedures relating to the Child Protection Act with all Ranger staff having 'enhanced disclosure Scotland' clearance to ensure their suitability for working with children and vulnerable adults. Lone Working procedures are in place.

Part of the Ranger patrol is to complete the health and safety checklist which is then recorded with any problems arising dealt with promptly. If any hazards are identified, the public are made aware through signs and warning barriers, in accordance with risk assessment procedures.

SMAG members are regular site users (several members will visit on a daily basis for dog walking) and inform the site Ranger of any problems or concerns.

Key site contacts are posted at the information shelter within the site including Midlothian Council '24 hour Emergency contacts', Ranger Service and Community Police contact numbers.

Local school groups attend environmental education and other sessions within the site. The content of these sessions encourages good citizenship, which engenders a sense of respect for the outdoor environment in general and for the site specifically.

As noted in section 3.4 there are a range of voluntary groups which assist with site operations.

#### **4.2.6 Physical Security**

There are a range of paths for users which include wide open paths with good views and options to take informal woodland paths off the main route. Viewpoints of the river and woodlands have been designed to accommodate users of all abilities.

Inspections are undertaken to ensure that trees near to paths are not a danger to the public, and that site structures and facilities are in sound condition.

#### **4.2.7 Health and Safety Policies**

The Ranger Service has robust safety systems in place that are audited every three years. Risk assessments for all Service activities are reviewed annually. Site patrol sheets identify health and safety issues for reporting as they arise and these are all dealt with appropriately.

#### **4.2.8 Control of Dogs**

Springfield Mill is well used by dog walkers some of whom are members of SMAG. The regular users report on any problems that arise.

To some extent the dog owners are self-policing. There is little evidence the site is being used by professional dog walkers or by dog training groups. Issues of irresponsible dog

fouling are being addressed through public information and a local resident who removes dog fouling from paths on a weekly basis.

The dog warden is able to enforce legislation relating to dogs and the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, which states that dog foul must be uplifted.

#### **4.2.9 Healthy, Safe and Secure - Actions**

- 1** Continue to provide opportunities for voluntary conservation activities.
- 2** Continue to work with the Midlothian Criminal Justice Team.
- 3** Provide 'Midlothian Ageing Well Groups' with the new site leaflet.
- 4** Offer a guided walk to health walk leaders to raise awareness of the site.
- 5** Encourage local Primary pupils and staff to walk to their environmental education sessions.
- 6** Following surveys on site, produce a report to investigate the links between physical and mental health and contact with nature.
- 7** Ensure that Ranger Service risk assessments cover all tasks carried out on site.
- 8** Prepare a recording system to facilitate community events on site.
- 9** Introduce a checklist to be carried by members of the community during their site walks to assist in reporting problems.

## **4.3 Well Maintained and Clean**

### **4.3.1 Litter and Waste Management**

Given the site's emphasis on wildlife it was felt that litter bins would cause problems with litter spillages and if vandalism was to occur distributing litter around the site. Thus far this approach has been successful with very few litter problems.

The Ranger Service liaises with Midlothian Council waste service if there are problems such as fly-tipping. Members of SMAG and other regular visitors often pick up litter on an informal basis.

The thinking behind the approach to litter management is that a clean site is more likely to stay clean and that the presence of litter is likely to attract more litter. Those involved in the management of the site aim to remove litter or fly-tipping as quickly as possible. Rangers report that to date litter problems are minimal.

### **4.3.2 Grounds Maintenance**

Springfield Mill is maintained to the standards set out in the Council's Grounds Maintenance specification and a summary maintenance schedule and map for the site is contained in Appendix 3 Maintenance works include:-

- Seasonal mowing of amenity grassland
- Seasonal mowing of rough grassland
- Mowing of the wild flower meadow and removal arising once each year
- Strimming of 1183m of footpath verges twice per year

In addition tree works are carried out on unsafe trees and in accordance with the work plan within the Woodland Management Plan.

Paths, steps and other structures such as gating, fences handrails, steps and seating are inspected by the Ranger Service and remedial work is programmed and prioritised either through Land Services Grounds Maintenance or the volunteer programme as appropriate. Works are prioritised according to risk and/or impact on the public's use of the amenity.

### **4.3.3 Building Maintenance**

#### **4.3.3.1 Habitable Buildings**

There are no habitable buildings occupying this site.

#### **4.3.3.2 Unoccupied Buildings and Structures**

The ice house, which served the former Glenesk House, is located on the eastern perimeter wall of the site. This structure has been gated and is a potential home to roosting bats. It is inspected on a regular basis by the Ranger Service.

Countryside bridges, railings, steps and the pond dipping platforms are inspected by the Ranger Service and larger structures such as the bridges across the River North Esk are inspected by the Council's Structures Section on a three-yearly cycle.

Small bridges and the remaining relic structures such as the former lade and weir are monitored by the Ranger Service and serious problems which cannot be undertaken by Land Services are reported to the Structures Section of Midlothian Council, as necessary.

#### **4.3.4 Equipment Maintenance**

All Council Grounds Maintenance and Ranger Service staff are trained to operate maintenance equipment and are provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment required.

Risk Assessments are in place for all maintenance activities and updated annually. Vehicles and machinery are maintained to a high standard by the Council's Fleet Services at their Stobhill Depot.

Fuel and chemicals are stored off site and in accordance with COSHH. All staff including the Ranger Service are trained in the use of relevant chemicals.

#### **4.3.5 Cleanliness**

The Ranger Service patrols the site and volunteers from SMAG are on site most days. SMAG will contact the Ranger Service if there are undue problems on site.

Urgent issues such as used syringes and needles are addressed immediately. Land Services staff are trained to deal with safely with needles and syringes.

Land Services Grounds Maintenance responds to complaints with cleanliness timeously. Land Services staff are trained to deal with a range of cleanliness issues including, litter, vandalism, dog mess and chewing gum.

#### **4.3.6 Well Maintained and Clean - Actions**

- 1** Develop a formal policy and procedure with Waste Services for addressing their response to problems such as graffiti, vandalism, litter and dog fouling.
- 2** Keep site clean and free from litter
- 3** Maintain signs and furniture during Ranger site patrols.
- 4** Cut path verges 1183m twice per year.
- 5** Prune back encroaching branches for full path length and car park once per year.
- 6** Seasonal mowing of amenity and rough grassland
- 7** Cut wild flower meadow and remove arising once each year

## **4.4 Sustainability**

### **4.4.1 Introduction**

Midlothian Council's Corporate Plan under its Sustainability theme states: *"We want to ensure that everything that we do can be justified by its positive long-term social, economic and environmental benefit to Midlothian and so is not done merely for short-term gain."* Under the Community Planning Partnership agreement, Midlothian Council has a duty to protect and improve the environment

While the Council is working on many fronts to improve sustainability, it is recognised that the management of countryside sites often requires few inputs yet provides clear social and environmental benefits.

### **4.4.2 Environmental Management**

Midlothian Council is working on a number of initiatives leading towards sustainable management practices including which are outlined in the *Council's Sustainable Development Scheme and Action Plan 2009/10* which is available on the Midlothian Council website.

### **4.4.3 Pesticides**

At countryside sites such as Springfield Mill pesticide use is restricted to key operations which form part of a larger plan or strategy such as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the Woodland Management Plan and therefore such interventions are minimal.

Application of chemicals is always carried out by trained staff and with the relevant certification. Rangers advise the public and sign areas where spraying work is being carried out which will always be undertaken at non-peak times of public use.

At Springfield Mill, the use of chemicals is restricted to glyphosate and is used to control invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and to allow establishment of trees. The location of these sites is usually well away from public access routes and is restricted to less than 0.12ha in total. This work is undertaken as one of the key priorities within the Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan.

Occasionally tree stumps are treated with herbicides. This usually occurs where non-native species have been felled and treatment or for safety reason on structures and is the only option to control re-growth.

### **4.4.4 Use of Materials**

The Council's Sustainability Action Plan targets procurement policies as a key means of delivering sustainable services stating that:

*"We will adopt a strategic approach to procurement which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development".*

The procurement of goods and services takes into account not only value for money but other factors such as environmental performance by encouraging suppliers, manufacturers and other parts of the supply chain to promote responsible use of resources including

human resources. This is further developed through the statement in the sustainability plan that:

*"We will give consideration to increasing the procurement of ethically and fairly traded goods."*

Land Services has already converted its greenhouses at its plant production nursery to biomass fuel harvested from Council owned sites and in doing so has reduced costs by 75%.

Midlothian Council aims to phase out the use of peat. Peat substitutes have been trialled at the plant production nursery, but this has met with very limited success and in some instances complete failure. There is, however, discussion with neighbouring local authorities to establish an improved formula to be trialled in the near future. In the meantime the Council uses carefully managed peat reserves which are not of scientific or scenic interest and which are locally based in order to minimise carbon miles.

The use of peat-based products however is not a particular issue at Springfield Mill as planting is limited to a small number of native trees and shrubs. The Council nursery uses reusable cells for raising bedding and shrubs thus reducing use of materials and vermiculite and perlite are used for growing on from cuttings.

#### **4.4.5 Resource Conservation and Waste Management**

The purchase of materials is guided by the Council's Sustainability Plan which aims to reduce the impact on resources. The Sustainability Plan states

*'We will ensure we are on-track with our involvement in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.'*

Appropriate materials are used on site and increasingly products such as reclaimed aggregates and recycled plastic instead of quarried stone and milled timber are being used. There is virtually no peat use on site except from very limited numbers of cell grown trees. A key driver for using recycled products is grant aid for new projects which often requires that the design and implementation of projects use sustainable and recycled products.

As part of the National Curriculum the Ranger Service provides information to schools and others on sustainably issues.

#### **4.4.6 Recycling**

Midlothian's green waste which is collected from both households and public areas is sent for composting by Forth Resource Management. This waste is windrow composted to create PAS100 screened compost, for use as a soil improver and substitute for chemical fertilisers. Any contamination removed before the composting process begins is disposed of responsibly to a licensed non-hazardous landfill site.

According to the REMADE 2009 report Midlothian Council is the second highest performer in Scotland in terms of recycling green waste.

To support this activity Land Services recycles all its green waste and now uses a 10" bore chipper to enable arisings from its arboricultural activities to be reused or recycled.

#### **4.4.7 Horticultural and Arboriculture Management**

There is little horticultural activity within Springfield Mill with the exception of mowing in the amenity grass areas by the car park and more occasionally in areas of rough grassland. Trees are managed through a woodland management plan that aims to improve the biodiversity, landscape and amenity of the site.

All newly planted trees are sourced from native sources in accordance with the recommendations of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Logs and woodchips arising from tree works are either used on site or given away to local allotments groups or recycled at the Council's green waste amenity site.

#### **4.4.8 Pollution Reduction**

Fuel and chemicals are not stored on site. Their limited on-site usage is audited through the Health and Safety Plan for the Ranger Service and Land Services. Any pollution incidents are reported using the Council's incident report forms and SEPA contacted if there are any spillages affecting water courses.

#### **4.4.9 Water Efficiency**

There is virtually no use of water within the site due to the lack of horticultural features. The seasonal ponds were created as part of the recent restoration of the site and are being actively managed for biodiversity

#### **4.4.10 Energy Efficiency**

The Council's Fleet Services is about to embark on a fuel reduction training programme for all its vehicle drivers, across all Council Services. This will include Land Services and the Ranger Service.

There is no electricity use on site linked to the management of the site.

#### **4.4.11 Air Quality**

The improvement in air quality is measured by the Council as part of its Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government. The Council's Fleet Service contributes to this measure by compliance to EC 91/542 emissions directive, the latest standard on air quality which applies to all Land Services and Ranger Service plant and machinery.

#### **4.4.12 Sustainability – Actions**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Establish a formal policy of Pesticide Use and Use of Chemicals.</li><li><b>2</b> Increase the use of recycled products on site.</li><li><b>3</b> Source all plants of local provenance using peat free compost.</li><li><b>4</b> Aim to phase out the use of peat.</li><li><b>5</b> Implement staff training to reduce fuel use.</li></ol> |
|--|

## **4.5 Conservation and Heritage**

Conservation is an important area of work within Springfield Mill. The Council has improved the woodlands and other features through the use of its own funds and grant aid from WREN and other organisations including SMAG.

The site lies within an Area of Great Landscaper Value (AGLV) and lies opposite the Hewan Bank SSSI.

The Woodland Management Plan includes key objectives to improve the amenity, biodiversity and landscape. Springfield Mill lies adjacent to a Conservation Area which ensures interventions by the Council need to be sensitive to this designation in respect of the built and natural heritage.

### **4.5.1 Woodland Ecology**

The management of the woodland areas follows the recommendations of the Woodland Management Plan and seeks to increase the existing levels of ecological value.

The woodlands at Springfield Mill are dominated by birch with willow and some sycamore and ash along with a number of large specimen trees. They can be divided broadly into three categories:

- Young naturally generated trees
- Remnant trees associated with the former Glenesk House mixed with younger self seeded species
- Sycamore dominated woodland

Enrichment planting consisting of over 1000 tubed and staked native trees and shrubs has taken place on newly landscaped open areas and under planting is planned in recently thinned woodland compartments.

The ground flora beneath the woodland canopy is variable under the birch woodland and around the site, there is a number of species associated with pioneer woodland. The area of sycamore and willow has a limited variety of ground flora.

### **4.5.2 Other Habitats**

Other habitats include the River North Esk as an open water habitat, areas of scrub vegetation and open grassland containing common spotted orchid, mullein and toadflax. Adjacent to the site is the SSSI at Hewan Bank, which is an eroding sandbank that is often populated in the summer with nesting sand martins.

Two seasonal ponds provide an excellent habitat for frogs, toads and smooth newts that have all been found in a recent pond survey.



*Kingfisher and dippers inhabit the river*

Recent biodiversity projects with groups on site have included:

- Enhancement of pond vegetation including planting of over 440 aquatic plants
- Seeding of 250 sq.m pond banking and surrounding area with wetland seed mix
- Creation of two amphibian refuges by each seasonal pond
- Installation of three nesting posts for solitary bees
- Installation of 10 bat boxes
- Planting of a mixed 'flowers, fruit and nut' hedge to improve the entrance appearance
- Formation of habitat piles following tree felling

#### **4.5.3 Fauna**

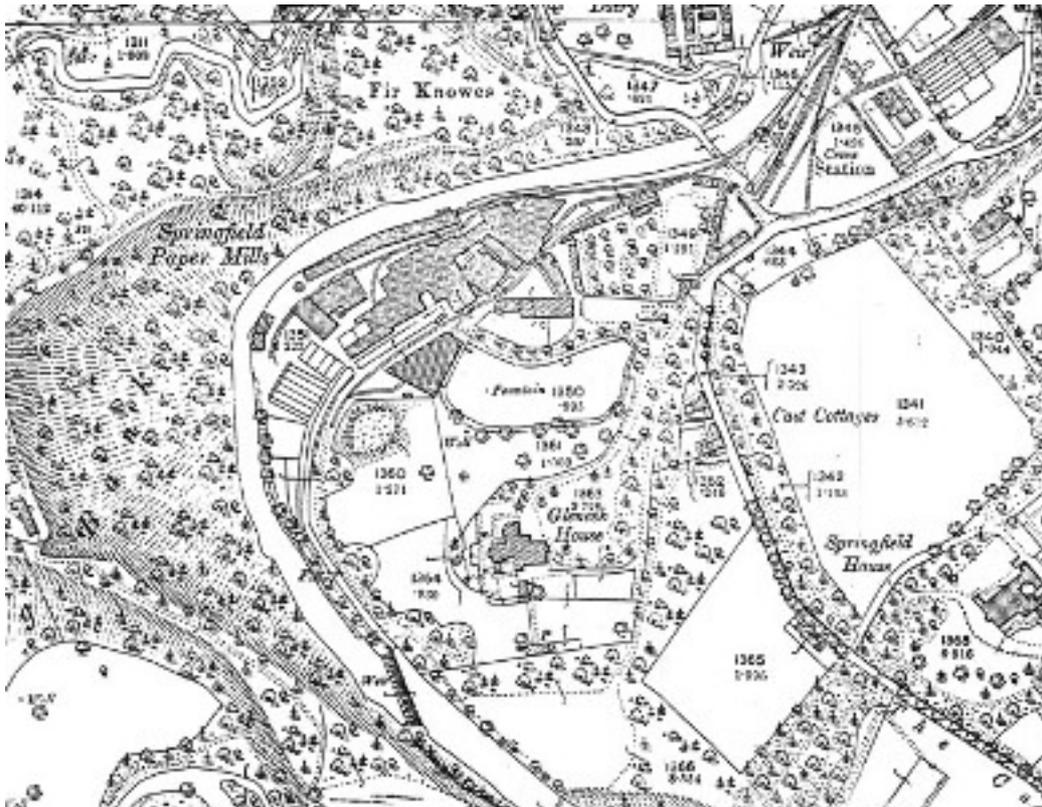
Springfield Mill provides a home for a range of wildlife including roe deer, badger, otter, pipistrelle bat, daubenton's bat, and bird species including green woodpecker, kingfisher, barn owl, buzzard and dippers. Bat boxes are installed within the woodland area.

The site also provides conditions suited to a host of fresh water, grassland and woodland invertebrate species. Many of the small-scale biodiversity activities undertaken in the past have helped to further improve conditions for invertebrates, through for example the provision of deadwood habitat piles, installation of posts for solitary bees etc.

#### 4.5.4 Cultural Landscape

Several reports have been undertaken prior to the restoration of Springfield Mill that detail the history of the site and much of this information is summarised in the leaflet which was produced for the site following its rehabilitation.

The role of SMAG and the Council has been to gather information about the site and this information is conveyed to school groups and others as part of the Curriculum for Excellence to make connections between local people and their landscape. The Ranger Service provides events and outings that focus on the history of the landscape.



*Historic map showing extent of paper mills and Glenesk House*

The Council has provided a section of interpretation on the history of the site for the benefit of the public which forms part of the site entrance.

#### 4.5.5 Water Management

The River North Esk forms a riparian corridor running the length of the west and north sides of the site. Much of the riparian zone comprises of gorge woodland, a priority habitat in the Midlothian LBAP; although Springfield Mill itself lies on the flat floodplain. The river valley is protected under Council Policy RP9 in the Local Plan in recognition that the Esk Valleys are important areas for conservation, biodiversity and recreation.

The Council regularly monitors ground water in the western part of the site to ensure there is no contamination entering the river from the site.

The Ranger Service controls the invasive species Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam located on the river banks and are involved in educational work and litter clean ups with the local community.

#### **4.5.6 Geological and Physiographic Features**

The site occupies a section of floodplain, within a steep sided meander of the River North Esk. The river has cut through quaternary glacial deposits and the underlying Carboniferous sand and mudstones, which form part of the Upper Carboniferous millstone grits.

The 'made' ground is predominantly ash clinker from the industrial activity underlain with clays, silts, sands and gravels.

Exposures of sandstones, siltstones, shale and ironstone occur in a number of locations, with an eroding sandbank designated as SSSI on the opposite side of the river.

#### **4.5.7 Conservation of Landscape**

The Esk Valley Landscape Assessment is embedded in the Council Local Plan Policy RP9 which states that river valleys are to be protected from development and conserved and enhanced where appropriate.

Springfield Mill is a key location within the Esk Valley and this is supported by its location between the historic sites of Mavisbank House and policies and Roslin Glen. In recognition of its significance, the Council remediated and renovated the site in partnership with the local community to conserve and improve both the natural and built landscape.

#### **4.5.8 Conservation of Historic Artefacts**

The main remaining historic artefact is the ice-house, which served Glenesk House and is located on the eastern perimeter wall of the site. This structure is now properly gated and is a potential home to roosting bats. This feature has been externally restored and a door erected to prevent entry by the public but allow access for bats.

A retaining wall around the site was not restored as part of the site improvement works. Vegetation removal was however undertaken and this requires to be monitored to minimise deterioration of this structure.

#### **4.5.9 Conservation and Heritage –Actions**

- 1** Maintain all newly planted trees until fully established.
- 2** Remove tree shelters from established trees.
- 3** Remove trees around pond to increase light levels
- 4** Increase aquatic plants around pond for biodiversity
- 5** Continue to thin woodland to allow light on to woodland floor for biodiversity
- 6** Continue treatment of invasive weed species.
- 7** Under plant thinned areas with native understory species
- 8** Maintain wild flower meadow

- 9** Maintain open ground by viewpoint to preserve view
- 10** Introduce monitoring of bats and organise bat walk
- 11** Maintain and Conserve Key Historic Structures.

## **4.6 Community Involvement**

Midlothian Ranger Service works in partnership with SMAG, local schools and a range of other organisations to foster a sense of community involvement on site.

### **4.6.1 Patterns of Use**

Given that site restoration was only completed a year ago patterns of use are in the main anecdotal. The site is used on a daily basis primarily by local people and becomes busier at weekends and during holidays when visitors are more likely to come from out with the immediate area. The busiest time of day tends to be around midday and early afternoon.

### **4.6.2 Community Involvement in Management and Development**

The Ranger Service works with SMAG to carry out public events. The Rangers also work with groups to implement small scale practical projects, such as tree planting, litter clearances and removal of exotic regeneration. These groups have previously included the following:

- *Schools:* Hawthornden Primary, Hawthornden Primary Special Unit, Lasswade Primary & Lasswade High School Eco Committee.
- *Green Team.* Children 15-18 years old, undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh and John Muir Award Schemes.
- *Lothian Conservation Volunteers.* Adults of all ages undertaking targeted skilled tasks.
- *Dirty Weekenders.* An Edinburgh University conservation group made up of students of all ages. Although numbers vary this is a large well established group capable of skilled tasks.
- *The Midlothian Council Community Service Criminal Justice Teams:* Three teams of supervised offenders carrying out community service sentences.

An opening event, held on 13<sup>th</sup> September was held in partnership with SMAG to celebrate the official opening day of Springfield Mill. The event was attended by over 250 visitors who enjoyed guided walks, several talks, a range of nature games and discovery activities organised by the Ranger Service as well as tea's and cakes served at the Polton Bowling Club.

SMAG have contributed to the management of the site and will continue to be consulted and help to shape the management plan for the site.

### **4.6.3 Facilities**

The main facilities on site are the car park, information board, paths and viewpoints. Improvements to the site facilities will be carried out in consultation with SMAG. Future improvements may also be influenced by information returned from a proposed customer survey.

### **4.6.4 Children's Play**

It is not intended to introduce children's play equipment to the site.

## 4.6.5 Educational Facilities

### 4.6.5.1 Formal Environmental Education

The Midlothian Ranger Service offers free educational sessions covering various school curricular related areas within the Curriculum for Excellence and Tertiary Syllabi. The numbers in each session are limited to 1 ranger to a maximum of 15 pupils to ensure good communication and to allow feedback from the pupils. The Ranger Service also has three Resource Boxes covering woodlands, ponds and rivers and environmental games and discovery. These are freely available as an educational tool to any interested group.



*Local Primary Schools Planting Aquatic Plants at new ponds*

Educational Events to date include:

- *July 09:* Lasswade High School Environment Group – Over two days, 20 pupils planted over 300 native pond plants in and around the pond and seeded around 100 sq m of ground with a wetland seed mix. An area of birch regeneration was thinned, litter was collected and an invertebrate survey was carried out in the ponds and River North Esk
- *September 09:* Hawthornden Special School Unit x 4 pupils were given a guided walk and activities to carry out during self led visits
- *Nov 09:* 44 primary 2 pupils of Hawthornden Primary visited to study winter and nature on site
- *Nov 09:* The Green Team and Kaimes Special School (x15 pupils) took part in a guided walk and conservation activities including thinning of birch and pond dipping as part of a John Muir Award
- *Dec 09:* Lasswade Primary School (x150 pupils) were introduced to the site during an assembly and given directions and a leaflet to visit during the Christmas holidays
- *Dec 09:* Lasswade Primary Eco Council x 16 visited and took part in a guided walk, nature activities and planted a biodiversity hedge.

The Ranger Service's events are promoted via press releases, fliers to schools, public leaflets, Council website and through word of mouth. Local schools such as those within walking distance are targeted and specific packages have been developed to suit their

needs. The Ranger Service's events are free of charge and they work with over 3,000 pupils in Midlothian annually, linking activities to the National Curriculum.

The Rangers have also encouraged the use of safe walking routes to Springfield Mill promote health and well being. Currently a report is in progress to record the health benefits of the use of Midlothian's countryside sites.

#### **4.6.5.2 Informal Education**

Midlothian Ranger Service promotes informal education to a wide range of groups, including members of the public, walking groups, brownies, guides and archaeological clubs. Regular activities include guided walks and evening presentations.

In September the 6 members of The Midlothian Paths Clearance Group were given a guided tour of the site before beginning works to clear vegetation from the main access routes, core paths and rights of way leading to the site. Most recently the Prestonpans Disability Group visited the site in January to watch winter birds.

#### **4.6.6 Accessibility for All**

It is a key objective to provide opportunities for access to all users of the site.

Springfield Mill is regularly patrolled by the site Ranger to ensure all access routes are open and that any problems are quickly resolved.

Access is promoted by signage for pedestrians and cyclists and equestrian users from local paths. The Midlothian Core Paths plan signed network will also increase the amount of signposts to the site.

The main circular path around the site is accessible to wheelchair users. The siting of seating or other features is to be undertaken once the requirements and appropriateness of for them has been fully evaluated.

Springfield Mill is connected to three Core Paths that intersect in Polton Village. These paths link the site to the village of Roslin and Lasswade as well as Bonnyrigg. The site can also be included as a stopping point as part of much longer walks using the Midlothian Core path network.

The site is also shown on the web as with maps as well as the site leaflet.

#### **4.6.7 Community Involvement – Actions**

- 1** Continue to hold conservation tasks for volunteers onsite
- 2** Assess the possibilities of undertaking a small visitor survey on site, with volunteers and SMAG members
- 3** Consult with SMAG on production of the management plan
- 4** Increase the promotion of the Ranger Service with a new 'Education' leaflet
- 5** Continue to deliver free environmental education sessions to schools
- 6** Hold a public / community event during Love Parks Week: August 2010
- 7** Continue to respond to requests for guided walks
- 8** Ensure that at least 1 Midlothian Walking Festival route passes through the site
- 9** Assess needs for more on-site furniture in consultation with SMAG and others
- 10** Continue to respond to requests for guided walks, activities etc on demand from local groups and interested parties.
- 11** Organise a bat walk, in partnership with the Midlothian Biodiversity Officer in August 2010.
- 12** Install 4 perches around the main tarred circuit

## **4.7 Marketing**

### **4.7.1 Introduction**

The Ranger Service promotes the site by a range of means and works closely with Midlothian Council's Communications Section to produce high quality interpretive materials to promote the site to a wide audience.

A range of measures are undertaken to ensure the site is promoted properly through events management, publications and the Midlothian Council web site.

Springfield Mill is also promoted by wide distribution of the site leaflet, which is available on the Council website, in local libraries and leisure centres at the Newtongrange Tourist Information Centre and in other community outlets.

### **4.7.2 Information Provision and Interpretation**

#### **4.7.2.1 Leaflet and Interpretive Panel**

The leaflet is widely available as mentioned above and was produced in summer 2009.

The site entrance has a notice board complete with a very informative interpretive panel on the history and wildlife at the site. There is a section of the notice board for use by SMAG and others on the management of the site and other issues.

The Esk Valley Trust has also produced a DVD on the River North Esk - Source to Sea with archive film footage of mills working along the Esk.

Springfield Mill also features as part of a 9km route in the Explore Midlothian leaflet

#### **4.7.2.2 World Wide Web**

Midlothian Council's own web page ([www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk)) contains promotional information relating to its countryside sites, including site descriptions, lists of things to see and a downloadable leaflet with map. In addition, there are various external websites including [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) and [www.visitmidlothian.org.uk](http://www.visitmidlothian.org.uk) with information about the site.

The 'Explore Midlothian' website as part of a 9km looped walk beginning at the village of Rosewell going through Loanhead and Polton where Springfield Mill is located.

The site is also listed in the annual Lothian's and Borders Outdoor Diary of Events and Activities website and is also available in printed form. Details of the location and forthcoming public events are listed.

In addition the Esk Valley Trust ([www.eskvalleytrust.org](http://www.eskvalleytrust.org)) has a website with good information on the Polton area including Springfield Mill.

### **4.7.3 Events**

Future planned events include an Evening Picnic, Pond Dip and Bat Walk on 27<sup>th</sup> July during Love Parks Week. This is a free event run by the Ranger Service, with input from the Midlothian Biodiversity Officer.

### **4.7.4 Marketing Plan and Promotion**

As mentioned above, the site is promoted through the site leaflet and via the Midlothian Council website. Events and activities at the site are promoted at the notice-board, locally in libraries and shops, in the local press, and also by word of mouth. In addition, SMAG promotes the site through local community channels

A draft/outline Marketing Plan for the site is contained within Appendix 1.

### **4.7.5 Marketing - Actions**

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Continue to reprint and distribute site leaflet</li><li><b>2</b> Promote site events through the Lothian and Borders Outdoor Diary (50 000 annual print run)</li><li><b>3</b> Include the site in walking routes as part of the Midlothian Walking Festival.</li><li><b>4</b> Market site through local schools and site visits</li></ol> |
|--|

## **4.8 Management**

### **4.8.1 Land Services**

The Land Services Section within the Commercial Services Division of Midlothian Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of green spaces in Midlothian. This remit includes parks, countryside sites such as Springfield Mill, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, play areas and sports pitches as well as events management including gala days.

The Ranger Service, which is a unit within Land Services, is responsible for countryside sites and also runs an annual programme of Midlothian-wide countryside events including the Midlothian Walking Festival.

With regard to the management of Springfield Mill this structure provides the clear and coherent approach required for the maintenance and improvement of the site.

Land Services received the most improved performer award from the Association of Professional Service Excellence (APSE) in December 2009 and the Ranger Service has been best in class for two years running. APSE is a UK-wide bench mark for Council services.

### **4.8.2 Management of the Springfield Mill**

The Ranger Service is responsible for the operation of the site and their activities are given technical and strategic support by Land Services.

The Land Service Operations section carry out the maintenance of amenity grass, grasslands and arboricultural works as well as major path repairs.

Waste Services, which is also part of the Commercial Service Division, is responsible for the collection of litter bins and other waste materials

### **4.8.3 Management Plan**

This Management Plan seeks to provide an holistic and integrated approach to the management of Springfield Mill involving not only Midlothian Council but also key stakeholders and the local community in the decision making process.

The Management Plan includes an action plan (in Section 5) which details and timetables the various improvements that have been recommended.

The Management Plan provides opportunities for both Land Services, Strategic Services and the various stakeholders including elected members, and SMAG to contribute and understand how the site is managed. The Ranger Service will oversee the implementation of the Plan.

### **4.8.4 Management - Actions**

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Consult management planning actions with SMAG</li><li><b>2</b> Implement Green Flag Award management plan</li><li><b>3</b> Prepare funding bid for 3 mile stretch of Esk Valley between Polton and Roslin</li></ol> |
|--|

## SECTION 5 – ACTION PLAN

This action plan lists the recommendation for the management of Springfield Mill over a 5 year period. An indication of the timing of each action is given with annually meaning that the action should be repeated every year.

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	AGENTS	TIMING
	<b>A Welcoming Place</b>		
	<b>General</b>		
1	Regularly update notice board with Council SMAG and other local events etc	Rangers	Ongoing
2	Install front of site signage to inform passersby of site location	Rangers	2010
3	Install surfacing under information panel at site entrance	Rangers	2010
4	Upgrade and improve the path to the mill lade and weir.	Rangers	2010/11
5	Include the site as part of walking routes within the Midlothian Walking Festival.	Rangers	Ongoing
6	Hold an annual event on site, open to the community and public	Rangers	Annual
7	Prepare funding bid to Forestry Commission and others to improve sites along the Esk Valley including Springfield Mill. Stage one is underway to prepare forest plan.	Land Services and partners	2010-13
	<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
	<b>Health and Well Being</b>		
1	Continue to provide year round opportunities voluntary conservation activities.	Rangers	Ongoing
2	Continue to work with Criminal Justice Team to provide opportunities for people to work as part of Community Service orders.	Rangers	Ongoing
3	Promote health walks by providing 'Midlothian Ageing Well Groups' with the proposed new leaflet.	Rangers	2010/11
4	Offer a guided walk to health walk leaders to help develop their awareness of the site.	Rangers	2010/11
5	Encourage pupils and staff to walk to environmental education sessions if located nearby. A Ranger is to be made available to accompany school groups to and from the site.	Rangers	2010/11
6	Produce a report based on customer health surveys of conservation groups and school pupils to investigate the links between physical and mental health and contact with nature.	Rangers	2010
7	Prepare a recording system to facilitate community events on site	Rangers	2010/11
	<b>Equipment and Facilities</b>		
7	Install 4x seating perches	Rangers	2010
	<b>Staff and volunteers</b>		
8	Introduce a checklist to be carried by members of the community during their site walks to assist in reporting problems.	Rangers/SMAG	2010

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	AGENT	TIMING
	<b>Health and Safety Policies</b>		
9	Ensure that Ranger Service risk assessments cover all tasks carried out on site.	Rangers	ongoing
10	Prepare a recording system to facilitate community events on site. To include forms for permission from Midlothian Council and a simple form to record details of the event with risk assessment.	Land Services	2010/11
	<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>		
	<b>Litter and Waste Management</b>		
1	Continue to remove materials arising from industrial past as woodland removals occur.	Rangers/ Criminal Justice Team	Ongoing
2	Keep the site litter free and also maintain a 'no rubbish bin' policy on site	Rangers/ SMAG / Residents	Ongoing
	<b>Cleanliness</b>		
3	Develop a formal policy and procedure with Waste Services for addressing their response to problems such as graffiti, vandalism, litter and dog fouling.	Rangers/Waste Services	2010-11
4	Maintain signs and furniture via Ranger patrol checks and actions	Rangers	Ongoing
5	Cut path verges ~ 1183m twice per year.	Land Services	Annually
6	Prune back encroaching branches for full path length ~ 1134. Once per year.	Land Services	Annually
7	Seasonal mowing of amenity grassland and rough grassland	Land Services	Annually
8	Cut wildflower meadow and remove arising once each year	Land Services	Annually
9	Undertake drainage works to preserve path surfaces.	Rangers	Ongoing
	<b>Sustainability</b>		
	<b>Pesticides</b>		
1	Establish a formal policy of Pesticide Use and Use of Chemicals.	Land Services	2011
	<b>Use of Materials</b>		
2	Increase the use of recycled products on site for the structure of signs and for path materials.	Land Services/Rangers	Ongoing
3	Source all plants of local provenance using peat free compost.	Land Services	Ongoing
4	Aim to phase out the use of peat. (Trials of alternatives are already underway).	Land Services	2013
	<b>Energy Efficiency</b>		
5	Fuel reduction in fleet vehicles - Training to be undertaken by staff to reduce fuel use as part of fleet training programme.	Land Services/Rangers	2010/11
	<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>		
	<b>Woodland Ecology</b>		
1	Maintain all newly planted trees until fully established.	Rangers	Annually

NO	RECOMMENDATION	AGENTS	TIMING
2	Remove tree shelters from established trees.	Rangers	Annually
3	Thin trees around ponds to increase light levels	Rangers	Over 5yrs
4	Continue thinning priority compartments	Rangers	Over 5 yrs
5	Under plant thinned areas with native under storey species	Land Services/Rangers	2010-13
6	Continue treatment of invasive weed species.	Rangers	Annually
	<b>Other Habitats</b>		
7	Maintain wild flower meadow. Annually cut and remove arisings.	Rangers/Friends Group	Annually
8	Mow amenity grassland 0.25ha twice per year.	Land Services	Annually
9	Maintain open ground by viewpoint	Rangers	Annually
10	Increase aquatic plants in and around ponds for biodiversity	Rangers	Annually
11	Cut path verges 1134m twice per year.	Land Services	Annually
12	Prune back encroaching branches on path length once per year.	Rangers	Annually
	<b>Fauna</b>		
13	Installation/siting of bat boxes and monitoring of bat species	Lothian Bat Group / Rangers	2011
14	Organise a bat walk, in partnership with the Midlothian Biodiversity Officer in August 2010.	Rangers	2010
	<b>Conservation of Historic Artefacts</b>		
15	Maintain and conserve key historic remnant mill structures.	Rangers / Friends Group	Ongoing
	<b>Community Involvement</b>		
	<b>Patterns of Use</b>		
1	Assess the possibilities to undertake a small visitor survey on site, with volunteers and SMAG members	Rangers / Friends Group	2010
	<b>Community Involvement in Management and Development</b>		
2	Consult local community / SMAG and Strategic Services on production of management plan and planning actions	Rangers / Friends Group	2010-11
	<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
3	Increase the promotion of the Ranger Service by developing and distributing an updated leaflet to advertise the education service.	Rangers	2010-11
	<b>Informal Education</b>		
4	Hold an annual public event	Rangers	Annually
5	Organise a bat walk, in partnership with the Midlothian Biodiversity Officer in August 2010.	Rangers	2010
6	Continue to respond to requests for guided walks, activities etc on demand from local groups and interested parties.	Rangers	Ongoing

<b>NO</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>AGENTS</b>	<b>TIMING</b>
	<b>Marketing</b>		
	<b>Information Provision and Interpretation</b>		
1	Continue to print and distribute site leaflet widely	Rangers	2010-12
2	Develop a new 'education service' leaflet delivered by the Ranger Service	Rangers	2011
3	Promote site events through the Lothian and Borders Outdoor Diary (x50 000 print run)	Rangers / Land Services	2010-12
4	Include the site in walking routes as part of the Midlothian Walking Festival.	Rangers / Land Services	Annually
	<b>Management</b>		
1	Consult on management plan and actions with SMAG and Strategic Services	Rangers	Ongoing
2	Implement Green Flag Management plan	Rangers	Ongoing

## APPENDIX 1

### MARKETING PLAN

The vision for Springfield Mill is:

**To manage and improve Springfield Mill as a key site within the Esk Valley for the benefit of people and wildlife in such a way as to ensure it provides one of Midlothian's best places to experience the natural environment.**

The vision accords with the Council's Corporate Plan which aims to:

- *Improve people's health and well-being*
- *Conserve and improve Midlothian's natural environment and*
- *Deliver actions identified in the Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan*

The Marketing Plan therefore aims to further the Council's priorities and the vision for the site through clear objectives.

	<b>Marketing Target</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agent</b>	<b>Timing</b>
1	Achieve Green Flag Award.	Green Flag status. If successful use Green Flag brand to promote site and service.	Land Services / Rangers / SMAG	2010
2	Improving opportunities for the Ranger Service to manage and maintain the site for visitors.	Assess the possibility of delivering a small visitor survey on site with volunteer interviewers.	Ranger Service	2011-12
3	Promote the site via leaflet.	Continue with wide distribution of leaflet to National, Regional and local outlets.	Ranger Service	Annually
4	Promote the site through web information.	Continue to review and update Council web pages for Springfield Mill.	Ranger Service	Annually
5	Promote SMAG	Display information about SMAG on site information board	Rangers / SMAG	Annually
6	Increase the awareness of the path routes within the site to promote health.	Include the site as part of walks within the annual Midlothian Walking Festival Programme.	Ranger Service	Annually
7	Promote grant aided and other projects.	Prepare press releases and other publicity information associated with new initiatives to promote the site and the service to internal and external stakeholders.	Land Services / Rangers	Annually
8	Promote the site as an educational resource.	Produce new leaflet for Ranger Education Service.  Promote Education Service to local schools to use the site an educational resource.	Rangers  Rangers	2010  Ongoing

9	Annual Events Programme.	Promote events on site and guided walks through Lothian's Outdoor Diary and other outlets as appropriate.	Rangers	Ongoing
10	Volunteering Opportunities.	Continue to promote volunteer opportunities and activities through press releases and by contacting local groups.	Rangers	Ongoing
11	Strategic Development.	Develop the Esk Valley Woodland Improvement Scheme by preparing a management plan for a 3 mile of stretched the Esk valley and gain external funding to make site improvements.	Land Services/Partners including strategic services	Ongoing

## APPENDIX 2

### Midlothian Council Local Biodiversity Site Assessment

#### 1. Site Details

<b>Site:</b>	Springfield Mill
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	NT 287 646
Area of site:	5.7 ha
Date of last main vegetation survey:	07/09/1999 – 08/09/1999
Previous Designation:	SWT Wildlife Site Designated 29/06/06
Initial report prepared on:	3 December 2009 by David Angel
Report last updated on:	

#### 2. Overall Site Assessment

Criterion	Scores
Species status score	8
Plant diversity score	6
Habitat Importance score	6
Connectivity score	6
Biodiversity Feature score	0
<b>Total Biodiversity Score</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Biodiversity Status</b>	<b>PASS</b>
Social Factors	3
<b>Overall Status</b>	<b>PASS</b>

#### 3. Assessment

Overall Decision:  
Assessment date:  
Assessment made by (names):

Assessment decision notes:

#### 4. Species Status

Species	Common Name	Rarity Value	Comments	Value Modifier	Species Status Score
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine	4	Recorded in 1999	0	4
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	1	Recorded in 1999	0	1
Carex remota	Remote Sedge	1	Recorded in 1999	0	1
Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue	3	Recorded in 1995. Second non-coastal record for Scotland	0	3
Radiola linoides	Allseed	3	Recorded in 1995	0	3
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein	1	Recorded in 1994	0	1
Equisetum telmateia	Great Horsetail	1	Recorded in 1999	0	1
<b>Total</b>					<b>14</b>
<b>Species Status Score for Site</b>					<b>8</b>

#### 5. Plant Diversity

Broad Habitat	Total Number of Vascular Plants	Species Diversity Score
Coastal	1	0
Grassland	15	1
Moorland / Mire	1	0
Ruderal	52	2
Wetland	23	1
Woodland	34	2
<b>Total Plant Diversity Score for Site</b>		<b>6</b>

#### 6. Habitat Importance

Phase 1 code	Phase 1 habitats	Rarity/naturalness score	Extent on site*	% Lothian habitat	Habitat extent score	Rarity/naturalness score x Extent score
A1.1.1	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	4	1.869	0.10	2	8
A2.1	Dense/continuous scrub	3	0.349	0.03	1	3
B1.2	Semi-improved acid grassland	2	0.896	0.02	1	2
B2.2	Semi-improved neutral grassland	2	0.389	0.02	2	4
J1.3	Ephemeral/short perennial	2	2.048	0.32	2	4
<b>Total</b>						<b>19</b>
<b>Habitat Importance Score for Site</b>						<b>6</b>

\* Extents are given in hectares for Phase 1 habitats and in metres for watercourses

**7. Connectivity**

<b>Habitat Network</b>	<b>Total area (ha)</b>	<b>Score</b>
Wetland	622.1	3
Woodland	637.0	3
<b>Total Connectivity Score for Site</b>		<b>6</b>

## 8. Biodiversity Features

Feature	Evidence Base/Rationale	Score
Ancient Woodland	The Ancient Woodland Inventory shows that there is approximately 0.4 ha (around 6.4% of the site) of ancient woodland on site.	0
Butterfly Diversity	There are records for five species of butterfly on the site. This is not considered to be significantly diverse.	0
<b>Total Biodiversity Feature Score</b>		<b>0</b>

## 9. Social Factors

Social Factor	Details	Score
<b>Value for Enjoyment</b>		
1	Number of households within 300m of the site	139
2	Site within 100m of the Core Path network	Site within 100m of Core Path
<b>Value for Education and Community Involvement</b>		
3	Site actively used by schools / educational institution for biodiversity education	Midlothian Ranger Service carries out education events on site
4	Educational institution within 300m of the site	No
5	Actively used by the local community for biodiversity access purposes	Local community groups and Springfield Mill Action Group access site
6	Managed, improved or interpreted by community / interest group(s)	Local community involved in site management including Springfield Mill Action Group
7	Regular systematic biodiversity recording at site	Regular recording by site users
<b>Contribution to Landscape Quality</b>		
8	Within AGLV*	Yes
9	Within Garden and Designed Landscape	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Social Factors Score</b>		<b>3</b>

\*Area of Great Landscape Value

## 10. Main Data Used in Assessment

Data Source	Use
C. Dixon (1994 & 1995)	Botanical Records
Local Biodiversity Action Plan Officer (2009)	Social Factors Details
Midlothian Ranger Service (2009)	Social Factors Details
Midlothian Council Phase 1 Habitat Survey Data (1998)	Phase 1 Data
SWT Site Survey (1999)	Vegetation Surveys

## **APPENDIX 3 SPRINGFIELD MILL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE 2010-2014**

### **GRASS AREAS**

#### **605 MAINTENANCE**

- Duration: Carry out the operations in clauses 610 to 650 on an annual basis to areas indicated on drwg. no.010508/13.

#### **620 MAINTAINING GRASSED AREAS TO NEW PATH EDGES**

- Height and frequency of cut in first growing season:
  - Time of first cut: To be confirmed.
  - Height of first cut: 75 mm.
  - No. of cuts: Six
- Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
- Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 50 mm.
- Arisings: To be left.
- Weed control: Keep the sward substantially free of broad leaved weeds by applying a suitable selective herbicide.

#### **650 MAINTAINING GENERAL GRASSED AREAS WITH WILDFLOWER GRASS**

- Preparation: Before each cut remove litter and debris.
- Height and frequency of cut in first growing season:
  - Time of first cut: To be confirmed.
  - Height of first cut: 150 mm.
  - No. of cuts: One

### **WOODLAND AREAS**

#### **710 MAINTENANCE**

- Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from the period April 2010-2014 to areas indicated on drwg. no. 010508/13.
- Frequency of maintenance visits: Quarterly during growing season.

#### **720 FAILURES OF PLANTING**

- General: Plants/ trees/ shrubs that have failed to thrive (unless due to theft or malicious damage after completion) during period stated in clause 710, will be regarded as defects due to materials. Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.
- Replacements: To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.

#### **770 WOODLAND PLANTING MAINTENANCE**

- Loose plants: Refirm surrounding soil, without compacting.
- Weed control: Cut down and remove weeds prior to setting seed in a 1 m diameter area around each tree.
- Vegetation except trees and coppice shoots to be retained: Cut down to 150mm above ground level within the plantation area.
- Arisings: Leave between rows.
- Mechanical, chemical or mulching methods of vegetation control: Submit proposals.

**Contract: SPRINGFIELD MILL WILDLIFE SITE  
MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE 2010-2014**

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Total
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Annual Maintenance</b>				
1.1	Maintain grass areas to all path edges as per Spec. Item Q30/605 and 620.	6	no.		
1.2	Maintain wildflower grass to general areas as per Spec. Item Q30/605 and 650.	1	no.		
1.3	Maintain woodland plants as per Spec. Item Q31/710 - 770.	2	no.		
<b>TOTAL FOR ITEM NOS. 1.1 - 1.3</b>					



**KEY**

-  Macadam
-  Recycled blaes/whin chip path
-  Upgraded paths
-  Wildlife pond and associated earthworks
-  Grassed areas to path edges
-  Wildflower grass areas
-  Woodland planting
-  River embankment
-  Other earthworks
-  Car park
-  Pond dipping platform

<b>STATUS:</b> Maintenance		
<b>REV</b>	<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL          COMMERCIAL SERVICES          BUSINESS MANAGER          LAND SERVICES          62a POLTON STREET          BONNYRIGG          MIDLOTHIAN EH19 3YD          TEL. NO. 0131 663 1103</b>		
		
<b>PROJECT:</b> SPRINGFIELD MILL		
<b>DRWG. TITLE:</b> MAINTENANCE AREAS		
<b>DATE:</b> MARCH 2010	<b>DRWG. NO:</b> 010508/13	
<b>SCALE:</b> nts	<b>DRAWN BY:</b> GC	