

# Straiton Pond

## Local Nature Reserve

Straiton Pond is a small wildlife haven amid farmland, Loanhead Village and Straiton retail park. Designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1991, the site supports a variety of watery and woodland plants and animals. This biodiversity makes the site a unique and important area to Midlothian.

### Ducks

Watch out for diving and dabbling ducks on the open water searching for small fish, insects and algae. You may see coots or a shy dabchick (little grebe) emerge from the reed beds where they nest and take shelter.



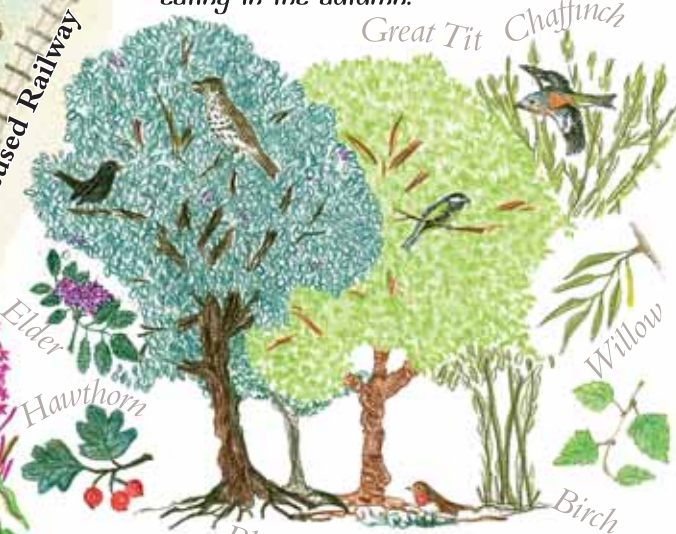
### Pentland Hills

Look towards the west on a clear day and you may see a fine view of the Pentland Hills.



### Trees and Scrub

Listen to a chorus of birdsong around the pond. Many birds flock to the small trees and scrub for food, shelter and to nest. Hawthorn and Elder both produce a crop of berries, which make very good eating in the autumn.

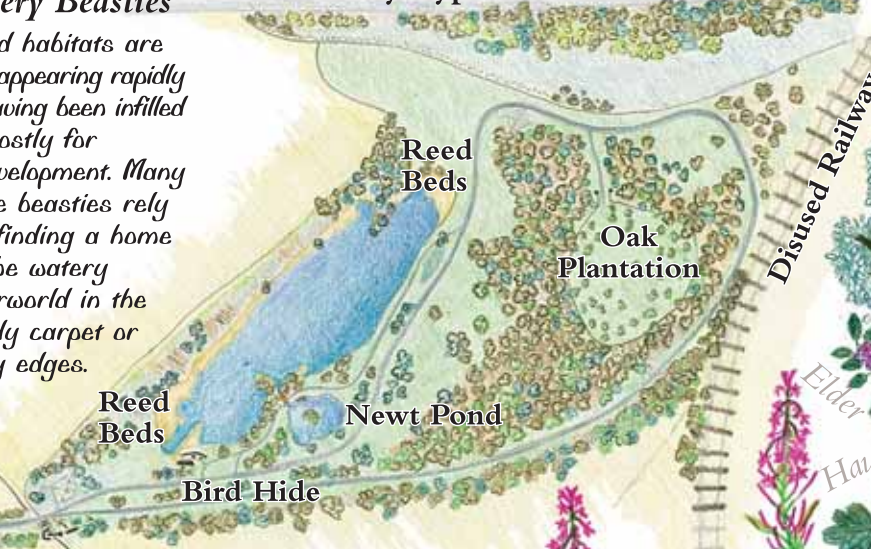


### Watery Beasties

Pond habitats are disappearing rapidly having been infilled mostly for development. Many wee beasties rely on finding a home in the watery underworld in the muddy carpet or reedy edges.



### City Bypass



### Flowers

Straiton is a reclaimed industrial site. The poor soils are ideal for wildflowers, which thrive in nutrient poor conditions. Wild Strawberry creeps closely to the ground, St John's Wort adds a splash of yellow in springtime and Rose Bay Willow Herb gives a backdrop of pink at the end of summer.



### Fish

Midlothian Ranger Service manages Straiton Pond as a wildlife reserve. We kindly ask you not to fish the pond. Any discarded line and litter is very harmful to the birds and beasties that live here.



To Loanhead

Lang Loan

Ramshorn Snail

Newt Backswimmer

Water Beetle

Great Diving Beetle

Larva

Footpath

Bird Hide

Perch Pike