

# Springfield Mill

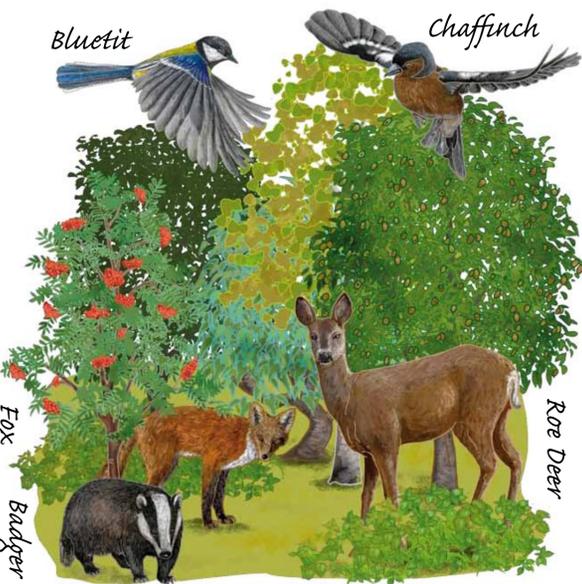


Kingfisher

Dipper

## Geomorphology and the river

Over the past 10,000 years, the river North Esk has carved a steep sided valley and formed a flood plain where Springfield Mill once stood. The river was used to power the water wheels at the paper mill and during this time the water became heavily polluted. Today the river is much cleaner, wildlife has returned and it is home once again to kingfisher, dippers and otters.



Bluetit

Chaffinch

Fox  
Badger

Roe Deer

## Woodland

Around 4,000 years ago Midlothian's landscape was dominated by oak woodlands. A few mature oaks can be seen sitting on Hewan Bank. The Copper Beech lies close to the site of the former Glenesk House. The waste mound from the paper mill has created an ideal place for willow, birch and other pioneer species to move in. New planting in the central open space makes use of native tree and shrub species such as ash, oak, crab apple and bird cherry. Watch out for badgers, roe deer and foxes that have made their homes in and around this habitat.

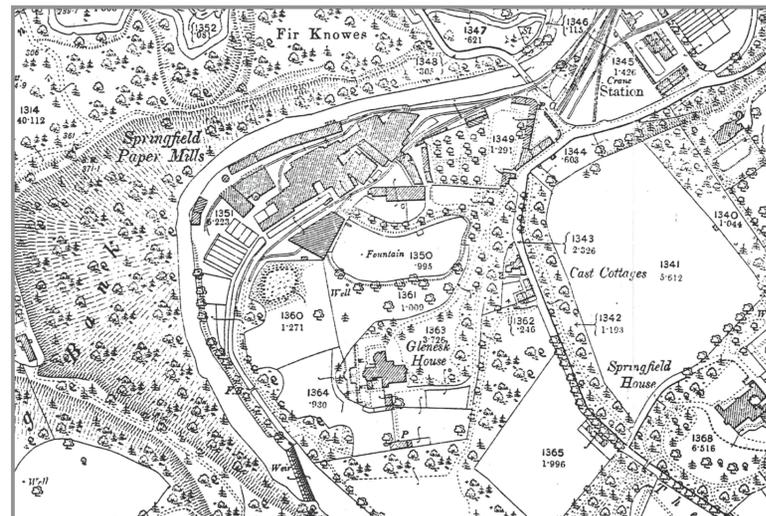


Hewan Bank

*Sitting deep in the North Esk Valley, Springfield Mill is the site of an old paper mill, which has been demolished and the site restored for wildlife to inhabit and people to enjoy.*

## Industrial Heritage

Springfield Mill dates from 1742 and was one in a series of paper mills stretching along the River North Esk from Penicuik to Lasswade. In the nineteenth century the mill exchanged hands many times. In 1866 William Tod Jnr. bought it and undertook extensive alterations. He introduced the use of Esparto Grass instead of rags to make finer quality paper. The mill closed in the late 1960s, most of the buildings were demolished and the site became derelict and overgrown. Midlothian Council inherited the site in 1975 and in 1999 the Springfield Mill Action Group (SMAG) was formed to raise awareness of the site's wildlife value. Site restoration was completed in 2009 by Midlothian Council working in close association with SMAG. Seasonal ponds, a wildflower meadow and new woodland areas were created for wildlife and new paths formed to improve public access. The project was funded by Midlothian Council, Springfield Mill Action Group, Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) and Scottish Natural Heritage.



Sand Martin

Ox Eye Daisy

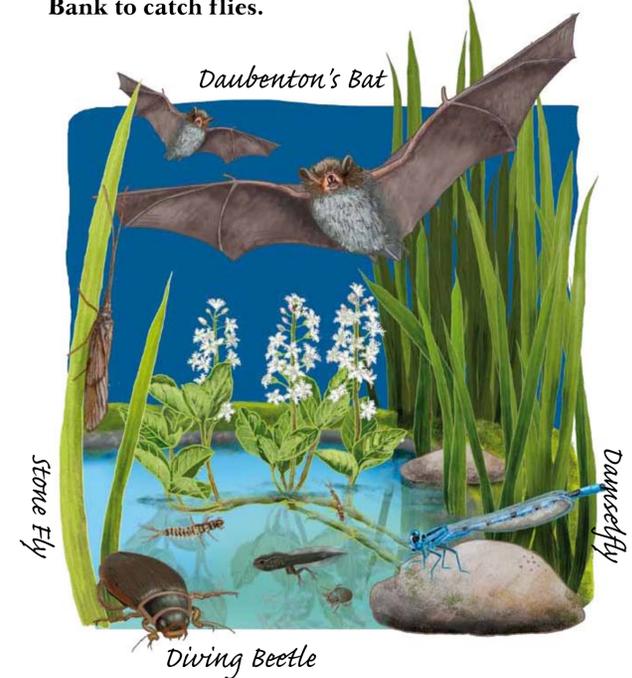
Peacock Butterfly

Bird's foot Trefoil

Vipers Bugloss

## Wildflower Meadow

A meadow has been sown, which is mowed in September to encourage wildflower diversity. Bees are an early visitor to gather pollen and are joined later in the year by a variety of butterflies. Throughout each summer sand martins can be seen swooping from Hewan Bank to catch flies.



Daubenton's Bat

Stone Fly

Diving Beetle

Damselfly

## Ponds and Wetlands

Wetlands are a threatened habitat and the seasonal ponds support a large variety of wildlife. The insects living in and around the pond such as stoneflies, beetles and damselflies are a good food source for bats and birds.